



THE SIGNAL urbanite

June 4, - August 2015

Volume 1 | Issue 2

Welcome to Panther Life

housing

Living in the big city? We have the details about where to live on campus.



pg 9

finance

Our columnist outlines the rules of handling your money at Georgia State.



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athletics

Planning on bleeding blue at games? We've mapped out the locations to do so.



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the city

Food lover? We've got more than dinning halls to offer at Georgia State.



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Letter from the Editor

Dear incoming students,

You're finally here!

We've been waiting for your arrival and with the help of the staff below I hope it shows. As you walk around campus for possibly the first time, take in this new environment you will call home.

If you've never heard of us, we are The Signal, a

weekly print and daily online college newspaper based out of Georgia State and downtown Atlanta. This magazine is an installment of a process that The Signal will continue to report, investigate and grow for our audience.

"Welcome to Panther Life" was created and tailored with you in mind. We've done something

different, you won't just hear our voices, but current students. Who better to tell you life after the class than those who've lived through it. At this moment, I would like to thank sincerely the staffers below for your hardwork and dedication. We've only just begun together, and our best is yet to come.

Special thanks to the

extended Signal family. You might have left, but your work, and advice carries on.

Send us your comments and suggestions at signaleditor@gmail.com. I'll be waiting.

**Welcome Panther!
Good Luck!**



← Troi,
EIC
Troi

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The Signal shall provide, in a fair and accurate manner, news of interest and significance to the Georgia State University community and serve as a forum for the expression of ideas of members of that community. Furthermore, The Signal shall provide an opportunity for students to pursue experience within a professional newspaper environment. The Signal shall also provide truthful and ethical advertising of interest to the Georgia State University community.

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The first copy of The Signal is free. Additional copies can be purchased from our office for \$1.00 each.

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Welcome to Georgia State

Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal



Sustainable Energy Tribe
Photo Submitted by Sustainable Energy Tribe



5 FREE services at Georgia State

written by:
MIRANDA HAWKINS

While no one desires dishing out cash for student fees, Georgia State gives back to students by offering free services. Services ranging from stress management to career advice, there is something for everyone. Here are five highlighted services to try out.

1 Mind-Body Clinic
The Mind-Body Clinic located at 75 Piedmont Ave. N.E. in Suite 200A is designed with students in mind. The clinic is part of the Counseling and Testing Center, but it specifically equips students with a variety of stress management tools. With counseling, nutrition services and workshops, the clinic offers a little bit of everything. The massage chair in the Relaxation Room is available but a reservation is required. Hours vary daily and can be found at <http://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/about-us/contact/>.

2 Fitness Classes
Additionally, stress relief and management is also found in an active lifestyle. In the Recreation Center located off 101 Piedmont Ave. S.E. by the Student Life Center, an array of free fitness classes are available. Yoga, ab-blast, Zumba, and kickboxing are just a few offered to students. The types of classes vary each semester but classes are accessible throughout the year,

including during Maymester and summer. Class schedules can be found at Georgia State's recreation center website. Classes are first come, first serve and a student I.D. is needed.

3 Bike Rental/Bike Shop
For all cyclists out there, Georgia State is prepared. Not only is there a bike shop bestowing free minimal tune-ups, but there is also a bike rental program. Students can obtain a bike Monday through Friday. A helmet, lock, lamp, odometer and rack are also included but a late fee of \$20 will ensue if they are not returned in time. Whether the bike is owned or rented, the Bike Shop offers air for tires, seat height adjustment and brake adjustment. Other services can be procured with a minor charge. Both services are located in the Rec Center.

4 Career Services
Georgia State also offers assistance towards career goals. The main office of Career Services is located in Student Center West in room 270. Students are supplied with information on internships and local job opportunities as well as tips on resume building and how to develop strong interview skills. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday resume building is offered 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the same days.

5 Software
Software downloads to keep students' devices current and

protected are only a click away through Georgia State's Information Systems and Technology website. Tech software including McAfee Antivirus, Skype for Business and Microsoft ProPlus Office Suite are available to students. Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) is also convenient for students who need assistance for technological malfunctions. Campus I.D. and passwords are all that is required for access.



Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal

Student Vox:

Ali Salcedo

What is your favorite free Georgia State service?

"My favorite free service sounds kind of boring, but it's the study room - reservation online! Sometimes with all the things we have going on in life it's hard to concentrate so it's nice to have a quiet place to go to."

Asia Coleman

What is your favorite free Georgia State service?

"The career services, based off the help I got out of both those offices. They gave me advice and help that I could use."

Affordable textbook guide

Five venues to buy course materials at discounted prices

written by:

LAUREN BOOKER

Paying tuition, figuring out a living environment and wondering what to eat seven days a week is not the only thing Georgia State students have to worry about. The burden of course materials costs, such as textbooks and online access codes is only the beginning. Scholarships.com projects that the national average cost for books and supplies to be approximately \$1,100 per year. However, students can turn to various venues to find the cheapest options.

Book Exchange

Georgia State students can visit the GSU Book Exchange Facebook page to buy or sell textbooks

and course materials. The student just has to be invited to gain access to the page. Through utilizing the exchange, students can also negotiate prices for materials.

Chegg

Through the Chegg website, books can be bought or rented at a fraction of the original price. The website boasts books can be found at a price up to 90 percent off. Seven day instant access is also available for books. The site's return policy is also flexible by accepting returns by up to 21 days after.

Amazon

Along with electronics and furniture, Amazon also sells and rents textbooks and course materials. Amazon says customers can save up to 90 percent. Kindle Editions

of books are also available to rent or buy. Bought and rented textbooks can be returned after 30 days.

BookFinder.com

With BookFinder.com, users can search for textbooks using the book's ISBN number or title and author. The website then searches for the most affordable textbooks from vendors such as Amazon, Textbooks.com and Abebooks.

Valore Books

The Valore Books website also compares textbook prices with numerous sellers. The site allows users to buy used, new or alternate forms of the textbook. Books can also be rented and come with free return shipping. Valore Books also has a 30-day return policy.

Student Vox:

We asked: Where do you find the most affordable textbooks? What should freshmen consider before purchasing textbooks for their classes?



A: Never buy a book before the class starts. Freshmen year, I made the mistake of ordering a book prior to class starting. Once getting into the class, I learned that you didn't even need the textbook at all.

Another tip would be to never buy from the book stores, there are many cheaper websites online, or you can get them from other students for a very reasonable price.

-Lisa Gargan

Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal

A: The only websites I use to find my books are bookrenter.com and amazon.com. Although, bookrenter is my favorite because you can rent your book for however long you want and just pay accordingly, plus return shipping is free. The books are still not cheap, but they never are unless you're buying from a friend or another student.



-Kieran Beckford

Photo by Lauren Booker | The Signal

Amp up your summer at the **Student Center**



Join Spotlight Programs Board as it kicks off its summer lineup of fun and exciting events

Georgia State Night at the Braves	Wednesday, June 10
Jurassic World Advance Screening	Thursday, June 11
Intro to Blue: The Mini Prowl	Monday, June 15
Hot Air Balloon Ride	Tuesday, June 16

spotlight.gsu.edu



Get discounts on movies, theme parks and other metro-area entertainment

Save big bucks on Walt Disney World, Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags White Water, Georgia Aquarium, Stone Mountain Park, Zoo Atlanta and more. See our website or visit the Information Center on the first floor of Student Center East for ticket sales information.

studentcenter.gsu.edu



Save with a Go Green, Save Green refillable mug

Help save the planet and get refills of soft drinks for \$1 and coffee and hot chocolate for \$1.50 at several campus food courts all year long. Students can pick up a free mug at the Student Government Association (SGA) office, 450 Student Center West. Faculty and staff can buy mugs for \$5 each at the Information Center on the first floor of Student Center East.

sga.gsu.edu



Buy a \$25 P.A.W. Pass to the High Museum of Art, Alliance Theatre and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Students can buy a 2015-16 Panthers at Woodruff (P.A.W.) Pass at the Information Center on the first floor of Student Center East for unlimited access to the High Museum of Art and free tickets to performances at the Alliance Theatre and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

spotlight.gsu.edu



Watch for Student Media's debut of The Buzz

Enjoy a mix of news and music from USA TODAY, USA TODAY College and Georgia State's Signal and WRAS-Album 88 on The Buzz, a USA TODAY mobile app.

Download it for free on iTunes or Google Play starting in August 2015.

studentmedia.gsu.edu



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To request disability accommodations at these events, please contact Disability Services at 404-413-1560. Please provide your name and the event name, date, time, location and sponsor when making your request.

Downtown Atlanta Housing and Parking guide

written by: SEAN KEENAN & JOHN MILLER



Pencil Factory Flats & Shops

On campus housing:

Patton Hall

Located at 160 Edgewood Ave. NE, Patton Hall houses 325 residents. Each suite has two rooms connected by a bathroom. One is a double room and one a single room, totaling three students per suite. Furniture included. Free laundry machines, cable, Internet, mailboxes, and covered parking also included. Semester price is \$4,164 for shared room, \$5,246 for single room. Office contact at 404-413-1470.

Parking

Patton Hall residents have access to the Loft parking deck for \$90 per month.

The Lofts

Located at 135 Edgewood Ave SE, The Lofts houses 550 residents with loft-style apartments ranging in size anywhere between studio-sized to four-bedrooms. The space contains a full-bath as well as a equipped kitchen with refrigerator, dishwasher and stove. Free laundry machines, cable, Internet, mailboxes, and covered parking included. Rooms range from \$2,794 - \$5,644 depending on size of suite. Contact the office at 404-413-2160

Parking

Loft residents can park at home in the Loft Deck for \$90 each month.

Greek Housing

Located at 156 Edgewood Ave SE, Greek Housing includes nine fraternities and sororities based in three-story town-homes with 9-19 beds per unit. Kitchen and living room included. Free laundry at Patton Hall, cable, Internet, mailboxes, covered parking at the Lofts and a community center also included. Semester price between \$2,774 - \$3,450, depending on the type of room. Office contact is 404-413-2179.

Parking

Fraternity brothers and sorority sisters also have access to 24/7 parking at the Loft Deck for the same \$90 a month.

Piedmont North

Located at 175 Piedmont Ave, Piedmont North's two buildings house 1,200 residents. Every room has its own bathroom. Furniture is included. Free laundry machines, cable, Internet, covered parking and a phone on each floor. The semester price at \$5,394 for single bedroom and \$3,896 - \$4,328 depending on type of shared bedroom. Office contact at 404-413-1995.

Parking

Piedmont North residents can pay \$400 each semester for parking at the complex. Parking permits are available through the university's Housing

* Parking for Patton Hall, The Lofts & Greek Housing: \$90.00 per month in the Loft Deck for Lofts, Freshman Hall, and Greek Housing tenants (includes 24/7 overnight parking)

University Commons

Located at 134 Piedmont Ave NE, University Commons houses 2,000 residents in two- to four-bedroom apartments with fully equipped kitchen and fully furnished bedrooms in each. Free laundry, cable, Internet, mailboxes, covered parking and phones included on each floor. Semester price between \$2,794 - \$4,952 depending on type of room. Office contact at 404-413-1900.

Parking

Parking permits are available for the Commons parking deck at \$400 per semester. Georgia State's Housing Department distributes the permits.

Vox: What are some difficulties you've had with parking downtown?

Alex Hall Psychology

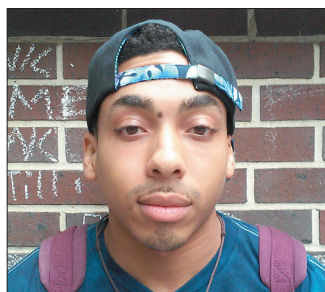
"It seems like Auxiliary Services is completely separate from Georgia State in terms of their parking. For example, we don't get updates when there's closing."

Photos by John Miller | The Signal



Michael Meadows Managerial Science

"It's difficult to find parking in the [noon-3 p.m.] period because the city gets a little overcrowded. I wish parking would be as inexpensive as it is during the evening all day, but parking is big business in Atlanta."



Off campus housing:

Westmar

Located at 800 West Marietta St NW, Westmar Student Lofts provides students the option of renting lofts with between 2 - 4 bedrooms, each with individual baths. Free access to pool, gym and laundry included, as well as Student shuttle to campus. Monthly rent is around \$282. Office contact at 404-602-0717.

Parking

Residents are offered free parking at the Loft parking complex.

One 12

Located at 112 Courtland Street, One 12 provides students the option of renting 1 - 4 bedroom apartments, each with bathroom, kitchen and walk-in closet. Rooftop pool, wi-fi, gym, covered parking included. Good location, near MARTA, two blocks from Georgia State. Monthly rent around \$795 - \$1180 per person, depending on size of apartment. Office contact at 855-265-9112.

Parking

One 12 offers residents free covered parking, on site.

City Walk

Located at 171 Auburn Ave NE, City Walk offers 1 - 2 bedrooms, each with their own bathroom. Tennis court, pool, gym and gated parking included. Good location, walking-distance from Georgia State campus and MARTA. Rent is between \$1,210 - \$1,800 depending on number and size of rooms. Office contact at 404-521-3008.

Parking

Assigned-space parking is available for \$75 each month to all City Walk residents. Residents can also access the general parking deck for \$25 a month. Additional parking is open to guests for free.

Pencil Factory Flats

Located at 349 Decatur St SE, Pencil Factory Flats offers 1 - 2 bedrooms, each with their own bathroom. Gym, kitchen and pool included. The complex is in a good location, within walking distance of Georgia State campus and MARTA.

Monthly rent is between \$940 - \$1,545, depending on size of room. Office contact at 404-525-7000.

Parking

Parking is free for Pencil Factory residents and available to guests for a fee. Students can also access Georgia State's S-Deck nearby.

Navigating Atlanta

Rideshares, the Atlanta Streetcar, Zipcar and MARTA are some of various transportation options available for students.



written by: Adjoa Danso

Although Atlanta's streets are walkable, the city does offer various transportation options for residents to access places outside of walking distance. This may come in handy because Georgia State is in a food desert, according to a United States Department of Agriculture map. This means residents on and near campus have limited access to fresh food. There are some locations around campus where students can purchase supplies, such as the Sweet Auburn Curb Market, Shell gas station, Dee's Market and CVS Pharmacy. However, there are many ways to navigate Atlanta's shopping centers through services such as Lyft, Uber, Zipcar, the Atlanta Streetcar and MARTA.

