



For Immediate Release
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Georgia Podcast Network launches with 15 programs, seeking contributors for original shows

DECATUR, Ga., May 1, 2006 – The Georgia Podcast Network, a first-of-its-kind portal for state-focused podcasts, has officially launched carrying 15 programs, including three originally produced programs.

“More and more Georgians are creating podcasts every day, but until this site came along, there was no central place to find them all,” said Georgia Podcast Network co-founder Amber Rhea. “In addition to the original programs we and our friends create, this site will serve as a one-stop-shop to find all Georgia-related podcasts.”

As of launch, the Georgia Podcast Network is carrying 12 affiliate programs with plans to expand its line-up continuously. The professionally- and independently-produced shows span a wide range of topics, from political talk radio to underground hip hop to church sermons.

Podcasting is a method for publishing audio and video files to the Internet that lets listeners and viewers subscribe to a feed that will deliver those files automatically, where they can then be listened to or watched on a computer, Apple iPod or other digital media player.

Mostly ITP, the network's first original program, is a variety show focusing mostly on events and personalities inside Atlanta's perimeter. It is hosted by network co-founders Amber Rhea and Rusty Tanton.

In a recent episode, Tanton interviewed the staffers from Atlanta alternative news weekly *Creative Loafing* to discuss the future of its online presence and implications of new media forms on traditional media outlets. Rhea recently interviewed web development gurus Eric Meyer and Jeffrey Zeldman when they were in town for the "An Event Apart" conference.

The first episode of the **GA Politics Podcast** was a roundtable discussion about the recently concluded Georgia Legislature session featuring:

- Host Joseph G, who operates Dorablog (www.doraville.org), which focuses on city of Doraville politics and also writes Monotonous (monotonous.net)
- Panelist Catherine Smith, who contributes to Blog for Democracy (www.blogfordemocracy.org), a group blog which focuses on state and national politics
- Panelist Decaturguy, who writes Atlanta Public Affairs (atlantapublicaffairs.blogspot.com) and contributes to Peach Pundit (www.peachpundit.com), both focusing on Georgia politics
- Panelist Joe Winter, a transit advocate who writes Joeventures (www.joeventures.com)
- Panelist Garrett Vonk (garrettvonk.com), who writes a personal blog that often touches on political subjects

New episodes will follow monthly and will feature these panelists and others from around business, media, politics and the Georgia blogosphere.

The **North Fulton Drama Club** podcast is an ongoing journal about the undertakings and passions of the eponymous community theater ensemble. In its first episode, members Thomas Strickland, Nikki Strickland, Alyssa Jackson and Matt Ramsey discussed their upcoming production of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, which will open May 12 in Barrington Hall in Roswell. New episodes featuring producers and cast members will follow monthly.

Georgia residents interested in creating a podcast should send an e-mail to info@gapodcastnetwork.com and include some information about their idea for a show. Podcasters without their own recording equipment can use the network's equipment for free. For more information, visit the Georgia Podcast Network web site at www.gapodcastnetwork.com.

There is no charge to host a program on or to become an affiliate of the Georgia Podcast Network.

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