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Back to School!
Welcome back to a whole new academic year! I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Civil Service employees who help provide GSU’s success. We may not be the highest paid or the highest recognized, but know we are much appreciated. I hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy the University Faculty and Staff Picnic as well as get a little Ice Cream Float from our Civil Service summer fundraiser for scholarships. Our Affairs Committee is busy thinking of more ways to create FUN raisers and FUND raisers for our Civil Service employees. The state of the economy is low but if you have a job and your health you are ahead of the game! Times may be difficult but let’s rejoice anyway and remember the good we do today can bring happiness to someone tomorrow. So let’s get out there and give them the best we got — go team!

Laura Owens
GSU Civil Service President

GSU Picnic
Civil Service Pictures
in this issue...

See Pages 7 and 8
CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: MISSION STATEMENT

The Civil Service Senate works to promote scholarship and morale and protects the rights and benefits of the civil service constituency.

The Civil Service Senate helps promote:

- Quality Instruction and Scholarship by helping to create a positive university experience for students by supporting civil service employee continuing education through scholarship.
- Innovation and Improved Productivity by promoting a positive work environment through morale building events. This helps to create efficiency through increased productivity.
- Enhanced Collaboration and Partnerships by encouraging unity through special events and collaborative efforts with students, faculty, community, and staff.

CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: OUR PURPOSE

The Senate shall recommend policies and procedures concerning Civil Service affairs, evaluations, salary, merit, Civil Service education and development, Civil Service governance, grievances, and campus physical resources. The Civil Service Senate shall advise on the specific decisions which may be made under any of these policies and which shall be set forth in the By-laws of the Civil Service Senate. This advisement shall be limited to those decision not specifically covered or stipulated by a ratified Civil Service union agreement and those not in the process of bargaining.

SENATE OFFICERS AND SENATORS

The complete Senate roster for the 2011-2012 year is as follows:

Executive Officers:
President:                      Recording Secretary
Laura Owens/2013               Lynne Clayton/2012
Vice President: (Scholarship Committee Chair/Affairs Committee Co-Chair)
Tiffani Malvin/2013             Financial Secretary:
                               Joyce Giroux/2013
Correspondence Secretary:
                               Kelly Robinson/2012

Andrea Dal Polo (2012)Affairs Co-Chair

Senate Meeting Dates
September 13, 2011
October 11, 2011
November 8, 2011

All meetings are held in Room D1496
Location subject to availability. Notification will be provided if there are schedule changes.
Civil Service Ice Cream Social

The Civil Service Senate created an ice cream soda event in the Hall of Governors to benefit the Senate’s Educational Assistance Fund.
For only $1.50, the sodas included two scoops of vanilla ice cream and a can of flavored soda pop to top it off. Reduced sugar options were also available.

The 3 event dates were:

- Wednesday, June 27 From 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- Wednesday, July 27 From 2 pm to 4 pm
- Wednesday, August 31 From 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

For the August 31 event, there were ice cream sodas for $1.50, and the Senate also added ice cream Sundaes for $2 with hot fudge, as well as other toppings.

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Tip of the Month

The best day to buy gas they say is Wednesday ... but, Now you can get the best price even on your drive from work to home by checking http://gasbuddy.com/ by zip code. Yesterday I saved 25 cents a gallon because I checked GSU’s zip code 60484 and home zip code 60477 before I left work!
Marlene Lees

Dry rough elbows or foot heels? Put a little Vaseline on them before bed and wake up with soft smooth skin.
Vaseline also works to darken wood and hide wood marks made from things like water spills, scratches or spilt nail polish remover.
Laura Walsh Owens

Education Assistance Award

The Education Assistance Award was established to encourage GSU Civil Service employees, spouses, and dependent children to further their education and promote career advancement and self-improvement.
The award is underwritten through contributions and fundraising activities by the Civil Service Senate.
The Civil Service Educational Assistance Award application deadline for Fall 2011 is Thursday, September 29.
-Lynne Clayton
Football Season is here!
The Bears have come out of hibernation. They've moved from Bourbonnais back to Chicago and are ready to take on all teams. Let the tail-gait and home football parties begin! DaDaDadaaaaa (sang to the Monday night football theme song) let's play some football!

Here are some of my favorite football party recipes that I've collected from family and friends. It's time to bring out the Chili pot and the crock pot for the party franks it is the season. They're all yummylicious!

APPETIZERS
Fabulous Football Dip - "Always a crowd pleaser and so easy to make. This recipe can be as hot or as mild as you like, depending on which kind of tomatoes you buy. Serve with tortilla chips."
Recipe Yield: 16 servings
Ingredients:
- 1 pound breakfast sausage
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chili peppers
Directions:
In a large skillet, cook sausage over a medium heat until it is browned and cooked through.
Mix tomatoes and cream cheese into the skillet. Stir and continue cooking the mixture over a medium heat until the cheese has melted.
Serve with tortilla chips.