Rideshares

Illustration by Tammy Huynh | The Signal

Uber and Lyft are rideshare companies that allow passengers to request a car from one location to another from their smartphone app. Uber riders can choose from five levels of service, starting with UberX at \$0.16 per minute plus \$0.95 per mile. Lyft starts at \$1.35, plus \$0.17 per minute and \$1.29 per mile. Uber and Lyft are

popular choices for people going for a night on the town. No one has to worry about being designated driver or risk driving under the influence. Uber and Lyft can also be handy for trips to the grocery store. A ride to the nearest Kroger or Publix would cost between \$15 and \$20 round-trip.

Atlanta Streetcar

The recently opened Atlanta Streetcar spans a 2.2-mile radius and stops near Centennial Olympic Park, the King Center and Peachtree Street. The streetcar also stops near campus on Auburn Avenue, Hurt Park and Park Place. The streetcar will be free for the rest of 2015, which is longer than the trial was originally supposed to be, according to Mayor Kasim Reed in March 2015.

Zipcar

Zipcar is a car sharing service that lets people rent cars for a few hours and up to seven days. Car rentals start at \$8.50 per hour or \$79 per day with up to 180 miles. Rental rates are dependent on the type of car and where you plan to go. There are Zipcar pick-up locations on Georgia State's campus at G Deck, M Deck and the University Commons. Zipcar just requires car renters to be at least 21 years old. However, students between 18 and 20 years old can rent a Zipcar with proof of university affiliation.

Marta

MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) has been operating in Atlanta for more than 30 years. The service is composed of bus and rail lines. Students can access shopping areas, such as Atlantic Station, Whole Foods, The District at Howell Mill, the Edgewood Shopping District and Lenox Square Mall by riding MARTA. The rail runs North, South, East and West on the Red, Gold, Blue and Green rail lines. MARTA's northernmost

station is North Springs station near Alpharetta. MARTA does have plans to expand its rail lines to Alpharetta as far as Windward Parkway. MARTA costs \$2.50 one-way, plus a \$1 for a reloadable BreezeCard. BreezeCards can be purchased at kiosks in MARTA stations. Monthly BreezeCards are available through Georgia State's Auxiliary and Support Services for a discount price of \$61 per month, which is discounted \$31 from the non-student price.

VOX

How do you get around Atlanta?



"I have friends who had cars, so I'd normally ride with them. I just really carpooled. I wasn't really driving around a lot. So, I mainly walked around to nearby places. It's convenient to go around with MARTA, but if I have friends, and a lot of the time we're going to the same location, so I just ride with them."

Justin Egbufoama, neuroscience, sophomore

Photo by Nadia Deljou | The Signal



Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal

Socializing through common interests

written by:
CLAIR IRVIN

With over 400 clubs and organizations ranging from the arts to academics, here are a few that Georgia State has to offer.

Sustainable Energy Tribe

The Sustainable Energy Tribe is a 15 member environmental organization whose mission is to promote public health and community. One of the organization's goals is to team up with non-traditional student organizations to encourage environmental sustainability. For the upcoming academic school year, they are planning a vegetable garden in Hurt Park.

Be You

As an 80 member activism/awareness organization, their mission is to help incoming freshmen promote healthy habits, while preventing them from gaining the Freshman 15. They also advocate for wellness of the mind, body and soul. For the upcoming academic year, the organization will continue programs such as, fitness/health speaking panels, wellness seminars, fitness and aerobic events, Fit 4 the Cure (their breast cancer fundraiser), volunteering at SafeHouse Outreach and weekly bootcamps.



First Generation Society

First Generation Society is a new Georgia State academic organization with 11 members. Their mission is to encourage the development of first generation and independent students whose parents graduated 7 years prior to the academic year. The organization provides mentor-mentee relationships, community service, networking events, workshops, local partnerships, life-skills and career-development.

Faces of Feminism

An organization focused on activism/awareness, Faces of Feminism, which makes it their goal to create a community pure of sexism, racism, transmisogyny, ableism, fat phobia, and other prejudices. They work on building a community through school events and activism. They host DIY festivals offering movie screenings, discussions, open mic events and lessons.

University Speakers Association

The University Speakers Association, a business organization led by Tanisha Yorrick, has the goal to build a student's confidence, improve the effectiveness of their speech and better their presentation skills. They offer open club socials monthly, exclusive general body meetings, guest speaker seminars, individual training sessions and participation in constructive competitions/debates. They also give feedback on speaking and presenting.

Photo Submitted by Be You Organization

Vox:

What's your favorite memory from the Sustainable Energy Tribe?

I think one of my favorite memories from this semester specifically was taking a bike tour of the east side of the Atlanta Beltline. Our group is working to adopt part of the beltline and do some collaborative work there. The tour was really fun. It was great company, educational, and it tested my physical capabilities as well - I proved to myself that I could bike around the city! It was also great to see the community and culture over there - the friendliness of the people, the murals on the trail - as well as the history before the beltline and the plans for the beltline going forward.

Kelli Craig, senior, Early Childhood Education

Which club did you join at Georgia State and what advice do you have for freshmen wanting to join one?

I went to Faces of Feminism club because I am a feminist. I thought it was really great because they do things to actually make a difference like writing letters to LGBTQ people in jail. These clubs can really help you make a difference in society not just your school. I really just recommend clubs as a great way to get to know people and feel at home in Atlanta. It makes it a lot less scary once you start getting to know people and get involved with your school.

-Katie Greene, sophomore, Psychology

Getting to know Georgia State's Student Government Association

written by:
SEAN KEENAN

Getting involved with Georgia State's student governing body may be just a firm handshake away. The university has a Student Government Association (SGA) that operates in a democratic hierarchy similar to the U.S., with an executive, legislative and judicial branch. With SGA, new and seasoned Panthers are offered the opportunity to change their school.

SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs David Jackson Jr. said getting involved is as simple as walking into the SGA office. Prospective student politicians can also seek Boyd Beckwith, Director of the University's Student Center, to inquire about SGA's positions.

In the 2015 SGA election, a majority of Team IMPACT candidates were voted in, making the team Georgia State's prominent student government group. Since Team IMPACT's 2012 inception, members have swept the majority of the ballot claiming most executive positions.

Jackson said at the end of the day Team IMPACT doesn't meet or work privately and is inclusive.

"We disagree on plenty of matters," he said. "At the end of the day, we are individuals. We try to keep ourselves attached to the broader goals. Team IMPACT has made some great strides in the visibility and effects of student governing."

VOX QUESTIONS:

1. What got you interested and involved in student government?
2. How has the experience with SGA prepared you for future career endeavors?
3. If you could instantly change any aspect of student government at Georgia State, what would it be?



**SEBASTIAN
PARRA
PRESIDENT**

1. "I'm a transfer student that came to Georgia State from NJ where I was a SGA senator. I got here in the spring and thought it was too late. In the fall, they had an opening for EVP. I didn't get that position, but in January I got VP of Academic Affairs when a spot opened up. What got me involved was being at the table where decisions are being made. I love where I am and I take leadership and pride in this university. I wanted to leave my mark and I found SGA was a great way to do that. I wanted to influence the students decision making process and have a lasting impact."

2. "It has been perfect. I want to go to law school. I want to run for district attorney or be attorney general. SGA has prepared me for professionalism in the real workforce. It starts with the little things like being punctual and responsive. People are always going to expect this from their president. It has taught me to learn how people work and how to know what the students want and how we can advocate for them. You must learn to understand political patterns. Last year, I had to deal with everything that we spent money on. I dealt with budgeting experience. If I go to a law firm or think-tank or non-profit, I'll be steps ahead of others because of this experience."

3. "If I could, I would make popularity less of a factor and competency more of a factor. We could make people take tests to see how well they know the responsibilities of their positions. SGA sometimes becomes a place people go to enhance their resumes. We need to earn that."

"Everybody is part of SGA. People are unaware. We all pay the fee to be a part of SGA. I encourage everyone to get to know us. It's an amazing amount of trust in which you put in fellow students. The students would lose a large portion of their voice if [SGA] wasn't here. It's easier to complain during campaigning, but why don't you take a shot at it. We have senators who can listen to issues and create legislation accordingly. You just have to reach out and ask."

Welcome to **the city**

Photo by Nadia Deljou | The Signal





TIMES, THEY ARE CHANGIN'

GEORGIA STATE MADE A BIGGER NAME FOR ITSELF BY EVOLVING INTO A POWERHOUSE IN 2014-15' AND HERE'S HOW.

written by:
CIARA FRISBIE

Just as true to Bob Dylan's social change anthem of the 1960s, current, future and returning Georgia State students alike are witnessing one of the most historical modern shifts in our university's history EVER.

If you've only paid attention to our university because of the men's and women's basketball teams, you, my friend, have missed out on some serious key changes that have made Georgia State a powerhouse.

However, if you legitimately have no clue what I'm talking about, here's a recap of the top three things that have changed the face of our university and why they are important.

GSU-GPB Partnership:

Probably one of the most notable changes this year began with Georgia State's official announcement of its \$150K continuous partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting in May 2014. Ultimately, the partnership allowed GPB to obtain 14 hours a day of analog air time from our university's student-run radio station WRAS 88.5 FM (Album 88), pushing the students' shows to online streaming only until evening throughout the week.

To some, this didn't seem like THAT

big of a deal. In fact, several of the benefits of the partnership were to "provide statewide recognition for the university, and provide enormously exciting opportunities for Georgia State students," according to the university's release. The Atlanta community thought otherwise.

Immediately, dedicated students, alumni created advocacy groups, such as #SaveWRAS and Album 88 Alumni (A88A), to help regain full student-control over WRAS. Peaceful protests formed, and additional efforts continued, as The Signal published two stories revealing that Georgia State had been in discussion with GPB about a potential partnership since 2008 and began planning for collaboration in 2012.

Fast forward to now, months shy of the June 29 anniversary air date of GPB on Album 88, and it's clear that advocacy for students at the station will not stop. The latest news has been the March 12 student appeal against the Board of Regents (BoR) over the partnership.

All-in-all, I suppose this all amounts to one thing: It won't stop until the music dies.

The consolidation:

Georgia State also made its way into headlines this past spring with the announcement that the university and Georgia Perimeter College would consolidate fall 2016, making it the largest university within the University

“Come gather' round people wherever you roam, and admit that the waters around you have grown...”

System of Georgia with over 50,000 students attending.

Gender inclusive housing:

This past spring, Georgia State announced it would introduce gender-inclusive housing options for all dorm residents fall 2015. Why it took so long for our university to finally offer the option, especially with our school's location in The Advocate's No. 2 2015 queerest city in America, is beyond me.

Additionally, despite schools such as Emory University, Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia all being listed on the College Equality Index, Georgia State is nowhere to be found.

Nonetheless, all students being offered the option to choose their roommate, including but not limited to just LGBTQIQ residents, is a huge step forward in a direction of being a truly diverse campus.

As you can see, a lot has happened this past year at Georgia State. These are only a few of the larger changes, compared to countless small tweaks, which have left an impact on so many people.

But, as Dylan said, "...Don't speak too soon, for the wheel's still in spin. And there's no tellin' who that it's namin'..." There's still many years to come for our university, and along with growth must first come change.

What's next for those of us who bleed blue?

YOUR VOICE AT GEORGIA STATE

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WHAT WILL YOU GET

written by:

MITCHELL OLIVER

Well, this is it. After over two and a half years of writing a weekly financial column for The Signal, my time of imparting lots of opinions backed by a statistic or two is coming to an end. But I'm not bummed about it; if anything I'm excited, because I know someone new might take my spot one day soon as the go-to financial guru for the school paper.

Before I end my time, I want to tell any of you reading this Incept issue what I wish I knew when I was at my transfer orientation three years ago. I want to touch on three big misconceptions I had about college that I've learned over the years.



1. College is a business

As much as higher education would like you to perceive it as a public good that serves society and educates the population, at the end of the day you are paying an incredible amount of money on a product. This product is your personal education. So before deciding what you plan on doing in life after college, I highly recommend that you realize you will be paying tens of thousands of dollars to pay for that education here. I urge you to keep that in mind if you plan on sleeping through classes or taking fluff courses that don't offer much in terms of deep intellectual thinking. You're paying the same price per credit hour no matter what classes you take, so make sure you take some quality classes.

“

You're paying the same price per credit hour no matter what classes you take, so make sure you take some quality classes.”

-Mitch Oliver





FOR YOUR MONEY?

2. You don't actually need a major right now

You major will direct the course of your entire life, so it is a huge deal. I do not feel like declaring your major before you even start your college career is necessary. You will most likely change majors, maybe even more than once.

When I started my freshman year, I chose to be a finance major because I thought that finance meant making a lot of money. That was the full extent of my reasoning. As I progressed through college and began taking finance classes, I not only realized my disdain for having a career in finance but also that I was more passionate towards economics. Your major should be something that you are truly passionate about, and I can't stress that advice enough.

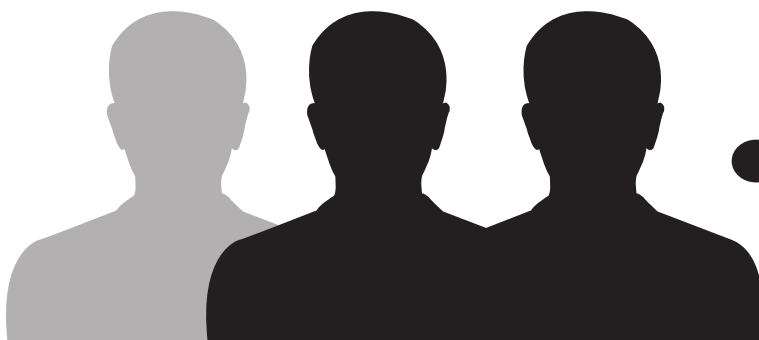
3. College isn't what you see in the movies

You don't get here day one, party every weekend, and graduate four years later with a job waiting for you. You are living through four or five (or six) crazy years of your life, with a lot of changes. Statistically, over half of you reading this won't even finish college. The U.S. Department of Education states that the graduation rate for college freshman was 59 percent in 2012. You will have a lot more time outside of school than in the classroom, so it is important to use that time wisely and

use it to prepare yourself for life after college. Approaching graduation, I now realize fully the saying that college is, "More about changing how you think rather than what exactly you learn."

