News and Events

Two More This Tuesday

It is time for the next Two for Tuesday with Geoff Bates, curator and director of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. On Tuesday, February 3, at 12:30 and again at 3:45 p.m., in room D1497, Geoff will discuss Martin Puryear’s **Bodark Arc** and Mary Miss’ **Field Rotation**.

Happy New Year of the Ox

Monday, January 26, was the first day of Chinese Year 4707, the Year of the Ox. Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.

At GSU, Chinese faculty sponsored a celebration at noon in E-Lounge on Tuesday, January 29. About 50 people, including Chinese students, staff, faculty, and guests attended the party. Provost Jane Hudak, Dean Ellen Foster Curtis (CBPA), Dean Eric Martin (CAS), and Dean Deborah Bordelon (COE) attended the party and greeted the participants in Chinese. Dr. Anthony Andrews from CBPA sang a song and MBA student Sydney Zhang performed a dance. Simin Li and Ruohuai Zheng, both MBA students, performed a duet, and MBA student Tang Yang sang and played the guitar.

The celebration was a joyous beginning to Chinese Year 4707.

Best Sellers List Grows

The GSU Library recently added to its New York Times Bestseller collection. The Friends of the GSU Library provided the funds. With each new list, both the top selling fiction and non-fiction titles are added to the shelves and are available to students, staff, and faculty for a two-week checkout period. Community members with valid public library cards are also able check out these books.

The new additions include: *The Limits of Power*, *Hot, Flat, Crowded*, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, *The Host*, and, of course, *Dewey*. Visit the Library and check them out.
Faculty Development Open House

The Latino Center for Excellence is offering faculty information, feedback, and refreshments at an Open House for Faculty Development on February 5, from noon to 3 p.m., in A2133. Faculty are welcome to drop-in, learn more about the work of the Center, and how they can enhance their communication and teaching skills.

Contact Carlos Cantu for more information at ext. 4553.

Join the Blogging World

The White House has a blog. The Pope has a blog. Professors and teachers at all academic levels use blogs to connect with peers and students and to assess student learning. With the use of existing blog resources, producing a blog is as easy as doing a search on the Internet or writing an email.

Learn how to create a blog. The Center for Online Teaching and Learning offers a hands-on workshop on academic blogging on Friday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to noon, in D2438 (ACS Lab). In this workshop, how blogs enhance education is identified and participants actually create their first blog.

To register, contact Jan Engle.

Student Referendum Voting Continues

Voting for the student advisory referendum on the proposed 2009-2010 increases in student fees will be conducted online. Online voting begins Monday, February 2 and continues through Thursday, February 5. To vote, students must go to https://eballot.votenet.com/GOVST. The username is the student’s last name and the password is his/her student id number.

Latino Center Students to Attend Leadership Retreat

Thirty students from GSU and Morton College may attend a three-day leadership retreat sponsored by the Title V Cooperative Grant/Latino Center for Excellence at GSU. Students must be current participants in a Center cohort program. There is no cost to the student.

Students will meet at the Hilton Chicago/Indian Lakes Resort from February 13 through 15 to be motivated and learn the leadership skills to motivate others. Programs will focus on academic excellence through student engagement, acquiring the skills and direction needed for personal and academic success, and understanding the need for leadership, pride, and education within a community.

“Our purpose is to produce able, educated student leaders who will help their families, schools, and communities in the future and serve as examples to other Latino students,” said Carlos Cantu, Interim Activity Director for the Latino Center for Excellence.

Limited space is available. Interested students who are also participants in the Latino Center for Excellence cohorts should contact Carlos Cantu at ext 4553.
The Excellent Extons

In this winter of near-constant snow and cold, Marlin Exton has shifted some of his housekeeping duties outside to help clear sidewalks and stairs and keep them safe for the rest of the GSU community. Marlin is also well-known on campus as GSU’s King of the Samba, an activity more suited to steamy tropical weather.

Marlin, in fact, is the King of Chicago Samba, following a 2007 competition for specialists in the Brazilian dance. His wife Vanyette, though, says she was surprised when Marlin turned his musical talents to dance. “I never saw him dance until three years ago.”

The Extons have been married 13 years and are parents of three daughters and one son. They’ve actually known each other since their time as classmates at Bloom Township High School. They didn’t start dating until years later when Marlin, who plays keyboards, was looking for a backup singer - who turned out to be Vanyette - for a musical group he was putting together.

Vanyette, an administrative clerk, has been at GSU for 10 years and now works in the nursing program. She formerly worked in the Science and Liberal Arts programs, and in the Provost’s Office. Marlin has worked as a building service worker for five years. The Extons work two different shifts so they don’t come to campus together. In warm weather months, they occasionally like to have lunch together at Pine Lake in University Park.

In 2006, Marlin formed a student-faculty ensemble, Mosaic, that borrowed from musical traditions from the many countries and cultures represented at GSU. That was when he first learned about the samba.

The couple are also active in their church in Munster, Indiana. Vanyette sings in the choir and Marlin plays keyboards in one of the church bands.

“GSU is such a diverse place, and I love that about it,” Marlin says. “People come here from all over the world for one purpose, to get an education. But everyone respects everyone else and learns from each other, too. And that’s really wonderful.”