Party Franks
Ingredients:
- 1 pound cocktail wieners
- 1 (8 ounce) jar grape jelly
- 1 (8 ounce) jar yellow mustard
Directions:
In a medium saucepan over medium heat, mix the grape jelly and mustard. When the mixture begins to bubble, stir in the cocktail wiener. Reduce heat and simmer until serving.
You can keep these warm in a crock-pot.

MAIN COURSE
Tailgate Chili
Recipe Yield: 12 servings
Ingredients:
- 2 pounds ground beef chuck
- 1 pound bulk Italian sausage
- 3 (15 ounce) cans chili beans, drained
- 1 (15 ounce) can chili beans in spicy sauce
- 2 (28 ounce) cans diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 (6 ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 green chili peppers, seeded and chopped
- 1 tablespoon bacon bits
- 4 cubes beef bouillon
- 1/2 cup beer
- 1/4 cup chili powder
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons hot pepper sauce (e.g. Tabasco™)
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- 1 (10.5 ounce) bag corn chips such as Fritos®
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
Directions on Page 6

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**FOOTBALL SEASON RECIPES CONTINUED**

Directions:

Heat a large stock pot over medium-high heat. Crumble the ground chuck and sausage into the hot pan, and cook until evenly browned. Drain off excess grease.

Pour in the chili beans, spicy chili beans, diced tomatoes and tomato paste. Add the onion, celery, green and red bell peppers, chili peppers, bacon bits, bouillon, and beer. Season with chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, oregano, cumin, hot pepper sauce, basil, salt, pepper, cayenne, paprika, and sugar stir to blend, then cover and simmer over low heat for at least 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

After 2 hours, taste, and adjust salt, pepper, and chili powder if necessary. The longer the chili simmers, the better it will taste. Remove from heat and serve, or refrigerate, and serve the next day.

To serve, ladle into bowls, and top with corn chips and shredded Cheddar cheese.

**DESSERT**

**Fruit Salsa and Cinnamon Chips** – One of my favorite, you don’t need to worry about serving. This salsa is a “help yourself” type of food.

Recipe Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients:

- 2 kiwis, peeled and diced
- 2 Golden Delicious apples - peeled, cored and diced
- 8 ounces raspberries
- 1 pound strawberries
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons fruit preserves, any flavor
- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- butter flavored cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar

Directions:

In a large bowl, thoroughly mix kiwis, Golden Delicious apples, raspberries, strawberries, white sugar, brown sugar and fruit preserves. Cover and chill in the refrigerator at least 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
The Civil Service Senate sponsored the Ice Cream truck at this year’s GSU Summer Picnic on September 19, 2011.

And the Bingo games

Playing BINGO
Games
Employee of the Month

The Governors State University (GSU) Employee of the Month program recognizes a Civil Service employee who demonstrates exemplary work, makes significant contributions, and/or performs or demonstrates outstanding service. It was established to show appreciation of Civil Service staff members and show them they are valued members of the GSU community. This program is possible because of the generosity of Institutional Advancement and The Center for Performing Arts and is sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and the Civil Service Senate.

To qualify, an employee must be a status Civil Service employee with at least a 75 percent appointment, who has served GSU for twelve consecutive months in a Civil Service position, and has not been selected as an Employee of the Month within the past three years. The employee evaluation process plays an important role in the final selection. An employee whose current work record showing documentation that the performance evaluation form is less than satisfactory will be disqualified for consideration.

The selected Employee of the Month will receive a letter and certificate of recognition and a copy of the letter will be placed in the employee’s personnel file and provided to the unit. An e-mail announcement will be sent to the university community, their photograph will be displayed, and they will receive the following: a designated parking space, a voucher for two tickets to The Center for Performing Arts and a monetary award of $150. They will be eligible to be the “Employee of the Year”, which is selected from a pool of the 12 Employee of the Month recipients and voted on by the entire GSU community.

Anybody from the GSU community, faculty, staff, and students may nominate a Civil Service staff member that is worthy of this award. You will find the nomination forms on the "Employee of the Month" nomination boxes located in the Faculty Office Center lobby, in the Hall of Governors next to Engbretson Hall, and in Human Resources. You can download a printable nomination form at

www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/empmonth.pdf

Please be sure to complete the entire nomination form and submit it in an employee of the month box, at the locations listed above or to the Human Resources Office.

We encourage everyone to participate in this program. Nominate somebody today!

-Kathy Miller

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Civil Service Day Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Arts & Crafts Fair Tuesday, November 15, 2011
contact Kathy Miller at KMiller@govst.edu
or Karen Stuenkel at KStuenkel@govst.edu

And to be announced:

Bake Sale

**Important Dates**

Council of Councils
will be held on
Oct 21, 2011
at
University of Illinois – Chicago
(UIC)