Many college courses will task you with thinking about social issues and the deeper meaning of many concepts related to your field of study. Use this opportunity to become a more informed citizen of the world and break out of any close-minded constricts you had before coming to Georgia State.

When you succeed in doing that, you realize that the college experience is one of the few things in life that you are unable to put a price tag on.



**2 in 3 students
will graduate
with a four
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- ▶ Check your student e-mail often for important messages
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For more information go to <http://registrar.gsu.edu/assistance/>



N.O.O. (NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY)
BY DARIAN MATHEWS



CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSES 101

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO NARROWING DOWN WHICH CLASSES TO TAKE

written by:
NICOLE MOTAHARI

Upon looking at your academic evaluation in your advisor's office, you might throw it out of the window in frustration. Trust me, I've been there, done that, but while it might seem overwhelming at first, keeping these pieces of advice in mind will help you not make the mistakes that I made.

Meet with the professionals

First, meeting with your advisor is a good thing, but not all advisors are helpful. If you really want good advice about which classes will help you on your career/major path, try e-mailing your department's undergraduate advisor.

Usually an undergraduate advisor is a professor who's teaching for the department or doing research in their field. So they'll be a bit more in touch with the day to day basis ups and downs of your major-related courses. You can find them by going on your department website and check under the faculty page.

However, you should begin with your general pre-requisite courses and general electives, before delving into your specific major related courses. Keep your options open, because as you take more classes, your major just might change.

For example, I started off as a biology major, but switched my sophomore year and now I'm an English major. Major changes are pretty common at Georgia State, with the average Georgia State student changing their major three times before graduating, according to the advisement department.

Choosing courses based on the professor is a great thing – it allows you to develop a strong bond with a teacher, and you might end up taking more of their courses.

Not only will this allow for a stronger understanding of their teaching style, it'll be easier for your professor to write a good letter of recommendation. The closer you are, and the more you relate to the instructor, the better your letter of recommendation will be.

Rate My Professor

RatemyProfessor is a good resource to start with, but be wary of overly negative or positive reviews. You might get along quite well with a professor who has negative reviews or not click with the teaching style of a certain professor who has wonderful reviews. It's all subjective and more personal than a few comments on a website can explain.

Also, be cautious of the chili pepper- you might take a class with a certain

professor because it says he / she's "hot", but once they open their mouth, you'll realize that you actually need to learn the concepts, and that their teaching skills aren't necessarily up to par.

Do your research

Try contacting professors to obtain the syllabus before you take the class. Most instructors are more than happy to email you or set up an appointment to discuss workload and expectations. This really is invaluable since it helps you balance your course load over the semester.

You also don't want to end up with a schedule that has you taking a major test the same day you have three other papers due. Sometimes, especially around midterms or finals, you'll have to manage multiple major assignments in the same week and you will want to have them spread out so you don't crash and burn.

Doing your research is key to choosing the right classes to take. Professors and advisors are great resources- don't feel intimidated by the rigmarole of administrative red tape. Talk to your fellow classmates about classes they found interesting or exciting, and don't be afraid (finances permitting) to take a class or two in something totally different than what you want to do with your life, you might be surprised.



Illustration by Uduak Ita | The Signal

GEORGIA STATE'S CULTURE OF COFFEE CONSUMPTION IS CONSPICUOUSLY COMMON

HOW GEORGIA STATE STUDENTS VIEW THE BREW



Photo Signal Archives | The Signal

written by: MIA MCDONALD & JOHN MILLER

Before attending college, I could never picture myself drinking coffee. I thought coffee was the official stamp of adulthood, reserved primarily for those beyond the age of 30. It never occurred to me that people my age would drink it habitually.

At the conclusion of my undergrad years, I'm still at a loss as to why they do this. Why is coffee in such high demand and why are there coffee shops surrounding our Georgia State campus? It seems like there's quite a coffee culture around here.

My first thought is that it might be a symptom of a larger trend, and the National Coffee Association confirmed my suspicion when they reported that more than three-quarters of Americans drink coffee. It appears that coffee culture isn't just a university trend. But what about college students?

I took this into account when looking around the Georgia State campus for coffee shops. There are numerous coffee shops around campus, but not all of them are exclusively intended for students.

Among those intended specifically for students are Saxby's in the library, Einstein Bros in the Student Center and Starbucks in Kell Hall.

Those shops not affiliated with Georgia State but are still on campus include the Starbucks across the street from Aderhold, Dunkin' Donuts around the corner, and Ebrik on Pryor Street.

All of these businesses play their own part in creating a coffee culture unique to their environment, and those shops around Georgia State cater to specific needs.

For many, coffee and any caffeinated drink is vital to their everyday functioning on campus. Senior journalism student Catherine Aral said that she needs it in order to stay awake.

"I think that sometimes [coffee] is a necessity...I have to drink coffee in order to stay awake. I have a problem staying awake during classes," she said.

But while coffee serves a definite purpose, it doesn't stop businesses like those mentioned above from cashing in on gourmet drinks.

The National Coffee Association reported last year that 34 percent of Americans drink gourmet coffee beverages daily. Surely this would reflect

in Georgia State's unique coffee culture as well.

Junior Neuroscience major John Fendce said that he personally does not take his coffee black; he prefers his coffee to be cold and sugary.

"I'll either make it at home, get it at Starbucks or the school library mostly. I really like sweet coffee; it's more about the sugary frozen drinks than the straight coffee," he said.

And it's exactly these differences in taste that drive the culture of coffee consumption on campus. When thinking about Georgia State's coffee culture, it's important to keep in mind the first rule of economics: supply and demand.

Coffee shops wouldn't exist if there wasn't already a demand for the particular brands of coffee they serve: regular, sugary, gourmet or otherwise. The success of any business relies on the prosperity of their sales.

In short, if you want a snapshot look at Georgia State's coffee culture, take a look for yourself. See the kinds of businesses that thrive on campus and see the ones that don't. What do the successful ones offer, just sugary coffee? Or is it something else, such as like community?

Survive the battle - Win the war

Four tips to ensure you don't feel the financial shellshock of managing your funds in college

written by:
MITCH OLIVER

Welcome to Atlanta where the players play. You might have heard Jermaine

Dupri spit this a few years back during the heyday of the dirty south revival. Fast forward to today and the lyrics might be closer to "Welcome to Atlanta where the rent is ridiculous, as gentrification is bred quite meticulous".

If it's your first time in the Big Peach, (is that a thing?) you might not be prepared for the financial shellshock you are about to endure. I've got four tips on how you can survive the city's full-frontal wallet assault your first year here.

Ditch the car

I strongly urge you to invest in a bicycle your first few years at Georgia State. If you plan on staying in the city for your college career, you will save thousands in gasoline cost, parking and car maintenance. Plus, you'll make the world a greener place, so it's a win-win.

Pack it in, pack it out

Bringing your own lunch to school every day might sound like a hassle, but if you can get into a routine of making a quick lunch each morning you can save hundreds each semester.

The cheapest meal around campus, the Subway lunch special, is still \$5.50 after tax. Twenty to \$25 per week on lunch alone adds up quick. I'm not saying it's time for tuna salad five days a week, but just know every day you don't eat out

means a few extra bucks you can allocate elsewhere.

For those of you on a meal plan, I apologize. Unless you plan on eating three square meals per day seven days per week all at the dining halls on campus, you will be paying an exorbitant amount of money for food you do not eat. Drop it like it's hot as soon as your are not legally bound to pay for it.

Make a budget!

Speaking of which, you won't have any sense of where your money is going each month if you don't make a detailed budget. Whether you work full-time and are bringing in over \$1,000 per month or just receive a small allowance from back home, it is imperative that you start learning to budget your money now.

The easiest way for beginners is to break your spending into four to five categories. Allot a certain amount for each (\$300 for food, \$100 for gas, etc.) and then just keep a close eye on spending in those areas. The goal is to assign a place for every dollar you make to go. Anything left over at the end of the month should

go directly to savings or investments. Also with a budget if you realize you've spent \$70 that month at H&M alone on clothes, set a goal the next month to only spend \$40.

Small goals like these help set you up to tackle larger financial goals that you will surely have during your life. For me, using a categorized budget has helped me cut back on the thousands of dollars worth of frivolous spending during college. More importantly, it has helped me learn how to manage what little money I have now so that after graduation I will know how to handle the increased income!

Treat Yo Self

This is a big one because being frugal and pinching pennies can get exhausting. Don't forget to reward yourself for sticking to your budget or cutting back on spending. This doesn't mean go out and blow \$300 at the club or on a new wardrobe but have one day a week where you don't obsess over spending. Try out a new restaurant in Midtown or maybe go see an impromptu show at the Masquerade. Whatever it is, don't stress over spending money- you've been doing great all week!

While you don't have to embody Clark Howard or Dave Ramsey to get through college with minimal debt, you definitely can't live like you've already got that salaried job. The best part about being financially fit in college is that once you graduate and eventually increase your income, you will be able to budget that money immediately. And for your fellow classmates who stumbled through college not knowing what a debit card was, the shellshock of the real world will soon be very overwhelming.

WHY BLEED BLUE?



written by:
MIA MCDONALD

You're about to make one of the most important decisions of your young adult life. You've been on different college tours, but you're still unsure whether to make Georgia State your home for the next four years; maybe you can relate more to someone who's experienced it.

I attended two other colleges before settling on Georgia State and let me say the third time was most definitely the charm. My choice to attend this college boils down to more than just a famous cliché. Georgia State was the best choice for me and here's why I think it's a great choice for anyone.

You hear the word diversity, but to actually witness and experience it in the classroom is amazing. My professors, classmates, and colleagues, are from all over the world. Georgia State is a melting pot of cultures and people of all ethnicities, but it goes beyond that. As you make that transition from teenager to adult so will your mentality and interests; you'll

then have the opportunity to join the various organizations and clubs that support your new found fascinations. For more information visit <https://orgsync.com/login/georgia-state-university>

Another attraction is the city life. Our campus is spread across downtown Atlanta which has its own culture, story and countless opportunities for work and creativity. Our campus location is the perfect combination of open yet exclusive; we're not as fast paced as New York, but not as slow as the country. Georgia State is the perfect blend of both lifestyles, and it will soon become one of the largest universities in Georgia with over 50,000 students joining from Georgia Perimeter College.

There are numerous activities to keep you entertained. There's Atlantic Station, hookah bars, tons of restaurants, museums, theaters, and so many other fun outlets. Not to mention some of the most people you'll meet and friends you'll make during your outings.

Attending Georgia State is an opportunity for growth. Every year

something new is being added to the university. Whether it's a new student organization, new gender-inclusive dorms, or a change within the programs, there's always an improvement. The best part is that you too can potentially experience all of these changes first hand and say, "I was there when it happened."

I'm not trying to overload you with too much information or reword what you read in a brochure, but it's necessary to hear reassurance from an actual student. I consider attending Georgia State one of the best decisions I ever made; I've gained so much experience, made a lot of connections, and absolutely love my major. Of course, every person's experience is different, but I've never come across anyone who says they regret coming to our university.

From Panther to potential Panther, you shouldn't feel pressured into your decision. They say home is where the heart is, and I've definitely made this university my home. Good luck on making your decision and maybe I'll see you around!"

AN EDIFICE OF LEARNING

WHY GEORGIA STATE'S LIBRARY CATALOG IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE FOR ALL STUDENTS

written by:
JOHN MILLER

Now that I'm a senior, I can say that during my time at Georgia State, one thing has consistently surprised me, and that's the University Library.

As an English major, I've always been able to find the books I've been looking for, new and old, for classes or otherwise. I've only been let down once or twice.

For many students, the library can serve as a source for books that would otherwise be difficult to find. This is because the library is fastidious in its inclusion of various resources into its catalog. The catalog includes all titles within the University Library and the Law Library and can be accessed through the library catalog database on the library's website.

In addition to this, there are article databases that allow students to access books and records based on over sixty categories, including my favorites: English and journalism.

However, if the library doesn't have a physical copy of a book you're looking for, students can always ask for an InterLibrary loan in which the book or record can be sent from a nearby library.

Beyond their impressive collection of books, the library offers other special services.

Being a research institute, Georgia

State has access to extensive catalogs of academic journals both physical and digital. E-Journal Locator, Galileo and ScholarWorks all help students find whatever academic resource they're looking for digitally.

These services are great for writing papers, since they also pinpoint the areas within the e-text that you want, saving you from flipping through pages upon pages of irrelevance.

There are also very helpful rental services that students can take advantage of. One can work on one of the desktop computers on the first four floors of the library or rent a laptop at the rental desk. In addition, students can rent charging cables and other electronic accessories, which saved my phone from dying on numerous occasions.

There are also a number of special collections which contain resources documenting special developments in the history of the Southern U.S. Included in these special collections is the Georgia State Archive which documents the history of Georgia State's offices and organizations.

Because of all of these traits, Georgia State's library is an amazingly organized and accessible resource for everything a student needs during their time at the university. Even more than that, it's a great place to indulge in personal curiosity, as its vast collection is sure to contain many books on any subject imaginable.



Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal

Library Catalog

- GIL Find
- GIL Classic

Article databases

- A-W

InterLibrary Loan

- 13 Local libraries

E-Journal Locator

Galileo

Scholarworks

GEORGIA STATE'S TUITION ROSE 5.5 PERCENT - BUT IS IT FAIR?

THE BOARD OF REGENTS HAS CONSISTENTLY RAISED TUITION RATES FOR GEORGIA SCHOOLS FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

written by:
JOHN MILLER

If you're a returning student, one thing is likely to be on your mind: What's up with the rise in tuition rates? If you're a freshman or transfer student, this may or may not be your first time hearing about this.

One thing you should know before attending or returning to our university is that, believe it or not, tuition rates rise every semester at Georgia State and have consistently for four years, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Let's look at some of the facts before passing judgment.

