Data Standards Support Team members last Thursday reached an important milestone. The team completed drafts of the Colleague User’s Manual and the Guidelines for Data Standards, Data Integrity and Security. Under the leadership of Linda Buyer, Director of Institutional Research, team members have worked diligently to prepare manuals for the IRiS Project conversion.

The team was surprised last Thursday with a congratulatory visit from President Elaine Maimon and members of the Executive Sponsor Team - Gebe Ejigu, Terry Allison, Sherilyn Poole, Linda Samson, Jeff Slovak, John Stoll, and Sandi Gieson.

Reaching this milestone is just one of the team’s many accomplishments. The team, made up of GSU personnel from a number of departments, has been meeting weekly since April 2010. Since then, they have worked on:

• Data cleaning oversight, which includes preparing translation tables so that GSU codes can be mapped to those that will be used in the new system.
• Completing the Datatel-provided CORE workbook, which includes identifying GSU’s hierarchal system for the new Colleague system, and how all of the offices fit together.
• Creating a master list of GSU abbreviations and acronyms to help maintain consistency in the new system.
• Creating a report inventory so that every single current CX user can indicate what data they’re extracting from the current system; this ensures that the information will still be available after the transfer to the Colleague system.

Data Standards Support began preparing for the IRiS Project long before Datatel Colleague was chosen. The team’s main goal is to maintain an orderly centralized function to maintain data integrity and security.

Team members are: Team Leader Linda Buyer, Omolola Adesanya, Nick Battaglia, Sandi Gieson, Lisa Hendrickson, Bonnie Lunde, Jean Malloy, Kathy Miller, Colleen Rock, Linda Samson, Veronica Williams, Christine Radtke, Marge Godowic, and Jeanne Hagen.

Data Standards Support Team members deserve thanks for their hard work and dedication to the IRiS Project.
Honorary Degree Recipient Marca Bristo

Marca Bristo, advocate for equal rights and equal access for people with disabilities, will receive an honorary degree on Saturday, February 5, at GSU’s Winter Commencement. Commencement will be held at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center. More than 600 graduates will participate in Commencement.

Drawing on her expertise, Bristo will also deliver a presentation on civil rights, accessibility, and the effect and importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Friday, February 4. The lecture begins at 3:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Bristo was integral in the creation and passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for which she received the Distinguished Service Award of the President of the United States. She is the founding director and current CEO and President of Access Living, an organization dedicated to improving access and opportunity. Bistro has held three presidential appointments and one congressional appointment and served as a delegate to the U.N Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Learning Lessons at the CPA

Students from Medgar Edgars School in Ford Heights enjoyed Friday’s theatrical presentation of three Leo Lionni story books: *Fredrick*, *Swimmy*, and *Inch by Inch*. Students received complimentary tickets through the Ralph C. Medhurst Children's Fund. After the show, they were treated to a private audience with the performers. The experience concluded with each student receiving a variety of Lionni story books.

The performance was put on by The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. Kathleen Brennan, CPA Director of Educational Programming, said the theatrical company transformed Lionni’s Caldecott Honor books into an enchanting theatrical experience for kids.

Each child left with an lasting memory of literature, puppetry, and creativity, Brennan said. “They learned very valuable lessons and the entertainment was superb.”

For more information or to donate to the Ralph C. Medhurst Children's Fund, contact Christine Radtke at ext. 7494.

From Winesburg to Chicago Heights

GSU’s *One Book, One University* event for the spring semester will feature *Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson, which served as the basis for the recent award-winning film *Chicago Heights*.

For the film, GSU associate professor Daniel Nearing and assistant professor Sanghoon Lee adapted Anderson's novel, shifting the story from rural Ohio to suburban Chicago Heights.

The *One Book, One University* discussion will take place Wednesday, March 9, from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. President Maimon will give a brief introduction. Associate professor Rosemary Johnsen, assistant professor Christopher White, and Nearing will serve on the discussion panel.
**Meditation at GSU**

During the spring semester, meditation will be offered at GSU four different times during the week. Whether you are faculty, staff, student, or community member, it is important to take time to maintain your peace of mind. Research shows that meditation not only helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, but also increases creativity.

Meditation will be offered:

- Monday from noon to 1 with Barb Gormley in Room D34063
- Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. with Deb Majewski in Room D2442
- Thursday morning from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. with Tim Pedigo in Room D2442
- Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. with Maristella Zell in Room B1240

All sessions are free – you only need your mind, body, and spirit.

**Winter Sculpture Wonderland**

Experience a winter landscape filled with great art and the beauty of nature at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park’s annual winter walk on Saturday, January 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Park Curator and Director Geoffrey Bates will lead this year’s winter tour. The winter walk is free and reservations are not required.

“The winter walk is the perfect antidote for cabin fever,” Bates said. “This is a particularly beautiful time to be in the sculpture park. It is very still and quiet. Snowy days provide dramatic background to our sculptures, and allow you to see them in a unique setting.”

Visitors should meet inside the Hall of Governors near the sculpture Art Ark by Terrence Karpowicz. Participants should dress for winter weather and be prepared to walk at least 90 minutes. The tour will be held, snow or shine, unless the daytime high temperature is predicted to be below 20F.

For more information, visit the sculpture park website or call ext. 4486.

**Carnations for Love and Friendship**

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the Civil Service Senate is selling carnations. The fresh flowers must be ordered by February 7 and will be delivered on February 14. All orders must be paid in full at the cashier’s office by February 11.

The carnations are $1.25 per flower, $6 for six, and $12 for a dozen. To order, contact Kelly Robinson.

**VALIC Rep on Campus**

VALIC representative John Olson will be on campus Tuesday, January 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Library Conference Room. Appointments are not required for retirement planning.

VALIC is one of four vendors Governors State University has authorized under its Tax Deferred Annuity Plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, to handle new business with its employees for voluntary retirement savings. The others are TIAA-CREF, Fidelity, and The Legend Group.
Disposable Diaper Collection

GSU students in the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) are sponsoring Share the Love, collecting diapers for families in need through February 24.

Disposable diaper donations can be made to designated boxes on the campus of GSU in University Park and at the First Church of the Nazarene in Gilman. Diapers will be given to the South Suburban Family Shelter in Homewood and Women of Power in Chicago.

For more information, call 815.549.6450.

Attention Commencement Volunteers

All commencement volunteers and employees working to help make Commencement a great success are asked to attend an orientation on Wednesday, January 26, at 10 a.m., in The Center for Performing Arts.

If you have not volunteered already, there is still time. Contact Pulchratia Kinney-Smith at ext. 7466.

The 2010 Spring Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 5, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center.

Student Senate Spring Meetings

Students are encouraged to attend the meetings of the GSU Student Senate. Full Senate meetings are held in the Student Commons, Room A2140.

Meetings will be held:
- Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 16 at 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Student Senate elections will be held in February and the new Senate will be installed at the April meeting. For more information, visit the Student Senate website or contact Sheree Sanderson.