News and Events

Rail Crossing Closed, May 18-22

The Stuenkel Road/University Parkway rail crossing near the north entrance of the university will undergo repairs from Monday, May 18 through Friday, May 22 and will be closed during that period. Several alternate routes to GSU are available. View the alternate routes and download a printable map online.

HLC Update

Earlier today, Drs. Eric Martin and Ann Vendrely hosted a university-wide update meeting regarding this fall’s Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation visit. The meeting, which nearly exceeded the capacity of the room, drew faculty, staff, and students from throughout the university.

Martin and Vendrely, co-chairs of the steering committee, provided information on the project status and of future steps the committee is taking to ensure successful completion of the self-study document and the November site visit.

The audience also asked several questions regarding the self-study document as well as what would be expected during the accreditation team’s visit. The overarching theme indicated that GSU will present itself in the most truthful light possible – highlighting its many achievements and providing current or proposed action for areas needing improvement.

Drafts of the self-study introduction and chapter 1 are available for review online. Additional chapters will be made available as they are completed. The university community is encouraged to send any questions or comments to the HLC steering committee.

Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss

On the heels of one of the most exciting Presidential Elections in U.S. history, GSU will feature presidential historian and best-selling author Michael Beschloss as part of its Distinguished Lecture Series. Beschloss will present a lecture on Friday, June 5, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in Sherman Hall on the GSU campus. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Beschloss is the nation’s premiere presidential historian and author of eight
books including *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America* and *The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman, and the Destruction of Hitler’s Germany, 1941-1945*. NBC recently appointed him NBC News’ Presidential Historian, the first such position at any major network.

Beschloss believes that great U.S. presidents exhibit “presidential courage” or the willingness to take potentially career-ending risks, which aren’t immediately admired. Through a discussion of past presidents and a comparison to today’s political climate, he often provides an astute look into the future. He is also known for sharing never-before-told stories of presidents from an insightful and humorous perspective.

**Graduate Student Photography Exhibit**

The Visual Arts Gallery presents *Diaspora – Dispersing the Light*, a graduate student photo exhibition by Peter Bosy, from May 18 to 28. An opening reception celebrating Bosy’s work will be held on Monday, May 18, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the gallery.

In this series of photos, the light is spread and creatively diffused, enabling visual exploration to find a sensitive balance between shadow and light. Bosy is completing his Master of Arts Degree in Photography.

The Visual Arts Gallery is located in the E-Wing and is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call ext. 4021.

**Safe School Symposium Featuring Alex Kotlowicz**

Noted author, journalist, and educator, Alex Kotlowicz will be the keynote speaker at the Creating Safe Schools Symposium sponsored by the Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education (MILE) and the Criminal Justice Program. Kotlowicz is the author of numerous books on urban affairs and social policy including *There Are No Children Here* and *The Other Side of the River*.

The symposium will be held on May 20, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Thornridge High School auditorium, 15000 Cottage Grove Avenue, Dolton, Illinois, and is free and open to the public.

In addition to Kotlowicz, Dr. James R. Coldren, Jr., Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program at GSU, will moderate a panel discussion on strategies for controlling and eliminating violence in public schools.

Refreshments will be served. For more information or to register, call 708.534.4024.

**Good Substitutes**

A one-day Substitute Teacher Academy with Resources workshop, designed to teach new subs what to expect, what to do in an emergency, how to maintain classroom control, and how to follow the teacher’s lesson plans, will be conducted on July 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Participants must hold a bachelor’s degree. Registration is limited to 50
participants. The $50 registration fee includes lunch and materials.

For more information and to register, call 708.534.4024.

**Seminar on Autism Spectrum Disorders**

The GSU chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) will host a one-day seminar, *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Evidence-Based AAC Interventions* on Friday, June 5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in room D34012.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. Oliver Wendt, Assistant Professor of Educational Studies and Assistant Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University; and Dr. Ravi Nigam, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Disorders, College of Health and Human Services at GSU.

The seminar fee is $45 per registrant, however, there is no charge to GSU practicum supervisors or GSU students and faculty. The seminar is offered for 0.6 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

The seminar is limited to 30 participants. Pre-registration is required by May 22. For additional information or to register, e-mail the GSU NSSLHA.

**Alumni Spotlight – Thomas A. Hurlburt**

Thomas A. Hurlburt has been named the new Superintendent of Schools for the Frankfort School District 157-C beginning in July, 2009. Dr. Hurlburt served as superintendent for the last three years at Brookfield LaGrange Park School District 95, and prior to that was Principal for five years at S.E. Gross Middle School in District 95.

Dr. Hurlburt received an MA in Educational Administration in 2001.