In Spring 2014, The Signal reported the Georgia Board of Regents would increase Georgia State's tuition by 3.5 percent, simply because we are one of the four research universities in the state.

That doesn't seem like much, right? But students from the 10 colleges also within the University System of Georgia have consistently faced tuition increases higher than

the 2.5 seen in other schools in the state and this year, some of those increases are downright painful.

Georgia College and State University has an increase at three percent, according to the University System of Georgia's website. While this is not painful, it is still higher than non-USG schools in the state. Georgia Tech, in addition to three other schools, has the highest increase by far at a whopping nine percent.

For students going to Georgia State, there was a 5.5 percent increase Fall 2014, which means that students paid around \$300 more than they did last semester. Of course, the rate is even higher for out-of-state students.

So why did the USG's raise the tuition rate anyway? According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, tuition increases are simply meant to maintain the research institutions' national competitiveness, as well as compensate for the high demands for enrollment from prospective

students.

This makes sense as long as those extra funds are in fact going into what says they're going to. If not, there should be accountability as to where the funds are going. Personally, I would be more than happy to pay extra on college tuition if the funds are going towards professors, but I'm not sure that's what's happening here.

It's a logistical issue and a complicated one, but it's important to get a good understanding of what's really happening, especially when students are asked to provide more than they have in previous years. If kept unchecked, tuition could raise to absurd heights in less time than we may think, effectively making Georgia State a hub for the super-rich.

It seems like the tuition rate will probably continue on into the future. Our role as students is to make sure these tuition hikes remain fair in the coming years.

FACING DOWN CUPID

romance

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF COLLEGE DATING.

College relationships can be hard, but can work if you find the right balance

Photo by Nadia Deljou | The Signal

written by:
NICOLE MOTAHARI

Maintaining a love life in college can be pretty tough, especially when you're juggling other responsibilities such as school and work. While in high school the pattern might have worked out for you, anticipate that college is a whole different ball game.

I remember how steep the learning curve was for me and my friends as incoming freshman, so here are some tips from me to you to help navigate your way around the nooks and crannies of your new adult dating.

Don't let romantic relationships consume your life:

Too often college students start dating and they let their grades and work slip. When that happens, you stress out and it causes tension in your life and relationships, which could lead to breakups.

Instead, set a single "date night" each week and turn off your electronic devices while studying.

This applies to single folks as well; Between Tinder, OKCupid and other dating sites, which have become extremely popular amongst our age group, the struggle of finding someone to be with in this big city can be overwhelming. Huffington Post reports that over 50 million Tinder users check their apps more than 11 times a day!

To put it simply, unplugging yourself from dating consumption and the "tech world" isn't always the worst option -- sometimes during those crunch periods it's the best.

Balance the bubbly:

Speaking of pressure, alcohol also makes people do stupid things. However, that does not stop the college dating scene from involving some sort of drinking. This can range anywhere from a glass of wine over dinner or beer pong at a frat party. While having a drink or two is no means to feel discouraged, know your limits. Alcohol lowers your inhibitions, but it also removes your filter.

Furthermore, don't necessarily believe that the most common date-rape drugs are the legendary roofies they all talk about. Instead, 82 percent of sexual assault victims reported being drunk before the incident occurred, according to USA TODAY. This year, The Signal also published an article outlining two Georgia State students' experience with the vastly under-reported crime.

Now doesn't mean forever: Dating for marriage is lovely and it can be lots of fun but you don't have to date for that reason alone. College is the time to learn about yourself and the adult expectations you will soon develop.

In fact, as the college-age hookup culture continues to flourish, many are dating to learn much more about themselves, as well as for convenience. While it is not my personal style, many

of my gal friends are increasingly turning to casual dating over long-term relationships because it's easier for them. However, remember that communication is key, otherwise hearts will get caught in the crossfire.

Dating in college can be tough and messy – I won't lie to you, but it can also be the best time of your life. Break-ups and make-ups are all learning experiences, and each time, you learn more about how you work in romantic relationships and your desires. It might take some time, but when you finally meet that person who will stay up until 1 a.m. doing nerdy things with you and understands what you mean by the term "stichomythia," you'll realize it has been worth it.

stychomythia definition:

- (a rapid-fire back and forth dialogue a la Beatrice and Benedick from "Much Ado about Nothing"- basically, really smart arguing)

Located in the center of Centennial Olympic Park and one of Atlanta's most popular sites, follow us to the Fountain of Rings: one of the best places to cool off on a hot Atlanta day.

Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal





An electric neighborhood, Inman Park has become one with Georgia State and an environment for students to soak in.

Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal



Welcome to
#PantherFamily

Photo by Signal Archives



Charlie Cobb:

Top Panther in charge of Georgia State athletics



Photo | Signal Archives

written by:
JEREMY JOHNSON

Georgia State's director of athletics is entering his second year following what was an eventful 2014-15, with eyes on continuing and expanding the growth of the athletics program.

Charlie Cobb was named the Director of Athletics in August 2014 after spending nine years at Appalachian State University, where he also served the same position.

In his first year, Cobb has presided over various sports accomplishments for the Panthers, most notably the NCAA tournament appearance for the men's basketball team. He said one of his goals when he first assumed the position was to foster greater on-campus relationships as well as to

connect with prospective donors in the Atlanta area.

Georgia State is close to starting work on a strength and conditioning facility that will be adjacent to the football team's practice facility on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

In addition, there are plans to complete a \$1.5 million practice facility for the basketball and volleyball teams, Cobb told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. It is unknown at this point if it will be within the existing aquatics center at the Recreation Center or if there are plans to expand the building for the practice facility.

One of Cobb's top priorities--ensuring Georgia State completes a proposed \$300 million purchase of the property that Turner Field is currently housed on, according to published articles by The Signal.

Included is a planned retrofitting of Turner Field into a football stadium, the construction of a new baseball stadium, private housing, retail space and parking.

Cobb, prior to his Appalachian State tenure, served as senior associate athletics director at his alma mater North Carolina State University.

Cobb was familiar with Atlanta when accepted the job at Georgia State. He spent time working in the city of Atlanta when on the Atlanta Sports Council and Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl.

Before being involved with sports as an administrator, Cobb wore a football uniform. Cobb played center and lettered in football for four years at North Carolina State.

Building a **winner** with men's basketball

Georgia State aspires to be a consistent mid-major threat



Photo by Signal Archives

written by:
JARED OLIVER

The 2014-15 Georgia State men's basketball was a remarkable year for the program and the university. Three of the last four seasons for head coach Ron Hunter and his team have resulted in the Panthers winning at least 20 games, including last season which saw Georgia State win the Sun Belt and advance to the NCAA tournament.

Hunter said that the Georgia State Sports Arena has the best atmosphere in the Sun Belt Conference.

"Our students give us an incredible home court advantage," he said. "We are 25-1 in the GSU Sports Arena over the last two years and a large part of that comes from the student influence."

He also encouraged new Georgia State students to head to the Sports Arena and catch one or more games.

"To a new student, I would say just come out to one game and give us a

try," Hunter said.

The task for the Panthers now is to use the success of last season to become a mid-major powerhouse that is always a threat to win the Sun Belt conference and get to the field of 68 in March.

The backcourt of the Panthers last season was one of the most feared in the country (R.J. Hunter and Ryan Harrow). The two combined averaged 39.9 points through parts of the season. Despite Hunter, Harrow, and others leaving, the team will still bring back forwards Markus Crider and T.J. Shipes as well as guard Kevin Ware, all of whom will be in their senior seasons in 2015-16.

Shipes provided valuable minutes in the paint for the Panthers last year as a backup for Curtis Washington, who was a senior. Crider had some games where he notched double-digits in both points and rebounds. Ware primarily provides a defensive presence but also scored 18 points against Georgia Southern in the Sun Belt title game – a 38-36 Georgia State win.

Isaiah Dennis got playing time when Harrow was on the bench toward the latter part of last year with a hamstring injury and could fill his role for the upcoming season. Jeff Thomas, a freshman point guard who was on this year's roster, will step on the court for Georgia State in 2015-16 after being declared ineligible for last year.

Thomas was expected to be last year's third primary scorer along with Hunter and Harrow, so much is expected of the young guard next season in his first year of eligibility. Jeremy Hollowell, a 6-foot-8 forward who transferred after two years at Indiana will also get the chance to take the court for the Panthers in 2015.

Several newcomers will also join Coach Hunter's team next year, including Devin Mitchell, who is transferring from Alabama and attended Collins Hill High in Gwinnett County, where he averaged 16.7 points as a senior.

The Homes of the Panther Nation

Get to know where to go to cheer on Georgia State

written by:
JEREMY JOHNSON

Okay, so once you get to know more about Georgia State's sports teams, the next question has to be where to go to see the Panthers take on the competition. Panther athletics primarily compete in three main stadia or stadium clusters within the Atlanta area.

Here is a quick facts guide to get to know the sports facilities that host the Panthers.

Georgia Dome

The Georgia Dome is the home for to the Georgia State football team.

Seats 80,000 total.

Seats 28,155 for Georgia State football games (Lower Bowl).

Surface: Field turf.

History: Opened September 1992. Currently the home of the Atlanta

Falcons, Georgia State Panthers, and the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl. The Georgia Dome will be replaced with the new Falcons stadium in 2017 that will be the home of Atlanta's new MLS team.

Georgia State Sports Arena

Address: 125 Decatur Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

Home of Georgia State men's and women's basketball teams and volleyball team.

Seats: 3,455 for basketball and volleyball. The Sports Arena was also used for the badminton competitions in the 1996 Olympics. It also hosted ESPN's college slam dunk and three-point championships in 2002 and 2007.

Surface: Hardwood

Note: the Georgia State Sand Volleyball Complex is located behind to

the Sports Arena and shares the same address. It, as well, is at the corner of Decatur Street and Piedmont Avenue in downtown Atlanta.

Panthersville

Location: South DeKalb County near Georgia Perimeter College's Decatur campus

Built in 1968. The home to Georgia State's baseball, men's and women's soccer teams and softball team.

GSU Baseball Complex seats 1,092

Robert E. Heck Softball Complex
Seats: 500

GSU Soccer Complex seats 1,892

Side note for incoming students--those PantherCards will come in handy when on your way to a Georgia State sports event as they allow students access into the Dome, Arena or Panthersville for free.

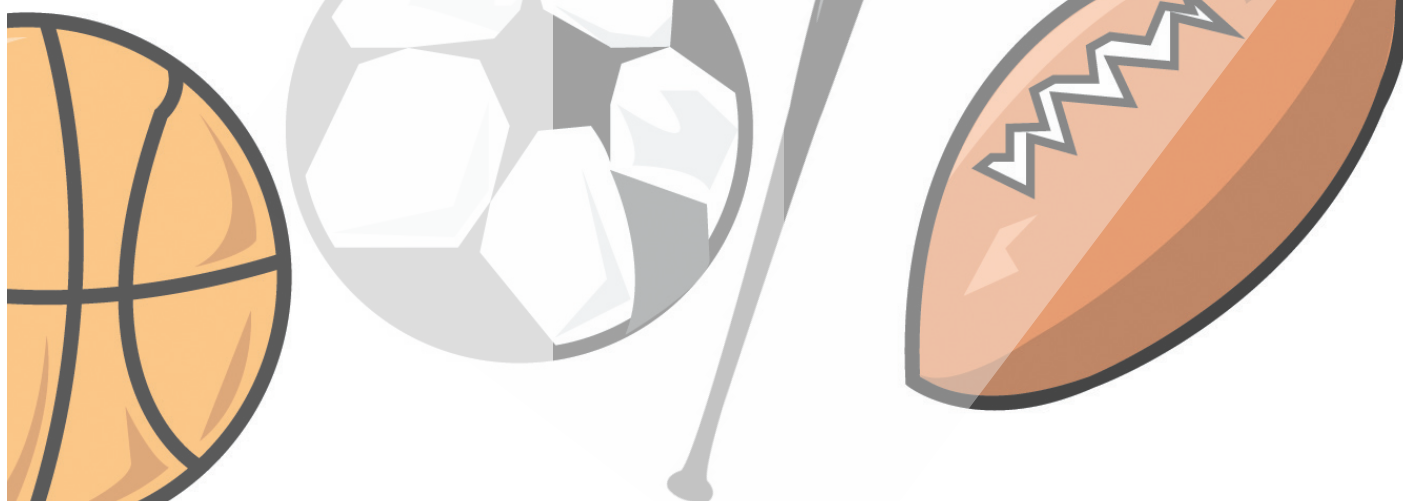


Illustration by Jamaal Hicks | The Signal

The Atlanta Sports Scene

There is a little something for fans of all sports



written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

The experience of being a Georgia State student does not only come with the university vibes, but the downtown Atlanta experience as well. With that comes the opportunity to be even closer to the popular sporting venues that have become part of the city's identity.

Turner Field

Turner Field is not only an important parking hub for students that commute daily to the Georgia State campus.

The ballpark first became the home of the MLB's Braves in 1997 and was originally Atlanta's Olympic Stadium in 1996.

For those hoping to catch a game at "The Ted," one may want to do it soon since the Braves intend on moving a new stadium in Cobb County.

Georgia State has plans for purchasing the land Turner Field is located when the Braves depart.

Turner Field is approximately a mile from campus. From the main campus, one can head south on Courtland Street

then continue south to Washington Street and Pulliam Street before turning left onto Georgia Avenue/Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard. The Atlanta Fair is also annually hosted Turner Field.

Philips Arena

Right near the Georgia Dome, Georgia World Congress Center, and Centennial Olympic Park sits Philips Arena, the home of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and the WNBA's Atlanta Dream.

The arena was first completed in 1999 with a capacity around 19,000. In addition to being the home stadium for both the Dream and the Hawks, the venue has also been the site of numerous concerts throughout the years.

Philips Arena is less than a mile from campus. To get there from Georgia State, drive northwest on Decatur Street which becomes Marietta Street then turn left onto Philips Drive.

New Atlanta Stadium

When the Georgia Dome is demolished, it will be replaced by a new

\$1.5 million stadium that will host to the Atlanta Falcons as well as a new Major League Soccer team slated to debut in Atlanta in 2017.

