News and Events

Really Big Show, Really Little Actors

Both the morning and afternoon pre-kindergarten classes from the Family Development Center are producing and performing their own versions of *The Three Little Pigs*.

The three to five-year old students learned the intricacies of theatre production from acting to selling concessions and operating the lights. They also created art for advertising materials, made the costumes, gathered the props, and made the scenery.

The pre-kindergarteners will perform in two shows, on April 9, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are only $1 and are available at the door or the Family Development Center.

For more information, call 708.235.7315.

Educators Discuss Writing

Representatives from area community colleges and universities met at Governors State University recently to learn how student writing skills can be improved and incorporated in all areas of study. The third workshop in a three part series brought together educators who wish to develop and implement the best practices available in their classrooms to serve their students better.

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, President of GSU and pioneer of Writing Across the Curriculum, led the workshop; an innovative program, which changed how writing was taught at all levels of education.

The Writing Consortium and workshop series are sponsored by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, which comprises 13 member colleges and universities to achieve greater effectiveness in providing higher education to the region.

The Writing Consortium was established last year in response to an initiative by GSU Writing Center Coordinator, Dr. Becky Nugent and the interest of area colleges and universities.

Flyin’ High

Start folding your paper now for a chance to win the coveted GSU Flyer trophy. The Civil Service Senate will host its annual GSU Fly-In on Thursday, April 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. The entire GSU community is invited to participate in what has become one of the spring’s most anticipated events. Full details will be available soon.
Student Spotlight - Kishauna Hampton

Senior Kishauna Hampton recently was awarded the Mitchell-Moore Award for Community Service by the African American Heritage Committee of the Cook County Juvenile Court for her “courage and dedication to our country, for service in Iraq, and for being a great intern.”

Hampton is currently completing her internships at the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department and previously served in the U.S. Army for six years, including 18 months in Iraq.

Hampton plans to pursue a career as a juvenile probation officer after graduation in June. “I find this field very exciting,” said Hampton. “Children have a better chance of being helped if stopped earlier with treatment and services.”

According to Dr. Coldren, Chair of the Criminal Justice Program at Governors State University, “Kishauna’s mature understanding of the possibilities for effective work in the justice system and how this applies to juveniles make her very effective in her internship. We are very proud of her success.”

Not Just for Kids

Storytelling is not just for children. Adults get the opportunity to enjoy the lively art of storytelling with Jumping Jambalaya, a program of stories performed by professional storytellers Kucha and Baba Tony Brown, will be on April 9, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. The program includes call and response, dialect, diverse stories, and folk tales.

The show is sponsored by a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee. For more information, contact Lynne Clayton at ext. 3075.

Movin’ on Up

Jose Reyes, Transfer Coordinator in the university’s Office of Admission, was recently named Director of Dual Admission and Transfer Coordinator. In this new position, Jose will develop, coordinate, and implement GSU’s strategic initiative of developing dual admission programs with its community college partners. Jose will work closely with the network of Illinois community college faculty, transfer coordinators, and student service representatives to develop seamless pathways for community college students to obtain their baccalaureate degrees at GSU.

Download the official memo.

Final Round Tonight

2009 GSU Winter Closed Championship (Table Tennis) is conducting its final round of the tournament in the Cafeteria Annex at 5:30 to 7 p.m., on Tuesday, March 31. In the final round, the top eight players from the first round of tournament will compete for the top four trophy awards. Everyone is invited to cheer for the players.

After a 4-day heated competition in the first round of tournament, the top eight players are Chengwei Yu, Georges Yacoub, Cleo Jamison, Mike Byrne, Rhona Thompson, Qianli Ma, Chengfang Xia, and Byron Waller.

There were 37 GSU students, staff, and faculty who competed in the first round of the tournament, which comprised of 79 matches and 174 games. The longest game played was 18 to 16 (game to 11 points). The highest number of matches played by an individual was 22 matches by J.P. Kasallis.
President of ShoreBank to Speak

The Civic and Community Engagement lecture series continues with a presentation by Mary Houghton, President of ShoreBank and Chair of ShoreBank International, on April 1, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The University Honors Program and the College of Arts and Sciences’ Political and Justice Studies Program are sponsors of the lecture series.

The title of Houghton’s presentation is *Community Development*. As president of ShoreBank, the first community development bank in the region, Houghton understands the complexities and problems in both attracting new developments to and the redevelopment of older communities. Her presentation is free and open to the public.

The final lecture in the series will be *Promoting Civic and Community Engagement* presented by the Honorable Abner Mikva, Federal First District Court Judge, on April 15.

For more information, contact Dr. Larry Levinson at ext. 4578.

Retirement Investment Options

The Department of Human Resources reminds employees that AIG Retirement has changed its name back to VALIC. The retirement segment is only one portion of the corporate AIG family. VALIC has been involved with 403(b) retirement programs since 1964 and has been an authorized vendor for GSU’s Tax Deferred Annuity Plan since the 1980s. As a result, the university will continue its relationship with this vendor despite the current economic downturn.

Human Resources does not provide investment advice and notes that the Tax Deferred Annuity Plan is only one of several retirement plan options available from various companies. For more information on retirement investment options, contact the Department of Human Resources.