News and Events

Latino Symposium

The Title V Latino Center for Excellence is sponsoring a free symposium for students, faculty, and staff from across the region on May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The symposium will address the issues and concerns facing Latino and other students from diverse backgrounds.

The goal of the higher education symposium is to increase awareness of the social, economic, and cultural barriers that negatively impact student success in higher education. Increased understanding will lead to more effective teaching and academic advising at both the community college and university levels.

The keynote speakers, Dr. Christina Gomez and Dr. Frank D. Sanchez, are experts in issues surrounding access to education and equitable and fair education practices.

In addition to the keynote speakers, GSU faculty members, trained in best practices for providing equitable educational opportunities within the classroom, will share their discoveries and observations in breakout sessions.

This event is sponsored by the Title V Cooperative Grant with Morton College, the Latino Center for Excellence, Student Affairs, and the GSU Faculty Development Committee.

For more information, contact Monica Teixeira at ext. 7609 or visit the symposium website.

What's On Your Mind?

Civil Service staff are invited to a Town Hall Meeting with the President on Tuesday, April 27, at 1 p.m., in Cafeteria Annex. Attendees are asked to bring questions and ideas to continue the open conversation with President Maimon and other university administrators. Refreshments will be served. Contact Penny Perdue, at ext. 4130, for more information.

Recycling Champs

For the second year in a row GSU competed in RecycleMania – a nationwide challenge for colleges and universities to increase awareness of waste reduction and recycling initiatives. And once again GSU showed it knows how to take out the trash.

Competing in the Waste Minimization category, GSU place sixteenth out of 199 schools at the national level and first among the five schools competing from Illinois.

The university’s efforts were measured by adding the weight of our recyclables to the
weight of our trash and dividing that number by the number of students and employees of GSU.

Congratulations to the GSU community for remembering to recycle whenever possible. Keep up the good work!

**Cinco De Mayo at GSU**

The Cinco de Mayo celebration at GSU begins at noon, on May 5, in the Hall of Governors. Tlazokahmatli, Aztec dancers, will perform at noon and again at 4 p.m. Samples of delicious foods will be available throughout the celebration and while supplies last.

Cheer the steps and swirls of faculty and staff in GSU’s favorite dance competition, *Dance with the Faculty and Staff*, from 6 to 7 p.m.

The celebration is sponsored by the Association of Latin American Students, the Spanish Reading Club, and the Title V Latino Center for Excellence. Everything is free and everyone is welcome.

**The Case for Multilingualism**

In summing up her presentation before last month’s Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Dr. Rashidah Jaami’ Muhammad referred to “an old joke”:

*What do you call someone who speaks three languages?*
*Trilingual.*

*What do you call someone who speaks two languages?*
*Bilingual.*

*What do you call someone who speaks one language?*
*An American.*

At the Louisville meeting, Dr. Muhammad, a member of CCCC’s Language Policy Committee, spoke on *21st Century Remix: Hearing Global Voices of a Multilingual Society*. In her presentation, she stressed the need for Americans to prepare for a world – and a nation – where many languages are spoken.

“It has never been more important for Americans to learn more languages,” she says. “It makes us a better people when we learn to speak the languages of other cultures.”

Dr. Muhammad is no stranger to the CCCC – she estimates she has made a presentation at nearly every annual meeting for the last 20 years. She has witnessed change in the way Americans look at language. In 1968, for instance, a group of young Hispanics staged a protest over their Los Angeles high school’s language policies. Today, one of those protestors is mayor of Los Angeles.

Some language issues, though, are still unresolved. Dr. Muhammad says it is essential that students are allowed to develop within the language of their nurturing. Students coming from homes where “standard” English is not spoken should not be diminished, she says, and schools need to acknowledge that they are products of cultures with differing language rules and patterns. Organizations like the CCCC have supported the language of nurturing since the mid 1970s.

“It takes more than one step to get to standard English,” she says.
Dr. Muhammad praised the GSU Writing Center as “a wonderful resource” that helps students coming from different cultures and with different languages achieve the skills needed for college-level writing.

**FOL Offers Mini Auction**

The Friends of the GSU Library thanks everyone who worked and supported the recent book sale and silent auction. The Friends raised over $800, which will used to support important library initiative like the purchase of books for the New York Times Best Seller Collection. Their efforts will continue with a mini silent auction, taking place in the Library, through May 31. Items and the bid sheet will be on display in a case located near the circulation desk. The items up for bid include a print by American film director and choreographer Jerome Robbins. Bidding starts at only $20. Make your bid today to continue your support of the Friends of the GSU Library.

**Tutor of the Year**

Sheryl Szot Gallaher, Director of the GSU Office of Economic Education, was selected Tutor of the Year at the “New Readers in Illinois” conference at The University of Illinois – Chicago, on April 17. The award was presented by John McCleod, President of the Board of Directors of the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, and Maureen Meehan, Director of Community Programs at UIC’s Center for Literacy.

Gallaher volunteers weekly in an adult literacy program at Moraine Valley Community College, working with groups of six to eight adults.

**Totally Tollway**

GSU’s Associate VP of Human Resources, Gail Bradshaw, was recently appointed to The State of Illinois’ Tollway Transition Team.

The newly created Tollway Transition Team will bring together leaders with expertise from all walks of life, business, and industry to provide input and counsel necessary to set the course for the Tollway as it looks to the challenges of the future. Team members were invited to serve pro-bono and represent a wide range of business, labor, transportation planning and advocacy, and hospitality management interests.

The Transition Team will evaluate opportunities for the Tollway to contribute most effectively to regional economic growth, foster environmental responsibility in roadway and agency operations, increase coordination with regional transportation and planning agencies, further accountability and transparency to the public, and increase customer service to its 1.4 million daily drivers and Illinois residents.

**Nguessan Named Editor**

Dr. Michel Nguessan, Assistant Professor of Library Science, was recently appointed Editor-in-Chief for the *International Journal of Library Science* (IJLS).

The IJLS is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research articles in the area of library Science and information. This is a broad-based journal covering all branches including interdisciplinary research.

The appointment is a two year, renewable appointment. As Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Nguessan issues the calls for
papers, institutes and oversees the submission and review process, and issues acceptance/rejection letters.