The new stadium will have a capacity of 71,000-75,000. Construction is underway.

College Football Hall of Fame

Also to sports stadium, Atlanta is also home to the College Football Hall of Fame

The original College Football Hall of Fame was based in South Bend, Indiana. The thought of moving the Hall of Fame began in 2009, culminating in the opening of the new building last year.

The College Football Hall of Fame is open from Sunday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Included are Game Day Theater and the Chick-Fil-A Skills Zone where guests can try their football talents.

To get to the Hall of Fame, go northwest on Decatur Street (which becomes Marietta Street) past the CNN Center. The building will be to the left.



Women's basketball

Photo submitted by Georgia State Athletics

written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

Last season, Georgia State was eliminated in the first round of the Sun Belt tournament. The Panthers finished with a 13-17 record overall.

After qualifying as an eighth seed, the Panthers lost 71-54 to eventual conference champion University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Baldwin-Tener felt the defeat had plenty to do with the unfavorable draw of facing the one-seeded Trojans.

"One thing, this year, we needed to

reach higher so we wouldn't face UALR," Baldwin-Tener said. "If we faced anyone else, I feel we would've beat them."

Among those departing include Brittany Logan, the team's leading rebounder along with second-leading scorer, Alisha Andrews, who concluded her college career with over 1,000 points.

Returning for the Panthers for 2015-16 is Makeba Ponder, who averaged 11.3 points per game and tied the Georgia State record for three-pointers with 69.

The 2015-16 team will also feature Kierra Henry, a 2,000-point scorer from

Pope High School in Marietta, Georgia.

The team will also welcome K.K. Williams, who was part of a Blackmon High School team in Tennessee that won 3A consecutive state championships.

The Panthers' coach encouraged newcomers to the university to make attending games part of their Georgia State experience.

"The atmosphere is great," she said. "They're going to play hard and they're going to play together."

The full schedule has yet to be released.

Indoor and Sand Volleyball



written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

In 2015, sand volleyball concluded an 18-1 regular season and advanced to the American Volleyball Coaches' Association (AVCA) tournament.

"We feel pleased with the results of this year," sand volleyball head coach Beth Van Fleet said.

Juniors Sara Olivova and Jansen Button received All-American honors. Their leadership will be a huge asset to the team next year when the

NCAA recognizes sand volleyball as a championship sport.

Indoors, the Panthers' 2014 campaign resulted in their best season since 2011 and the seventh seed in the Sun Belt tournament.

The Panthers return six seniors, including Deidra Bohannon, whose 432 kills placed her at third in the Sun Belt last year. Also returning is Eliza Zachary who was sixth in the conference in hitting percentage at .306.

Among Georgia State's fresh faces for 2015 include in-state players Jordan

Screen and Kaitlyn Dachs.

One of head coach Sally Polhamus' goals for the upcoming season to adjust quicker to varying circumstances.

"Our goal this summer and preseason is to adjust faster," she said. "Adjust faster to the environment, adjust faster to the opponents' hitters, adjust faster to the noise."

Ticket information can be found at the Tickets page at GeorgiaStateSports.com or by calling 404-413-4020. Students are free to all Georgia State Athletics events with their valid PantherCard.

Photo submitted by Georgia State Athletics



Softball and Baseball

At Panthersville, 2015 was the year of the longball

written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

Softballs and baseballs that made contact with Georgia State bats this season most likely went in one direction, over the fence.

For softball, the Panthers shattered a school record with 102 homers.

If this year is any indication, 2016 will be no different. Ivie Drake hit 22 home runs which established a new single-season Panthers' record. She also hit .462 as a freshman.

Also returning will be Megan Litumbe after a 21-homer 2015. One player to watch next year is Lexi Bates, who hit .512 as a senior at Mount Paran Christian School in Kennesaw.

The Panthers finished the season with a 38-22 record and a 14-10 clip in the Sun Belt. Georgia State advanced to the semifinals of this year's tournament, but lost in the semifinals to South Alabama.

"We'll be better next year because of what happened to us this year," Head Coach Roger Kincaid said.

There was no shortage of homers

with the baseball team. Junior infielder and pitcher Matt Rose slugged 15 home runs, leading the Sun Belt in that category.

The 2016 team will also welcome Devin Vainer – a pitcher from Georgia Perimeter College.

Georgia State finished the regular season with 40 home runs – tied for fourth in the conference.

The Panthers' 2015 resulted in a tournament berth as a fifth seed despite leading the Sun Belt for much of the year.

Photos submitted by Georgia State Athletics

Men's and women's soccer

First-round tournament exits leave room for improvement for both teams

written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

Both the women's and men's soccer teams qualified for their respective conference tournaments. Georgia State went 0-2 in this year's tournaments but the 2015 season is around the corner.

Men's Soccer

The Panthers went 8-10 overall and 3-2 in conference play for a tournament berth before falling 2-1 to Georgia Southern in the first round.

They look to use that experience to build for 2015.

Rashid Alarape will be a junior this season after scoring four goals in 11 starts and earning All-Sun Belt First Team honors. In addition, the Panthers will be welcoming new talent from the domestic and international ranks.

Oliver Haines is a midfielder from London and graduated from Oasis Academy Shirley Park. He led his team to a national championship in 2012.

Women's soccer

Georgia State went 6-10-4 and

4-4-1 in conference and also qualified for the Sun Belt tournament before a 1-0 first round loss to Texas State.

The Panthers will be returning 14 of the top 16 players in minutes played from 2015, including second-leading scorer, senior Lauren Harriman. She also led the team with four assists.

Ashley Nagy, the Sun Belt preseason player of the year, will be back and healthy for Georgia State in 2015. Nagy suffered an injury that sidelined her after the first 12 games of the season, where she scored two goals.

Photos by Signal Archives

Women's and men's tennis

Marshall's women's tennis team earns conference bid, men finished 9-13 under new coach

written by:
JARED OLIVER

On the hardcourt for Georgia State, the women's tennis team finished the season with four players making All-Conference.

Next year's Panthers will return Linn Timmerman, who was named to the All-Sun Belt Singles Second Team. Tarani Kamoe, Niri Rasolomalala, and Kristin Rehse will also be back for Georgia State.

Rasolomalala and Rehse went 16-6 last season. Timmerman went 21-9

as a singles player and 18-9 in the doubles circuit in 2015.

"Obviously, our biggest goal is to make the NCAA tournament," head coach Jason Marshall said. "Winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament is the easiest way to make that happen and we are one of three or four schools in the conference fighting for that spot."

On the men's side, Georgia State finished the season with a 9-13 record under first-year head coach Brett Ross.

Jannis Koeke will be a junior

next year and will be coming off a 2015 season where he compiled 16 wins. Georgia State also hopes for continued impressive play from Sebastian Acuna and Andrei Andrukhov, who went 19-18 combined as freshmen.

Ross feels that he got a good glimpse of his talent level in his first year.

"Georgia State can expect to see a very energetic group that will be ready to compete for a Sun Belt Championship and compete on a national level," Ross said.

Photos by Signal Archives

Track and Field/Cross Country

LaPorscha Wells, Ravin Gilbert becoming faces of Panthers team

written by:
JARED OLIVER

The women's track & field and cross country team had an impressive 2014-15 season remaining near the top of the ranks of the Sun Belt Conference.

The team will miss, Hannah Stefanoff, who took home the Sun Belt title in cross country in October.

LaPorscha Wells will be a junior in 2016, continued to renew the history

books this season by setting a new record in the shot put record in this year's Sun Belt tournament throwing, 16.00 meters.

Three juniors from the relay team will also be back--Ravin Gilbert, Katherine Randolph, and Breonca Reid. Gilbert won three titles at this year's conference championships.

Head coach Chris England ensures his team is at the top of the rankings every year to compete at the highest level.

"Our goal every year is to win the team championship, and the program did that four years ago, with two second-place

team finishes since, so we expect to be the best," England said. "All the while, the team scores count, but the individuals compete for titles and NCAA regional spots in their events. And, we've done that well individually, as well."

Georgia State will host the Sun Belt cross country championship this fall.

"We compete at the highest NCAA level, and GSU fans can watch our team at area meets in Georgia and Atlanta," England said.

Photos submitted by Georgia State Athletics

Women's and men's golf

Talent and experience will define Georgia State on the greens next year

written by:
JEREMY JOHNSON

Women's golf

After an eighth place conference finish, the Panthers will be heading into 2015 with a bunch of experience as they will return much of the previous season's lineup.

The top returners for the Panthers include juniors Joeun Bae and Solene De Coz along with senior Julie Lied. Georgia State's top player from the fall season, sophomore Emily Royer, will not

be available next season due to shoulder surgery that will force her to redshirt.

Head coach Cathy Mant likes the team's depth and thinks it will be a positive to have so many talented young players pushing each other.

"I don't know who's going to step up and be the top dog. We'll have eight young ladies that can flat out play golf," she said. "I really can't make any predictions. I'm kind of excited about that."

Men's Golf

The Panthers earned a berth in the

NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row and came in eleventh in the Lubbock, Texas Regional.

Going into 2016 they will have the opportunity to repeat that feat with senior Jonathan "J.J." Grey returning and twins Alexander and Max Herrmann going into their sophomore seasons after solid freshman campaigns.

Grey led the Panthers with four top ten finishes and also earned an overall win during the Southern Intercollegiate in March.

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F.....O.....O.....T.....B.....A.....LL

Still struggling, but trying to put the pieces together

written by:
AKIEM BAILUM

Georgia State encountered another long football season last year, going 1-11 and suffering multiple injuries. Some of those losses were close, which have allowed them to gain experience. They will have a bevy of talented and experienced players returning in 2015 along with six players from the disbanded University of Alabama at Birmingham program.

Key Players Senior quarterback Nick Arbuckle

Coming off a season in which he threw for a school record 3,283 yards and 23 touchdowns with 17 interceptions, Arbuckle hopes his improved grasp of the team's system and chemistry with the talented players on the outside will help him cut back on turnovers and help to make the Panthers' offense more efficient.

"I think he's got a better understanding of what we want within the system. And not try to do too much. I think our coaches have done a good job putting weapons around him. So, he doesn't have to feel like he has [tried] to do everything himself," head coach Trent Miles said.

Senior linebacker Joseph Peterson

Peterson has been the model of consistency for the defense. Peterson led the Panthers in tackles for three straight seasons and was named second-team All-Sun Belt in 2014.

Peterson is now in his senior year and looks to have an even bigger impact in 2015.

Senior wide receiver Donovan Harden

Harden has emerged as the number one receiver for the Panthers. Coming off a 60-reception, 885 yard, seven touchdown season, and the second year with Arbuckle means more chemistry and trust.

Promising Newcomers Linebacker Alonzo McGee: 6-foot-1, 220 pounds

- The UAB transfer started two games last season and put up 42 tackles which put him sixth on the team. McGee will be looked at to play some meaningful snaps this season for the Panthers.

Linebacker Kaleb Ringer: 6 feet, 235 pounds

- Ringer earned the starting spot at inside linebacker in spring practice. He was highly recruited out of high school in Clayton, Ohio. Ringer spent a season at the University of Michigan where he redshirted after

suffering a knee injury in fall camp.

Ringer then left Michigan and went the junior college route where he played for Butler Community College.

Running Back Kendrick Dorn: 6 feet, 205 pounds

- A junior college transfer that has the opportunity to help out in the Panthers' backfield that suffered through injuries and the transfer of Krysten Hammon. Dorn has good size and could contribute early. Dorn ran for 1,088 yards in 2014 at San Bernardino Valley.

Running Back Demarcus Kirk, 6 feet, 190 pounds

- Transferred from UAB where he redshirted for a year. Could be part of a solid backfield rotation that would also include Dorn and Neal.

Schedule (all times TBA):

Sept. 4-- vs. Charlotte
Sept. 12-- at New Mexico State
Sept. 19-- at Oregon
Oct. 3--vs. Liberty (Homecoming)
Oct. 10-- vs. Appalachian State
Oct. 17-- at Ball State
Oct. 31-- at Arkansas State
Nov. 7-- vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
Nov. 14-- at Texas State
Nov. 21-- vs. South Alabama
Nov. 27-- vs. Troy
Dec. 5-- at Georgia Southern

More than just Athletics

Recreational Services also offers a wide variety of Intramural and Club Sports

written by:

AKIEM BAILUM

Newsflash for incoming students and transfers-sports at Georgia State do not begin and end with the 16 Athletics offerings. This is where the Department of Recreational Services comes in with its wide array of Intramural and Club Sports.

Intramural sports allow students and members to compete against each other. Georgia State University's Department of Recreational Services provides the equipment and it also offers male, female and co-ed divisions.

Teams can either be created, students can join an individual or team sport, or they can be selected by other teams. If they do not have a current team, they can participate as free agents.

The Department of Recreational Services offers a number of Sport Clubs. Students as well as faculty and staff interested in joining a club can begin the process of joining one by contacting Ty Verdin, the Sport Club coordinator.

After completing the online registration process, would-be participants are advised to read the Sport Club handbook that includes rules and regulations for officers, members, and advisors. One will be fully ready to participate in a Sport Club program after learning said rules and regulations.

The handbook can be found on the Sport Clubs website: <http://recreation.gsu.edu/intramurals-clubs/sport-clubs/>

Among the Intramural sports offered include:

- Racquetball
- Golf
- Flag Football
- Indoor Soccer
- Billiards
- Sand Volleyball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Table Tennis
- 3v3
- Dodgeball
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Outdoor Soccer
- Softball
- Bowling
- Extreme Dodgeball
- Arena Flag Football
- Kickball

For more information and Intramurals and Sport Clubs, visit the Department of Recreational Services' website at recreation.gsu.edu

Contact Information:
Ty Verdin, Sport Clubs coordinator
404-413-1764
sportclubs@gsu.edu

Andy Hudgins, Associate Director, Intramurals
404-413-1765
intramurals@gsu.edu



The Sport Clubs offered are:

- Angler Fishing
- Badminton
- Boxing
- Breakdancing
- Capoeira
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Grappling and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
- Indoor Soccer
- Men's Lacrosse
- Women's Lacrosse
- Paintball
- Rock Climbing
- Rowing
- Men's Rugby Football
- Men's Soccer
- Swim
- Tennis
- Women's Ultimate Frisbee
- Men's Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Whitewater
- Wrestling

THE MAMMAL GALLERY

Welcome to
new beginnings





YOUR BEST RESOURCE ON CAMPUS:

AUBURN AVENUE

written by:
SYDNEY CUNNINGHAM

For Georgia State students living in the area, being able to walk to places is a godsend. For new arrivals, having to find out for yourself what lies down the street may take time and experience. To speed up that process, here are the highlights of the stores you can find nearby. [Sweet Auburn Grocery](#)

[200 Auburn Ave NE](#)

Anything that the Shell gas station off of Pledmont Avenue will not cover, Sweet Auburn Grocery will probably have it. The convenience store is across the street from CityWalk apartments and has anything from junk food to select toiletries. Utilizing Sweet Auburn Grocery offers students late night coffee and candy to miscellaneous stock like pasta noodles and Drano.

