News and Events

40th Anniversary Writing Competition

Since 1969, GSU has touched tens of thousands of lives. To commemorate and record the positive impact and enduring memories of GSU, community members, alumni, students, retirees, or employees are asked to put their fingers to keyboards and record their stories.

Share the positive impact GSU has had on your life in 750 words or less. Many of the stories will be featured on the 40th Anniversary website. The top submissions will be announced at the GSU Gala Celebration on November 7 and will be printed in IMPACT, a publication commemorating the best submissions.

All literary genres are accepted via electronic submission to writingcompetition@govst.edu. No graphics please. Entries should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents only. The submission deadline is April 30.

For more information, visit the Writing Competition FAQ or contact Sheree Sanderson at ext. 3956.

Yes, We Did

The GSU community gathered together to view the inauguration of President Barack Obama along with several billion of our closest friends around the world and on the mall in D.C. The large screen TV in the Hall of Governors served as a magnet, as many, including the children from the Family Development Center, were drawn to witness the ceremony and hear the speeches. Cheers, applause, laughter, even some tears flowed through the crowd of observers.

A reporter from the SouthtownStar was also on hand for the GSU observance. Her article, which includes descriptive imagery and wonderful quotes from members of the GSU community, appeared in the January 21 edition of the paper.

Get Involved – Run for Office

Election and petition packets are available online for the positions of Student Senator, Student Representative to the Governors State University Board of Trustees, and Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee.

Completed packets are due to Sara Appel, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership (A2132), by 5 p.m., on Thursday, January 22.
**Get Involved – Vote at GSU**

Voting for student senators and board representatives, as well as the student advisory referendum on the proposed 2009-2010 increases in student fees will be conducted online. Online voting begins Monday, January 26 and continues through Thursday, January 29. To vote, students must go to [https://eballot.votenet.com/GOVST](https://eballot.votenet.com/GOVST). The username is the student’s last name and the password is his/her student id number.

**Prepare for Your Future**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring a Career Preparation Workshop to help students nearing graduation to get ready for the future. Topics covered during the workshop will include resume and cover letter preparation, job search strategies, interview and professional image tips, stress management skills, and activities to build self-confidence.

The workshop will be on January 26, from 4 to 5 p.m., in A1121. Reservations are encouraged. Contact Career Services at ext. 3974.

**Online Teaching Workshops**

The Center for Online Teaching & Learning will offer a series of workshops on technologies that facilitate communication in education.

Each *Technology Hands-on Workshop* is conducted in the ACS lab, D 2438. Seating is limited. Reserve by emailing Barbara Mandel with the date of the workshop in the subject line.

**Communication**
Using email, discussions, and notifications in WebCT
January 21, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Organizing your online course (part 1)**
Build and organize content for courses in WebCT
January 23, 10 a.m. to noon

**Organizing your online course (part 2)**
Manage course content in WebCT
January 30, 10 a.m. to noon

**Blogging: Using online blogging sites in teaching & learning**
Basics of blogging
February 6, 10 a.m. to noon
Stay On Your Toes

The New York Theatre Ballet Company Presents *Carnival of The Animals*, and *Sleeping Beauty* at The Center for Performing Arts, on Sunday, January 25, at 4 p.m.

From the *Once Upon a Ballet* series, this nationally renowned company offers two story ballet classics that are perfect to share with your family. Two unsuspecting children are met by a charming assortment of animals when they wander in to the forest in *Carnival of the Animals* and the classic tale of *Sleeping Beauty* is brought to life through dance and the music of Tchaikovsky.

GSU buy one get one free tickets will be available in the Price 1 section. Tickets are regularly priced at $41 for adults and $36 for students, 16 and under.

The offer begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 23 and ends at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets may be purchased in person or by calling the Center box office at 708.235.2222.

Alumni Spotlight – Dr. Valentine James

Dr. Valentine James, a 1981 GSU graduate, with a Master of Arts in environmental science, has been named Clarion University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Previously, Dr. James was a dean of College and Humanities and Social Sciences at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC.

Dr. James began his career as a faculty graduate assistant at GSU from 1979-81. His wide-ranging career includes acting as a graduate research assistant for Texas A & M University; research writer, mathematics and biology educator in Bryan, Texas; assistant professor at University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, La; assistant professor at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; director of African studies and associate professor at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Michigan; and director of the Ph.D. program in public policy, associate professor, interim chair of the Masters of Public Administration Department, and director of the Ph.D. program in public policy at Southern University and A & M College.

Dr. James has a special interest in the environment. He earned an Air Quality Specialist Certificate and an Environmental Assessment Specialist Certificate, and was awarded a certificate of training in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

ScholarShip Sails Along

Drs. Jean Johnson, Al Tuskenis, and Glenna Howell and Professor Kim Jaroszewski of the GSU Psychology Department will present *Development and Assessment of a New Thinking and Writing Course in Undergraduate Psychology* at the 2009 Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Conference in May.

The presentation includes results from the development and assessment of a new undergraduate course: Thinking and Writing in Psychology. A summary of how the course was developed using the American Psychological Association’s Learning Goals and results from a close analysis of the course’s effectiveness using a multifaceted approach will be discussed. This is the first presentation in a series of planned presentations and articles resulting from a GSU University Research Grant.
**Kuba Art and Distinguished Lecture**

The Art of the Kuba exhibit at the Visual Arts Gallery brings the intricate artwork of the Kuba to GSU. The artwork on display is a combination of rich textiles, intricate beadwork, overpowering masks, and photographs.

A Distinguished Lecture sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences featuring Prince Ngoloshang Mbecky of the Kuba Royal family enhances the exhibit. The prince will present video recordings of Kuba art and ritual in the current social and political setting on February 6, at 6 p.m., in Sherman Music Recital Hall. A reception will follow immediately after the presentation. The exhibit will also be open for viewing that evening until 9 p.m.

The Distinguished Lecture, reception, and art exhibit are free and open to the public. The exhibit runs from January 20 through February 17. The Visual Arts Gallery is open Monday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call ext. 4021.

This event is part of a yearlong celebration of GSU’s 40th anniversary. Community members are welcome to attend special events throughout 2009, which exemplify the university’s ongoing success.

**Summer Programs for Kids at GSU**

The Family Development Center is currently in the planning process for summer and fall programs. New programs may include day camp for school age children this summer and child care for infants and toddlers beginning in the fall. These programs would be offered to the GSU community first. The FDC is interested in gauging community interest. If you are interested in either of these programs, please contact the Family Development Center at ext 7300 or email Carol Morrison.