News and Events

Meet the Records and Registration Team

IRiS Project Student Teams are busy readying the Colleague system in preparation for a “live simulation” on March 1 and 2. The Records and Registration Team along with Financial Aid Team and Accounts Receivable/Cash Receipts Team are preparing Student Registration for a “go live” date of April 18.

Led by Michelle Smith-Williams, Registrar, and Nirmala Connor, Records Management Officer, Records and Registration Team members have completed many training sessions with their consultant. In addition, they have attended remote consulting sessions. Their two-day onsite training sessions took place in November and January and they are scheduled for training again this week on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Much data and decisions go into readying the system for students. They are working on the “rules” of the system, transcript entry, grading scheme, and the listing of all the processes for registration. The team is testing those processes and creating documentation along the way. With only three weeks to go before the live simulation, team members are meeting regularly to ensure all aspects of the student registration process are complete.

Team members are Michelle Smith-Williams, Co-Leader; Nirmala Connor, Co-Leader; Nick Battaglia; Debbie Celmer; Bonnie Gregg; Jan Haan; Bonnie Simpson; Deirdre Webb; Catherine Brady; Brenda Moore; Christina Seymour; Jeanne Hagen; and Heidi Yousef.

President on National Higher Ed Roundtable

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon this month is participating in a national initiative to boost civic learning and democratic engagement in American colleges and universities.

On February 18, Dr. Maimon will take part in a roundtable meeting in Washington, D.C. on how institutions of higher learning can become a force in building new forms of civic capacity and engagement. Citing her “strong leadership to promote civic and democratic learning and engagement,” the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) invited Dr. Maimon to the roundtable at the U.S. Department of Education offices.

“Your leadership at Governors State University has put you at the nexus of
some of the most innovative thinking and programmatic activity on civic and democratic engagement,” AAC&U Senior Vice President Caryn McTighe Musil wrote in Dr. Maimon’s invitation. The roundtable, she said, will bring together college and university presidents who have the most power, resources, and authority to influence change. Business and foundation leaders have also been invited.

During the initiative, the AAC&U is partnering with Global Perspective Institute Inc. (GPI) to advise the Department of Education on how to increase higher education’s leadership in promoting civic learning and democratic engagement. Roundtable participants will have a chance to respond to a draft policy paper and to weigh in on a proposed national plan of action.

Commencement Memorable for All

More than 650 graduates walked across the stage to receive diplomas at Saturday’s Commencement at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center. It was one of the largest graduation classes in GSU history and the convention center was filled with family and friends.

The graduates included GSU’s second class of doctoral candidates, who received their degrees in Nursing Practices, Physical Therapy, and Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy. Their degrees were awarded to a thundering ovation at the conclusion of the Commencement ceremony.

Mac-Z Zurawski, the student speaker, said her life hasn’t always been easy – she is a single mother who has worked as a garbage collector for the city of Chicago. But Zurawski, who received a Master of Arts in Political and Justice Studies, said she knows education is essential if we are to make the world a better place.

Marca Bristo, who received an honorary doctorate, asked graduates and others at Commencement to work to assure equal rights for the nation’s 54 million disabled persons. Bristo, a tireless advocate for equal justice and social justice for the disabled, reminded the assembly that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other advancements have provided access and opportunities for the disabled, but that much work remains to be done.

Wizard at The Center

Tickets are still available for the Missoula Children’s Theater presentation of The Wizard of Oz at The Center for Performing Arts. The curtain rises at 7 p.m., on Friday, February 11. Tickets are only $10.

This special one hour production created by Missoula Children’s Theatre features children between the ages of 5 and 13 from the region.
Tickets are available at The Center box office or by calling 708.235.2222.

**Order Today**

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the Civil Service Senate is selling carnations. The fresh flowers must be ordered by today 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. All proceeds are used to support the programs of the Civil Service Senate. To order, contact Kelly Robinson.