[Condesa Coffee](#)
[145 Auburn Ave NE](#)

On any college campus, a solid coffee option that is not a Starbucks is a must. With the original Condesa Coffee location off of John Wesley Dobbs, a second location even closer in the heart of campus is a good idea. Condesa Coffee inhabits the old building of what used to be the Historic Atlanta Daily World. Drinks served are classics such as espresso, cappuccino, americano, and various teas. Food are in the vein

of breakfast and brunch including bagel and lox, granola and oatmeal and caprese. Following the trend some coffees shops have been taking, wine, beer and cocktails are served as well. At Condesa Coffee, catching up with a friend or needing a place to study can be all housed here.

[Arden's Garden](#)
[145 Auburn Ave](#)

This Atlanta staple has now infiltrated campus making it another one of their countless locations. Auburn Avenue's Arden's Garden rests beside Condesa Coffee and continues to make premier juices, smoothies and healthy options. From their East Point processing plant, fresh juice is made five days a week and delivered all over the city. At the shops themselves, juices range from energy boosters to delicious smoothies that utilize over 20 different fruits and vegetables. Bottled juices and cleanses are available at places such as Publix, Whole Foods and other retailers. Stress runs through the waters of a college area, so are hectic schedules. Everyone should be able to have the option of consuming something healthy on a semi-regular basis. Arden's Garden location and menu offers that to our student body.

[Just Add Honey](#)
[171 Auburn Ave NE](#)

While Condesa Coffee offers

some tea options, Just Add Honey is a mecca for various blends and flavors of tea. Also available to purchase online, an array of blended loose leaf teas, cold brewed teas, and tea accessories are retailed. A cup of your own choosing can be enjoyed in store with the luxury of taking whatever blend of tea home with you to enjoy. The owner, Brandi Shelton, works on new blends on a regular basis. Flavors of the teas range from classics such as "Earl Grey" to deluxe flavors like "Pomegranate Pear" and "Georgia Peaches." For people who detest coffee and need a drink to energize their day to day, Just Add Honey allows you to capitalize on that and then some.

[Sweet Auburn Bread Company](#)
[234 Auburn Ave NE](#)

At this eatery, classic pastry options have been made since 1997. Famously, Bill Clinton tried their Sweet Potato Cheesecake, and raved about it. Pound cakes and other sweets are served. The list includes cookies, pies, cheesecakes, muffins and classic three layer cakes. Sweet Auburn Bread Company is located in a compact shop, much different then sit down bakeries. The shop lies catty cornered to Auburn's John Lewis mural. A much needed treat your self day can be acted upon with the help of the Sweet Auburn Bread Company.

KICK BACK AND RELAX

Check out these popular spots

written by:
CHANTE FOSTER

When you're not speed walking to class, or studying for an exam, it's good to take some time to relax and unwind. Georgia State has various locations on campus for students to enjoy a break in between classes.

THE STUDENT CENTER: EAST WING



A lot of on campus activities are hosted by the Student Center. Throughout the semester, campus events and organizations provided free events for currently enrolled students. From distinguish speakers, to a hypnotist and Panther Prowl.

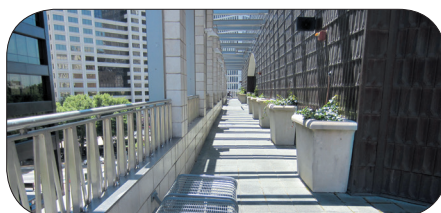
The Gallery Lounge is located on the third floor of the Student Center East in room 306. The best part about the student gallery lounge is its enclosed space with comfy chairs. The Gallery lounge also exhibits student artwork, so if you're looking for an enclosed and quiet space to focus, it's an ideal spot to relax and get some work done.

THE PLAZA



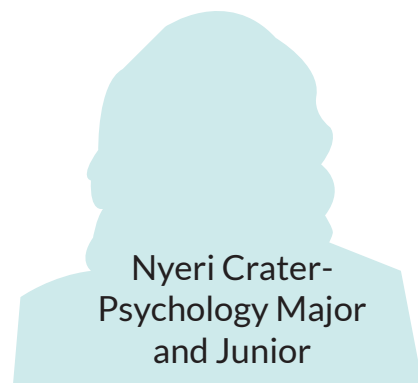
When it comes to meeting up with friends and hanging out, the Library Plaza is the hub of socialization. The Plaza intersects with most of the classes located on the main campus, which includes Kell Hall, Classroom South, Sparks Hall, Langdale and the Library. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Library Plaza is full of activity such as bake sales, music, protest, and organizations hosting events to attract students. The crowd is thick with students surrounding the stage and observing performances.

ADERHOLD BALCONY



The Aderhold Balcony is a quite place where you can have lunch and get a breath of fresh air. What makes the balcony so relaxing is the view of the city. The Aderhold Balcony has benches where you can sit and enjoy an easy place to focus.

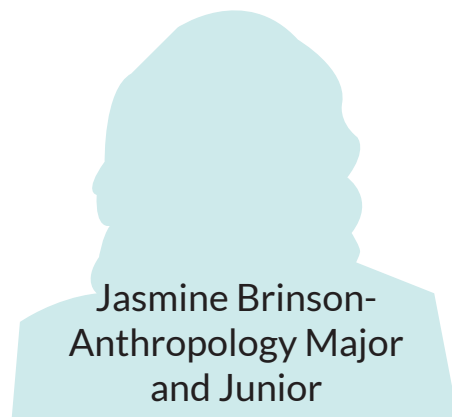
THE STUDENT CENTER:



Nyeri Crater-
Psychology Major
and Junior

"I'm an introvert, and there is not a lot of people in the Student Center. It's quiet, people don't tend [to] crowd up in the student center [and] they just walk through. I'm always listening to music, watching a movie and playing games on my iPad."

THE PLAZA



Jasmine Brinson-
Anthropology Major
and Junior

The Plaza is a good place to meet up with friends to socialize between classes.

"I like to people watch, which is why I hang out in [the] plaza. Most people are meeting up with friends and socializing while going to class."

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FAIRLIE-POPLAR HISTORIC DISTRICT

The best place to go for campus eats

written by:
ADJOA DANSO

Out of Atlanta's 252 neighborhoods, Georgia State sits in three of them: Sweet Auburn historic district, Old Fourth Ward, and the Fairlie-Poplar historic district. The Fairlie-Poplar district is across from Woodruff Park, and is offset by Marietta, Peachtree, Luckie and Cone streets. Although it's not a large area, the Fairlie-Poplar district is home to some of the best places to eat on campus.

The Fairlie-Poplar district offers several choices for food and drinks. Broad Street has the widest range of foods and flavors for students on campus. Students can choose Mediterranean food at Anatolia Cafe and Hookah Lounge or Ali Baba Cafe, Indian street food at NaanStop, or Vietnamese cuisine at Dua.

THE FAIRLIE-POPLAR DISTRICT:

- The J. Mack Robinson College of Business.
- The Rialto Center for the Arts
- The School of Music
- The College of Arts and Sciences's Office of Graduate Services

SIDEBAR

Students who are of legal drinking age (in the U.S., not in Canada or Europe) can head to downtown's self-proclaimed neighborhood bar, Sidebar. Sidebar is best known for its various flavors of wings, pressed sandwiches and, of course, a vast selection of beer. Sidebar opened in Atlanta just over 10 years ago and serves up bar classics like onion rings, jalapeño poppers and burgers.

Although Sidebar patrons don't need to be over 21 years old, the bar's main clientele are adults who are well past the legal drinking age. Sidebar is also known for showing various sporting events on their many television sets: mixed martial arts fights, football, basketball and, occasionally, bowling championships.

LANDMARK DINER

Landmark Diner is one of the few late night options for Georgia State students on campus. Located across from the Rialto in one of Aderhold Learning Center's retail spaces, Landmark is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Landmark Diner at Aderhold is one of five Landmarks in Atlanta, including ones in Buckhead and Hapeville.

Landmark's menu features all-day breakfast, gyros, soups, salads and more. One thing the diner is known for is its large array of cakes. Each slice, ranging from red velvet cake to carrot cake, is about as big as the plate it's served on.

SLICE

Slice Downtown is not a traditional pizzeria. Slice has been dishing out pizza in Fairlie-Poplar for almost nine years. Slice features unique pizza varieties such as loaded baked potato: a slice with potatoes, bacon, onions and cheddar cheese served with a dollop of sour cream. Slice also serves traditional Italian favorites such as lasagna, chicken

parmesan and stromboli.

The Fairlie-Poplar district is a short walk from Centennial Olympic Park, the Skyview Ferris wheel, the CNN Center, the World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium. The district, though not one of Atlanta's most prominent neighborhoods, showcases something for everyone.

ADJUSTING TO PANTHER LIFE

Tips to your first year at Georgia State

written by:
NICHOLE PLACE

Being new to college means you probably have no idea what to expect other than what your friend's cousin's ex-girlfriend said; they are most likely not the best source. So, here are just a few rules and tips to help you get through your first year at Georgia State.

What to have on you:

Lanyard: This is a great way to carry your dorm key, house key, car key, or any other key you may possibly need. You don't want to get half way to class and realize you left one or more of them somewhere and are now stranded.

Panther ID: You should always have your Panther ID on you no matter what. You'll need it to get in and out of certain buildings, like the dorms, the library and the gym. It also comes in handy when you want a student discount somewhere.

Five Dollars: It's smart to carry at least five one dollars bills on you. You never know when you will get hungry and are in desperate need of a vending machine

"Put effort into your education, to insure a bright future and effort into new friendships and experiences for a worthwhile present."

-Emma Koenig
Junior



Picking classes:

Don't overload your schedule with hard classes. You don't want to end up failing all of them just because you want to sound smart when telling people you're taking Multivariate Calculus, German, and Physics. Take what you can handle.

Don't take a class just because you have a friend in it. It might be fun but make sure you pick one that fits your schedule. Except for your core classes, definitely find a friend for those.

Pick class times that best fit your schedule. Don't sign up for an 8 A.M. if you won't get up for it. You've been warned.

Georgia State is a great school and is full of opportunities; so enjoy yourself. Good luck panthers.

Overlooked tips:

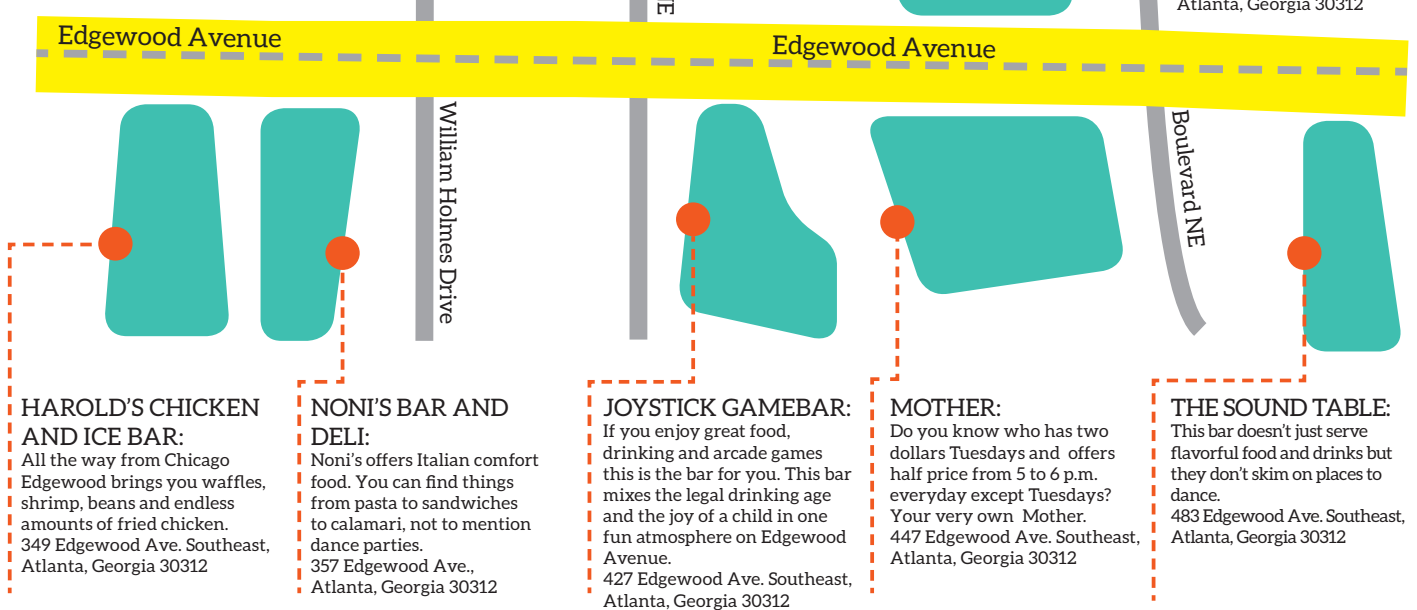
Wrong place, wrong time: No one in the class cares about what you and your friend are talking about. It is honestly just distracting. Pick a better time than in the middle of a lecture to tell your friend about how you were so drunk last weekend at a party. Then the next morning you woke up in some lake house next to a parrot. No one cares.

