News and Events

IRiS Teams Conclude Busy Week

Last week was one of the busiest since the start of the IRiS Project.

Four Datatel consultants were on site last week. Training for the Advising and Degree Audit Team and the Accounts Payable/Purchasing Team took place Tuesday and Wednesday. The Portal Team worked with their consultant on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. And the Financial Aid Team met for training on Thursday and Friday.

In addition, GSU’s new onsite Datatel Project Manager, Kurt Lehrmann, worked with the teams and met with team leaders for three days.

This week is much quieter, with two days of training planned for Accounts Receivable/Cash Receipts.

Barring complications that may result from the predicted blizzard, the Campus Wide Advisory Group will meet Wednesday, at 1 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. This Advisory Group represents members from a wide cross section of the campus community and meets as needed to be updated on the work of the IRiS Project. Since the group’s main contribution to the project is communication and input to and from the campus at large, any interested parties may attend the meeting.

In Case of Emergency...

The GSU community is reminded that emergency campus closures due to inclement weather will be communicated via:

• GSU website homepage
• GSU website emergency info page
• Campus wide e-mail sent to faculty/staff e-mail and student iMail addresses
• School Messenger alert system – per your personal contact preferences
• WGN Emergency Closing Center website (www.emergencyclosingcenter.com), WGN TV news, WGN 720 AM radio

Students, faculty, and staff are asked to check these sources to determine if there is a campus closure and should NOT contact the Department of Public Safety with basic closure inquiries.

Portal Testers Needed

The university’s new myGSU portal will be available for use later this spring. The portal is your user interface and one-stop shop for conducting day-to-day business at GSU. The easy to use interface brings your most important daily tasks into a single location. It’s the primary online destination for the entire GSU community, and will provide a collaborative environment in which to work and communicate.

In preparation for the go live date, GSU’s portal development team will be conducting usability testing on Thursday, February 24. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to participate in these short, fast-paced sessions to test the
system’s design and functionality. Sessions are scheduled at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 1, 2, 3 p.m., and will last approximately 45 minutes. No preparation or prior knowledge of the portal is needed.

To participate, contact Eric Matanyi at ext. 4044.

**Marca Bristo Lecture**

Marca Bristo, advocate for equal rights and equal access for people with disabilities, will 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.

On Saturday, February 5, at Commencement, Bristo will receive an honorary degree. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center. More than 650 graduates will participate in Commencement.

**Meditation Matters**

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.

Beginning this week, meditation will be offered:

- **Monday**, from noon to 1 p.m., with Barb Gormley, in Room D34063
- **Tuesday**, from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m., with Deb Majewski, in Room D2442
- **Thursday**, from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m., with Tim Pedigo, in Room D2441

The following session begins February 10
- **Thursday**, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m., with Maristella Zell, in Room B1240

All sessions are free. Bring your mind, body, and spirit - and relax.

**Year of the Rabbit**

Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit at a Chinese New Year’s Eve party sponsored by the GSU Chinese Student Association. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to the Student Lounge (second floor, A wing) on February 2, at 5 p.m.

The celebration of the New Year continues on February 3 when FSI serves a special menu of Chinese foods in the GSU cafeteria.
NMSP Docent Classes

There are spaces still open for those interested in expanding their horizons, meeting new people, and serving as a docent at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

Orientation sessions begin February 3 for the 2011 Docent Class. Docents lead weekend tours of the park, host programs and receptions, and act as park ambassadors.

Seven docent orientation sessions will take place over a 12-week period. Sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on February 3 and 17; March 3, 17, and 31; and April 14 and 27. All sessions are on Thursdays except for the final meeting, which will take place on Wednesday. On May 7, the docent class will be treated to a continental breakfast before taking a tour of the sculpture park.

Orientation session topics include park history, an introduction to the history of sculpture, presentations on each piece in the collection, and pointers on how to conduct tours of the sculpture park. Light refreshments will be provided at orientation sessions.

Advance registration and a $35 fee are required. For more information, visit the park's website, e-mail the sculpture park, or call ext. 4486.

Scholarship – Dr. Sandi Estep

Dr. Sandi Estep of the College of Education was honored for the outstanding work she has done for the Library of Congress. In a ceremony last November, Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress presented the award.

Dr. Estep has worked with the Library of Congress on the Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) educational out-reach project at GSU for more than seven years. This is the second time she has been honored by Dr. Billington and the Library of Congress.

New Student Senate Elections

The GSU Student Senate is looking for students who want to make a difference at the university. Put your leadership ability to good use on the GSU Student Senate.

For the first time this year, students will have the opportunity to vote directly for President of the Student Senate as well as representatives from each college and at large representatives.

Graduate or undergraduate students enrolled either full or part time are eligible and encouraged to run for senate positions. Pick up campaign packets at the Welcome Center or visit www.govst.edu/studentsenate. Completed candidate forms are due on February 3.

Additional information is available by contacting Sheree Sanderson at 708.534.4552.
Debunking Kwanzaa Myths

HIST541 Black Women in American History is hosting a presentation exposing the myths of Kwanzaa on Tuesday, February 8, from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

The presentation includes a performance by Umoja People, a company of drummers and poetry readers. HIST541 students will give short oral histories about African American women whose contributions have been historically overlooked.

This event sponsored by the College of Art and Sciences and Student Life and is free and open to the public.

Let’s Talk

Communication difficulties can lead to problems within families and other relationships, in school, and on the job. GSU is hosting a workshop, Communication and Relationships: Let’s Talk, on Wednesday, February 9, from 6 to 7 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

GSU’s Academic Resource Center is sponsoring the workshop, which is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call ext. 7334.

FDC Screening Dates

The GSU Family Development Center will hold informational meetings and screenings monthly for admission into Early Head Start and prekindergarten programs. Children from birth to two years old are eligible for admission into the Early Head Start program. Three to five year olds are eligible for the full and half day, three and five day prekindergarten programs at the center.

Admission is open to all students. Free or discounted admission is available to qualified students. Screening is required to meet qualification requirements.

Informational meetings and screenings will be held on February 10, March 11, April 8, and May 13.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 708.235.7300.

Workshop Cancelled

Workshops on college anxiety scheduled for today have been cancelled.

For more information, call 708.235.7334.