**Sophisticated Ladies**

The Center for Performing Arts wants to help you do something special for your Valentine this weekend. With The Center for Performing Arts’ special half-price ticket sale, you and your sweetheart can enjoy a night of classic songs and romance at *Duke Ellington’s Sophisticated Ladies*. The show is on Saturday, February 12, at 8 p.m.

Half-price tickets go on sale on Tuesday and are available to all GSU students, faculty, and staff at the box office or over the phone at 708.235.2222.

**Read-In Tonight**

The African American Read In celebrates the written word with the spoken word. Read-In participants celebrate Black History Month by reading aloud a selected excerpt from a favorite book, poem, or other literary work by an African American author.

The Read-In will be held this evening, from 6 to 8 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**Meet the Candidates**

The Student Senate candidate forum will be held Wednesday, February 9, at 3 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. This is your opportunity to meet the candidates prior to casting your vote. All students are eligible to vote. Voting is open February 21 through 25 at the website https://eballot.votenet.com/govst

**Candidates**

Andre Barnett, CBPA
B2B for 2011

Brother to Brother, B2B, begins the new year with its first meeting on February 10, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

B2B offers mentoring, guidance, and support. All minority, male students are encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Keith White at ext. 2223.

Contributions and Contests

There is still time to contribute to the Campus Community Campaign. The Campaign continues through February 18, when prizes will be awarded and refreshments served at a noon celebration in the GSU Cafeteria.

Prizes include two GSU parking spaces for one year, with the winner picking the spaces; an overnight stay with dinner for two at the Empress Hotel in Joliet; brunch for four at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park; and a one year membership at the GSU Recreation Center. Everyone is eligible to participate in the drawing for prizes. Donations are not required.

Sign up today for the Campus Community Campaign. You can contact your department’s CCC volunteer or stop by the GSU Development Office in Room D34200.
CCC volunteers are: Lisa Carra; Kyusuk Chung; Cheri Garey; Adrienne Gray; Mary Hession; Rosemary Hulett; Judy Freneau; Julie Labuda; Victoria Lloyd; Nancy Miller; Lydia Morrow Ruetten; Margaret Neumann; Lise Schneider; Jackie Small; Jessica Sprecht; Jill Stanley; Mike Sullivan; Lori Townsend; Merri Wilkerson; and Ayita Woods.

**Tournament Volunteers**

Table Tennis returns to GSU with the Spring NCTTA Regional Tournament on February 19. Everyone is welcome to attend and cheer GSU’s Table Tennis Team to another victory. The tournament is from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Recreation and Fitness Center gymnasium. Admission is free.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters, registration personnel, runners, and scorekeepers. You don’t need to know how to play table tennis to help. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt to wear on the day of the event and are asked to pair it with black pants and tennis shoes.

Students, faculty, and staff are all eligible to volunteer. To sign up or for more information, contact Karen Caesar Smith at 708.534.6360.

**Art Out & About at Union Street Gallery**

The newest installment in the *ART Out & About*, the program produced and directed by Digital Learning, features Union Street Gallery in Chicago Heights and the exhibit, *Dialogue*. The exhibit includes paintings paired with a juried exhibition of sculptures. The program focuses on the gallery, the show, and insights into the jurying and hanging process.

Show host Geoff Bates, Director of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, goes "behind the scenes" to watch the hanging and placement of sculpture and paintings, talks to the show’s curator, Marikay Witlockand, and gallery's administrator, Jessica Freudenberg. There are interviews with the artists and the designer of the large, animated, window display currently on view in front of the gallery. In a studio segment, Bates talks with Bob Emser, an internationally recognized sculptor and juror for the show.

*ART Out & About* is a regular video series produced on location and in the media studios of Digital Learning. Production of the program involves students from GSU’s media program as camera, audio, and a variety of crew positions. Students involved in this production include Leia Chapman, Barbara Hogu, Robert Nemitz, Araceli Sharper, and Josh Young.

The program will air during *The Educator*, on Comcast channel 26, in most areas, on

February 8 at 10:30 p.m.
February 9 at 6:30 p.m.
February 10 at 6:30 a.m.
February 11 at 4:30 a.m.
February 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Diapers Needed

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.