Books: You should always wait to buy your books for class. It may turn out that a week or two in you don't actually need them, and you'll have wasted a ton of money. However, there are a few exceptions; always find out on the first day of class if electronic copies are an option, they are way cheaper. Get a workbook, if your class requires it, that one is necessary. Lastly, if it's a book you think you'll use further into your major, buy it.

Socializing: Joining a group is one of the best decisions a person can make when in college. There are so many options here at Georgia State that it's nearly impossible to not find something you'll like. College can be great if you make it so.

WHERE TO GO ONCE YOU GET THERE

EDGEWOOD IN OLD FOURTH WARD



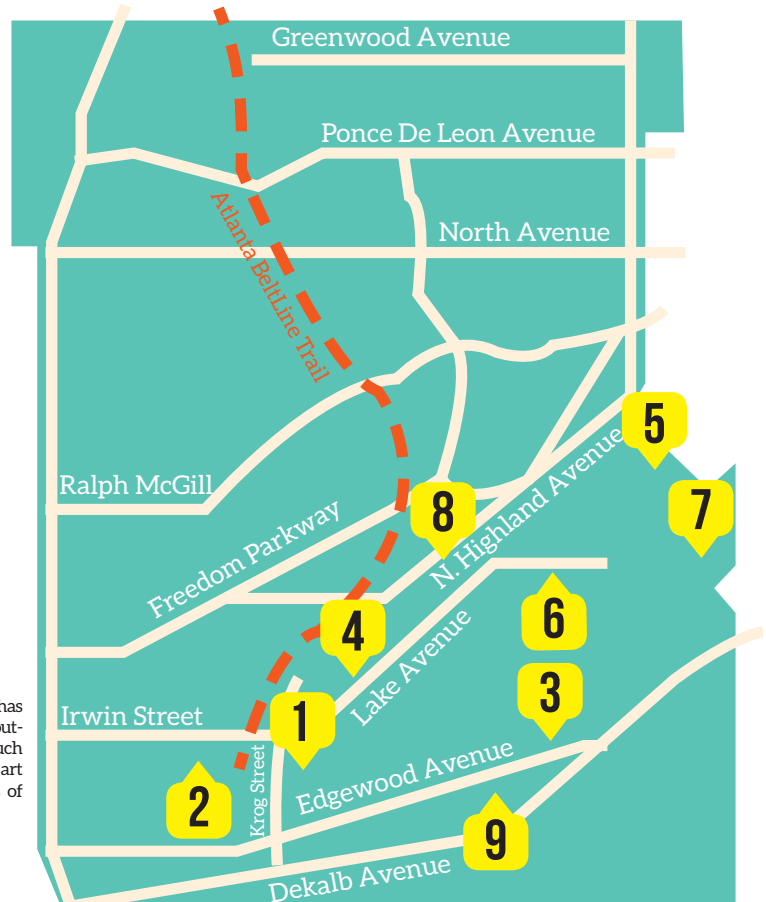
INMAN PARK

- 1** Fred's Meat and Bread:
Burgers, fries, cheesesteaks, oh my! This sandwich and burger restaurant can be found at Krog Street Market.
99 Krog St. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 2** Rathbun's:
Rathbun's offers American cuisine. It also offers cooking classes and catering.
112 Krog St. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 3** One Eared Stag:
Unfortunately, this place is no friend to Bambi, but it is a friend to taste buds by offering boat scallops and caramel pound cake.
1029 Edgewood Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 4** Julianna's Coffee and Crepes:
These Hungarian crepes have been named best crepe by Creating Loafing.
775 Lake Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 5** Criminal records:
If you were hoping to dig into the history of Criminal's, you're out of luck. Criminal's is an eclectic record store that has something for everyone.
1154 Euclid Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 6** The Albert:
This genius restaurant and bar offers only the best meat from cows, pigs, chickens and dogs.
918 Austin Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 7** Horizon Theatre Company:
For those of you who love theater and those who pretend to hate it and blame others for going to see plays, here is a place to catch great contemporary plays.
1083 Austin Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 8** Fritti:
This menu doesn't skimp out on the taste of authentic Italian pizza.
309 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307
- 9** Bocca Lupo:
Because of its use of only the freshest ingredients, this Italian-American menu is constantly changing.
753 Edgewood Ave. Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30307

THE BELTLINE:

One of the greatest things Atlanta has to offer is the Beltline. This is a great outdoor area for biking, running, and much more. Along with being able to see art work along the trail there are tons of places to eat along the way.

- Two Urban licks
- Gilbert's Café and Bar
- Yoforia
- Park's Edge
- Irwin Street market



LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY EMILY LASHER | THE SIGNAL

SISTER LOUISA'S IN ATLANTA

466 Edgewood Ave.
Southeast, Atlanta,
Georgia 30312

Hours
Monday - Friday:
5 p.m. - 3 a.m.
Saturday:
1 p.m. - 3 a.m.
Sunday:
1 p.m. - Midnight

TAKE ME TO SISTER LOUISA'S CHURCH

Grant Henry's themed bar is an Edgewood Avenue staple

PHOTO BY NADIA DELJOU | THE SIGNAL
Sister Louisa's Church of the Living Room & Ping Pong Emporium is unique bar prides itself on church-organ karaoke and weekly Ping-Pong tournaments.

ADJOA DANSO
Staff Reporter

Sister Louisa's Church of the Living Room and Ping Pong Emporium has quickly become a combination of a neighborhood bar and a kitschy tourist attraction. Sister Louisa's features a wide range of original art, all produced by the bar's owner, Grant Henry.

It's a bar!

Grant Henry considers his bar an extension of his former art gallery, Sister Louisa's Art Gallery and the Church of the Living Room.

"I had an art gallery for years, and when I opened this up, [...] I decided to combine my art gallery and the bar," Henry said. "To me it's more ... it's truly more of an art gallery that sells alcohol instead of a bar that sells artwork."

But when it does come down to selling alcohol, Church has it covered. The signature drink at Church is Sister Louisa's Spiritual Sangria.

"I sell more sangria than anything," Henry said. "It is a pint glass full of booze, steeped in all kinds of fruit that soaks up the alcohol. A lot of people say they get drunk off of just the fruit that's floating in the sangria."

The recipe is Henry's own and he has been serving it at art shows for almost 20 years. A few restaur-

rants in Atlanta even sell the drink, including Bone Garden Cantina on the Westside.

Although popular, Sister Louisa's Spiritual Sangria isn't Church's only calling card; Church prides itself on building a community above everything else.

Most people in Atlanta go to bars because you want to escape life a little bit, have a drink, forget you had a hard day," Henry said. "Church is a bar that people go to because they want to get into life. It's a hangout for everybody. It's sort of become Atlanta's living room."

In its first year of operation, Sister Louisa's Church won the 2011 Atlanta Downtown Design Excellence Award for restaurants and bars. It wasn't long before Henry saw the impact that winning the design award would have on his business.

"That night at 5 [p.m.] when we opened up, people were in suits and coming from jobs. So that sort of gave us the stamp of approval for a different kind of clientele," Henry said.

The man behind the woman

Sister Louisa's story is actually a variation of Henry's life. Before opening Sister Louisa's Church, Henry attended seminary school to become a Presbyterian minister,

much like Sister Louisa was part of a convent.

"It's an opposite story. It's about a woman, but it's really me. And it's not a convent, it was about me being in seminary school," Henry said.

In addition to attending seminary school, Grant Henry received his Bachelor of Arts in hotel, restaurant and travel as well as a Masters of Arts in education from Georgia State.

Unlike Sister Louisa, Henry voluntarily exited the Church because he couldn't bring himself to fulfill one of his final requirements.

"They wanted me to say, 'Only through Jesus Christ is salvation possible.' I couldn't really say that because I didn't believe it," Henry said.

Henry has a background in several fields but got into the bar business when he was a classic "starving artist."

"I was selling a lot of art but it was more an 'artist's life,'" Henry said. "But I sustained my life by being a bartender."

Who is Sister Louisa?

Some patrons of Sister Louisa's Church of the Living Room and Ping Pong Emporium may be surprised to know that Sister Louisa doesn't really exist. Grant Henry made up the persona of Sister Louisa when he was preparing for an art

show after traveling in Europe.

"When I was making the bio before the art show ... I wanted to have a pseudonym. I wanted to have an alter ego. I want to be Sister Louisa's art agent."

Sister Louisa is more than an alias for Henry. She has her own backstory.

"Sister Louisa was a nun in a convent outside Baton Rouge, Louisiana," Henry's story goes.

She was kicked out for falling in love with the school's janitor, so she turned to making art in her airstream trailer.

The inspiration for Sister Louisa, however, did not come from an artist. Louisa is a small woman Henry and some friends stayed with while traveling through Prague and Amsterdam.

"We stayed with this woman; her name was Louisa. But she was a little spiritual bird. She was an attorney [...] and she had this long grey hair, and she was brilliant. I fell in love with this woman," Henry said.

Henry took the idea of Sister Louisa and ran with it. Even before Henry opened his bar on Edgewood Avenue, he received press inquiries from people who wanted to interview Sister Louisa. Henry set up interviews only to dupe the reporters once they arrived in Atlanta.

"I said, 'Oh, her 1974 Ford Pinto broke down in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and she is not able to come. She's in Tuscaloosa on the side of the road waiting for me to come.

I've got to go rescue her,'" Henry said.

Sister Louisa's sister bar

Henry opened a second Sister Louisa-themed bar in Athens, Georgia about six months ago. This bar, "Sister Louisa's Church, It's a Glory Hole," is decorated almost identically to its twin to the west. Henry decided to open the location after several trips to Athens with his friend, the owner of King of Pops.

"I started liking Athens, and it was only like an hour - an hour and thirty minutes away. I started looking for a space over there, sort of as a joke. I didn't think I was really going to do it," Henry said. "But then I found the perfect space, and for some reason I signed the lease."

Henry is considering the possibility of opening a third Sister Louisa's Church in Nashville.

"It'll be the biggest Church," Henry said. "It'll be called Sister Louisa's Country Church of the Living Room."

This new location would serve food but will continue the current Church concept of being a no smoking, no television bar.

"What [Sister Louisa's Church] does is it encourages community," Henry said. "We don't have any distractions. The art's the distraction."



NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSPORTATION GUIDE:

Finding your way
in Castleberry Hill
Written by Nichole Place

Artistic and historic features crawl throughout the Castleberry Hill community. Castleberry Hill offers students a chance to take an art stroll where they are able to see different work of art,

stop in shops and eat at restaurants along the way. This area is overflowing with opportunities for students to enjoy the creative atmosphere right in their own backyard.

GETTING THERE: GETTING TO THE GREAT SHOPS IN CASTLEBERRY HILL

TIP!

If you don't want to deal with parking, take MARTA or take the Atlanta Streetcar, you can always get an Uber or Lyft, two ride-hailing services available via mobile app.

MARTA:

To get on MARTA, all you need is a Breeze card and \$2.50 on that card for a one-way trip. Here are some stops nearby:
*Garnett (Doesn't offer parking)
*Georgia Dome (Doesn't offer parking)
*Five Points (Doesn't offer parking)

DOING THINGS WHEN YOU'RE THERE:

No Mas! Cantina: This is not your ordinary Mexican restaurant. At No Mas! you have the option of buying a burrito and a couch all on one night out. (180 Walker St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

The Spinning Pie: At Spinning Pie you are able to get unique pizzas, spin rolls and desserts. And Starting June 3 you can enjoy pizza and hip-hop karaoke every Monday. (259 Peters St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)
255 Tapas Lounge: This is a great place to relax and hang out with friends while enjoying burgers, wings, drinks and more. (255 Peters St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

Fly Kix: Jacket, Jeans and shoes galore. Fly Kix offers great shoes and a consignment section to make it easier on your wallet. (275 Peters St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

Wings 'R Us: WARNING: Not a designated toy store. To compromise between wing lovers and haters, this wing palace offers more than just, well ... wings. Here you can get chicken tenders, subs and surprisingly fried rice. (490 Whitehall St. Southwest #A, Atlanta, Georgia 30303)

City of Ink Tattoo: If you're looking for a place to make your skin beautiful, City of Ink is the place to go. With a selection of talented artists, there is no way you will leave there unhappy. (323 Walker St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

Get information and maps on the art stroll by going to <http://www.castleberryhill.org/chartstroll/>.

STOP AND STARE: ART GALLERIES TO VISIT

● Big House Gallery and The Granite Room (211 Peters St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

● Eyedrum (88 Forsyth St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30303)

● Marcia Wood Gallery (263 Walker St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

● ZuCot Gallery (100 Centennial Olympic Park Dr., Atlanta, Georgia 30313)

THE ART STROLL

Every second Friday of the month, Castleberry Hill offers an art stroll to nearby residents, visitors and just anyone interested. Restaurants, galleries and shops offer areas for people to enjoy.



PARKING:

Parking lots can be a little skim in this area. But remember to always keep your eye out for parking offered by restaurants and stores.

Laz Parking: Laz Parking costs anywhere from \$6 - \$9 to park in these lots depending on the location. (180 Pryor St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30303)

Red Deck (International): \$10 daily parking but \$15- \$20 during special events. This lot should be a last minute resort (Andrew Young International Boulevard Northwest)

InterPark: \$3 - \$5 daily parking (126 Mitchell St. Southwest Atlanta, Georgia 30303; 237 Peachtree St. Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30303)

MARTA parking can be pretty helpful. Unfortunately, these two are a little further but at least they are free!

Inman Park MARTA Station: Free daily parking (24-hour limit)

Edgewood/Chandler Park MARTA Station: Free daily parking (24-hour limit)

ATLANTA STREETCAR

Unfortunately, streetcar stops are going to be a little ways away, but if you're still interested in riding it, you'll need a Breeze card. It costs \$1 to ride for a one way trip, \$3 for a day pass, \$11 for a week and

\$40 for a month. Here are some somewhat nearby stops:

Carnegie At Spring
Lukie at Cone
Centennial Olympic Park



THE SPINNING PIE:

GRAB A BITE

PHOTO BY RALPH HERNANDEZ | THE SIGNAL

SYDNEY CUNNINGHAM
Staff Reporter

Illuminated by large windows with an open floor plan and wooden decor, The Spinning Pie, better known as "Spin" opened its doors in April 2012. The Spinning Pie is rather small, but its unassuming appearance may mislead visitors.

