News and Events

GSU Stimulated

This week, GSU was awarded a $4.9 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grant will help provide training and placement services to unemployed, dislocated, and low-wage incumbent workers enabling them to pursue healthcare careers. The university will act as the lead agency providing coordination with other community-based organizations.

For additional information, read the full press release.

Chanteuse Rachael Price at The Center

Don’t miss jazz chanteuse Rachael Price at The Center for Performing Arts, on Saturday, February 27.

Price performs as part of The Center’s new Cabaret Series. During Cabaret shows, the audience sits on the stage with the artist creating uniquely intimate setting for these special shows.

With command performances for legends Sir Elton John at The Society of Singers and Robert Goulet for the famed Shubert Organization among others, 23 year-old jazz vocalist Rachael Price is proving early accolades to be prophetic. In 2003, Price was tapped by the Grammy Foundation as a vocalist with the High School Grammy Jazz Choir, and she was a semi-finalist at the Montreux International Jazz Vocal Competition in France.

Full price tickets are only $37. Act quickly as seating is extremely limited. Call The Center box office at 708.235.2222 or visit The Center website.

Mental Health Workshop

Current Strategies for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment within the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Community is the topic of
a free, daylong conference to be held on Friday, February 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Sherman Recital Hall.

Dr. Raven James, Assistant Professor of Addiction Studies at GSU and Dr. Kevin Osten, Clinical Director of Valeo and Outpatient Services at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital will present at the conference.

GSU and Chicago Lakeshore Hospital are sponsors of the conference, and provide six CEUs. Lunch is included. To register, call 773.907.4554.

**Free Computer Workshops Scheduled**

The University Library is offering free computer workshops to members of the community, students, staff, and faculty. Workshop topics include blogging, PowerPoint Basic, APA style formatting, plagiarism detection, and several workshops on genealogy.

The workshops will take place in February, March, and April, and are open to the public. Advance registration is recommended, but not required. For more information and a complete schedule of workshops, visit the library website or call ext. 7514.

**Art Guild Exhibit**

GSU and the South Suburban Collaborative Arts Guild (CAG) are joining forces to present *Art on Campus*. The exhibit, featuring the paintings, photography, and poetry of seven members of the CAG, runs through March 31 in the GSU main entrance Atrium Gallery and the Upstairs Gallery at The Center for the Performing Arts.

The exhibit represents the diverse artistic styles of the participating artists and includes abstract, representational nature and landscape paintings, digital photography, and mixed media collage. The colorful range of work was organized by Michéle P. Owens and curated by Jeff Stevenson. A number of CAG members have been students in GSU’s art program.

The purpose of the *Art on Campus* program is to enhance campus life for students, staff, and visitors.

**Healthy Eating**

As part of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, the Academic Resource Center will host an informative workshop on eating disorders on Thursday, February 25, from noon until 1 p.m., in room B1241.

The workshop will include explanations of the causes, effects, and treatments of eating disorders, and an opportunity for participants to ask
questions. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Tamekia Scott at ext. 2228.

**Gayla Celebration**

No vows were exchanged at the ceremony described by Dr. Jason Zingsheim in his essay, "It’s Not a Wedding, It’s a Gayla: Queer Resistance and Normative Recuperation." As the title states, the Gayla did not signal a marriage; nor was it a commitment ceremony.

When the Gayla was finished, Dr. Zingsheim and his partner had met for three days with friends and family and told each participant, in personalized letters, what their love and support meant to them. "It was a ritual celebration to honor and cherish the life we all share," says Dr. Zingsheim, Assistant Professor of Communication.

The Gayla, a self-described queer joining ceremony, was also an act of resistance against rituals common in traditional marriage celebrations, he says. According to the essay, the weekend-long ceremony was "a political performance project of love, community, protest, and activism that enacted a series of performative rituals reconfiguring notions of family, kinship, and patriarchy."

Dr. Zingsheim is co-author of the essay, which has been accepted for publication by *Text & Performance Quarterly*, a journal of the National Communications Association. It will be published later this year. He also helped lead roundtable presentations developed from the Gayla experience under the title *In the Name of Queer Love* at the 2008 and 2009 National Communication Association meetings and a third installment at this year’s meeting is under consideration.

The essay explains how great care was taken not to exclude any of the 75 guests from taking part in the Gayla festivities. Single people – those who weren’t part of a couple – did not have diminished status in the proceedings. No minister or other single celebrant oversaw the weekend’s events, although 12 friends, men and women, led portions of the celebration. The Gayla included a somewhat raucous bacchanalia, akin to a college beer bash, and an Italian feast to which participants wore togas. But it also included moving moments like the reading of the letters from Dr. Zingsheim and his partner.

“I don’t know if anyone expected the letters to produce the kind of emotional reaction that we saw,” he says.

**Black History Month Continues**
Black History Month events continue with Movie Night, the screening and discussion of *Bloody Island: The Race Riots of East St. Louis*, a film about one of the worst incidents of labor-related violence and race riots in U.S. history. The event is scheduled twice on Thursday, February 18, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m., in room B1241.

A Health Awareness Information Fair will provide important information concerning mental health issues, breast cancer, STDs, high blood pressure, and AIDS/HIV on Monday, February 22, from noon to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

GSU will also host an African Market with Afro centric products for sale on Tuesday, February 23, from noon to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Events are sponsored by the Academic Resource Center, Student Life, and the College of Arts and Sciences. For more information, call ext. 2228.