Cortland Jackson and Mari

Johnson co-own the establishment. Nkosane Jackson, the Operations Manager at The Spinning Pie, explains what makes the establishment more than a run of the mill pizza place you'd on many street blocks.

"We pride ourselves on preparing great food, our vision was to be the best pizzeria in the city," Jackson said. "We prepare almost everything by hand in order to ensure freshness."

MENU

SPIN USES EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS LIKE TURKEY PEPPERONI AND TURKEY SAUSAGE THAT AREN'T FOUND AT OTHER PIZZERIA. THE PIZZAS, WHILE ABLE TO BUILD YOURSELF, HAVE A RANGE OF SPECIALTIES, SUCH AS:

MARGHERITA
BUFFALO CHICKEN
SPINACH & FETA
GREEK
BBQ

Food crafted at The Spinning Pie doesn't stop at just pizza; caprese, bruschetta, lasagnas, spaghetti, chicken parmesan and rolls stuffed with sausage or cheese burger are also options. Specialties include items such as the "Caribbean Jerk Chicken Pizza" and the "Spin to Turkey." The "Spin to Turkey" is, in Jackson's perspective, the most popular.

"It's our most unique and popular selling item," Jackson said. "Featuring only turkey such as turkey pepperoni, turkey sausage,

and season-ground turkey buried with veggies, it's a great twist on a supreme pizza and hands down one of our top sellers."

The Spinning Pie offers great cuisine and relaxation, but also a nightlife with events to look out for. The previous tenant before Spin was a known watering hole. Trendy college students and young professionals would hang out and grab drinks for cheap. Spin makes efforts to accommo-

DIM THE LIGHTS

"We have expanded on the 'Cheers' mentality, giving our patrons more variety of music, catering to local and independent artists as well as teaming with some of the best DJ's in the city," Jackson said.

On most nights of the week there are themes and events, varying from Karaoke nights to live music. Last year, The Spinning Pie teamed up with the A3C Hip Hop festival and sponsored two concerts across the street at "House of Adrene", featuring acts OG Maco and Money Makin' Nique.

Listening parties are held from time to time, ranging from small time acts to substantial ones, such as The Weeknd. Tuesday nights are College Night and hosted by Courtney Janell. There is a happy

hour leading up to it that features NBA 2K15 Tournaments starting April 21.

"Our most popular night is Thursdays at Spin," Jackson said. "It's one of our busiest days of the week. We have slice and slice/wing specials all day. Once the night starts, we are packed. Hosted by Tyree Smith, it's one of our best nights."

Fitting perfectly in Castleberry Hill's imaginative stomping ground, Spin has hosted art shows in the past and every piece of art hung within the place is available to be bought.

"Our anniversary is coming up so we will be having a special event at the beginning of May, so stay tuned and check our website," Jackson said.

In a town where it is historic and at the same time, constantly evolving with artistic expression, Spin fits is a modern experience with the staple of pizza.

For students in college, being in an eclectic and creative area are what make our experiences. Above all, the cheaper the experiences, the better.

"The area itself is worth the trip from Georgia State," Jackson said. "During the day its your typical artsy neighborhood with Art galleries, beauty salons and coffee shops. At night, the area transforms into one of the premier nighttime destinations in Atlanta. Oh and it's always free to get in!"

STAY A WHILE

Spin: The Spinning Pie
259 Peters St SW
Atlanta, GA 30313

The Spinning Pie just added delivery service to the store so students looking to grab pizza, but can't make the trip, can simply call or visit Grubhub.com.
(404) 880-0703

Marta Transit Stop:
Garnett, on the Red and Yellow line.

Open:
Monday - Saturday: 11:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - Midnight

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EAT

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A BRIEF

HISTORY

OF

CINE

FEST

From independent, foreign, cult features to the big blockbusters and even video game tournaments, Cinefest brings free entertainment all-year long.

written by:
FERNANDO MATTOS

Hidden on the second floor of the University Center is a treasure that many Georgia State students overlook. However, those who walk in find a different world, away from the pressure of exams and nights of overdue homework assignments.

Cinefest has been Georgia State's movie theatre since 1991, and it remains, to this day, free to students. The theatre, admired by the whole Atlanta community, is one of the few refuges of art and independent cinema in the city.

In the beginning, films at Georgia State would show at Classroom South in a makeshift setup. With only two 16mm projectors and speakers borrowed from the WRAS radio station, the Lyceum Film Series was a work of love from student Michael Williams, now Production Manager at the Rialto Center for the Arts. Williams founded Cinefest and was its first director from 1989 to 1992.

"We did not have a ticket window, much less a box office or concession stand. So often people who lived in the streets around the area would wander in from Decatur St., nod off, and snore loudly through screenings," he said.

During that first year, Williams learned what changes would have to be made and drafted proposals for a state-of-the-art facility on campus. Renovation of the current space began in the summer of 1990.

"It was a huge project to totally renovate the interior space with

Georgia State renovations. We also had to make it a top-notch screening room; booking the films just as a commercial entity would, with AJC reviewers Eleanor Ringel and Steve Dollar, and Creative Loafing film critics including Rob Walton and others attending advanced screenings to review in the papers," Williams said.

In August of 1991, Cinefest started operations by showing "The British Animation Invasion", drawing a full house, despite the "late" showtime of 8 p.m., according to Williams.

"The best clip we played during that year was the first test-run of the 70mm 20th Century Fox fanfare; the incredible new Dolby sound system literally made the hair on the back of my neck stand up," he said.

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Up until May of 2014, the theatre was administered by students who felt Cinefest's mission was to go off the beaten path, showing films that places like AMC wouldn't show.

"We were actually one of the movie theatres here in Atlanta to bring movies that normal movie theatres wouldn't have the courage to play, and that gave us a unique edge," said Marvin Evangelista, who has performed several functions at Cinefest from 2004 to 2014, such as being the projectionist.

Showing one of these small, independent films was the way the staff bid farewell to the 35mm projector, used now only for special events. Cinefest members symbolically chose "Good Bye, Dragon Inn," an off-beat Chinese

feature that chronicles a stormy evening from inside what was a popular theatre back in the day.

Looking ahead to the future, students can help shape Cinefest by joining the newly inaugurated Films Committee Spotlight, according to Boyd Beckwith, director of the Student University Center.

"The Films Committee Spotlight is encouraging anyone with an interest in film to volunteer on the committee to help select movies and coordinate movie programming that may not be located in Cinefest," Boyd Beckwith, Director of the Student*University Center, said.

Cinefest is also showing more mainstream movies, according to Phillip Smith, Assistant Director for Programs and advisor to the Spotlight Program Board. Examples of this new policy were the blockbuster "Need For Speed," which the theatre showed last summer, and, more recently, "The Wedding Ringer."

"Although Cinefest has shown artsy type movies in the past, there has been a call to show more mainstream movies that a majority of the student body will identify with," Smith said.

In addition, the theatre is also a stage for student plays, the Georgia State Student Film Festival and events like video game tournaments.

Williams has seen many changes at Cinefest over the last 25 years. Despite looking back at it all with nostalgia, he believes the abundance of digital content distributed by the studios will facilitate things for students.

TIPS FROM US TO YOU

Things your tour guide will never say

written by:
SYDNEY CUNNINGHAM

1 **Kell Hall “Secret” coffee level**
No need to wait in line at Saxbys or walk to Peachtree for a cup of coffee. Saxbys is always full of library dwellers and professors who are running late.

If you have a class within the plaza buildings, no one wants to walk 10 minutes up to Peachtree to the Starbucks. A closer option lies under the parking garage turned classroom Kell Hall. On the very bottom floor, or ramp, there is Georgia State’s Corner Cafe.

It’s not kept a secret, but rather it hides in plain sight. Not a lot of foot traffic takes students down there and many who go there are from word of mouth. It’s not a fully stocked Starbucks, but with a handful of food and coffee options to keep your brain awake and running. Classic coffee go tos include a French Roast, Cappuccinos, and Cafe Lattes. Bagels, pastries, fruit, and other quick options are supplied as well.

2 **Slow Shuttles**
The shuttles help on a rainy day, but ultimately take longer. Once you get to Georgia State, walking to class might seem like a nuisance but in actuality the shuttles might be more of one.

The schedule that the Georgia

State shuttles are supposed to keep is very unofficial, at every bus stop there are estimated arrival times that are seldom kept to. They wait a good amount at each stop to allow students to get on, which while a good thing for some, it can be rather inconvenient when you are trying to make it to class on time.

If you are in no rush to get to campus, take the shuttle. On any regular day, I recommend walking if you are able. While walking on campus, you can witness any new additions in town and get to class at a similar or faster rate than the shuttles. Also, through walking, you can potentially get more done than arriving through the shuttles. You can pop in somewhere to pick up a bite to eat or accomplish an errand.

3 **Plaza Hours**
In between Sparks Hall, Kell Hall, Langdale Hall, Classroom South and the Library, Georgia State’s Plaza sits. Throughout class hours each day people fluctuate there from a handful or barely any room to move.

While the hours where there are crowds of students aren’t official, they are when protests take place, DJs are played, events are promoted and students hang. If you are looking to congregate with your fellow students or enjoy the outdoors

relatively unbothered, knowing when the Plaza is busy are essential at Georgia State.

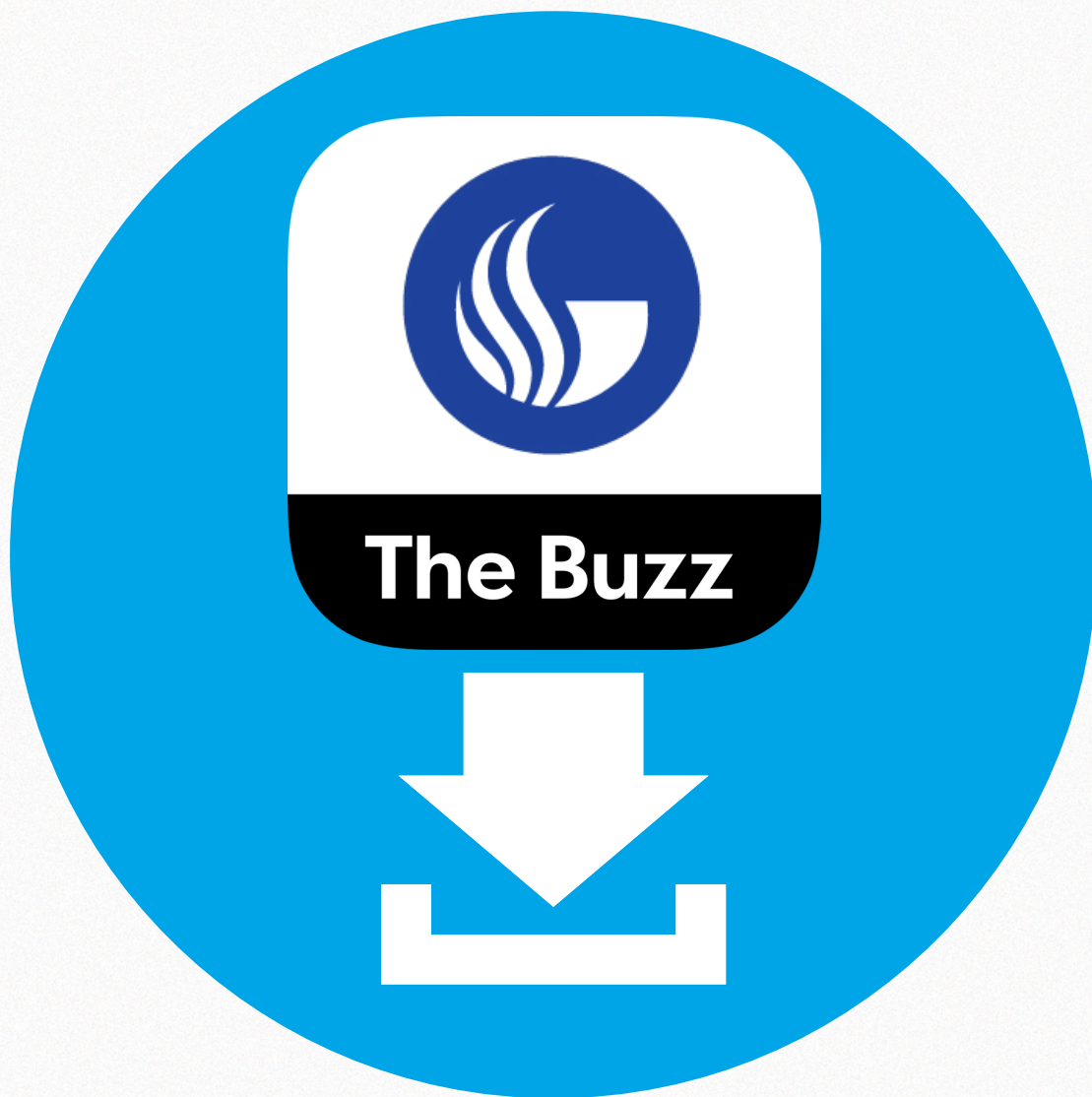
On Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1:15 p.m., the Plaza receives its busiest hours.

4 **Bike and camp for dirt cheap**
If you are in the mood to bike the Atlanta Beltline or want to drive up to a lake with a few friends one weekend, Georgia State’s Touch the Earth is an untapped resource.

At Touch the Earth, bikes can be rented for up to three days for essentially no charge.

As long as you do not bring the bike back late, with missing parts or destroyed, the requested \$20 deposit is given back to you. Also at Touch the Earth, tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, cook kits, stoves, lanterns, ponchos, coolers, canoes, kayaks, and other items are available for rent at a price that is significantly cheaper than obtaining them yourself.

Some items are available for rent if Touch the Earth certification is completed. Also, through Touch the Earth rock climbing is for free with your PantherCard in Georgia State’s Recreation Center. Through this program, having a usually rather pricey adventure is especially affordable.



TAP INTO WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND.

Coming in August, download **The Buzz: Georgia State University** to keep tabs on national headlines, local news and events around campus.

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**USA
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A GANNETT COMPANY

In downtown Atlanta, the students of Georgia State call this concrete campus home.

Photo by Jade Johnson | The Signal

