**News and Events**

**Meet the Financial Aid Team**

The IRiS Project’s Financial Aid Team is preparing for next week’s live simulation of the Colleague data processing system. The Financial Aid Team will conduct the test, a major IRiS Project milestone, along with the Records and Registration Team and the Accounts Receivable/Cash Receipts Team. This is the first live simulation for student teams and is scheduled next Tuesday and Wednesday, March 1 and 2.

The Financial Aid Team is led by Freda Whisenton-Comer, Director of Financial Aid, and Gregory Blevins, Interim Assistant Dean in the College of Health and Human Services. Team members have completed four two-day training sessions – three last fall, and one since January 1. In addition, the team has met “remotely” with its consultant several times in the past few weeks.

The Financial Aid Team is working on testing ISIR processing including the processing of MIEs, verifying that students are receiving the correct codes and paragraphs for the awards, entering award codes, and verifying the general ledger accounts for the award codes. Team members are entering the necessary information so students have access to Pell grants, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, Direct Loans, and Work Study programs. They are making sure financial aid forms for 2011-2012 are available online.

Team members are Freda Whisenton-Comer, co-leader; Greg Blevins, co-leader; Omolola Adesanya; Jolander Jeffries; Carol Pierson-Milhous; David Weinberger; Nick Battaglia; Rosemary Hulett; Jan Haan; Jane Siefker; Emma Ziems; and Heidi Yousef.

**First Place!**

The Governors State University Table Tennis Team has done it again. In another outstanding performance, GSU’s co-ed team won the Spring NCTTA Regional Tournament held at the university on Saturday.

This win follows the team’s success in November at the Fall Regional Tournament, at which they also took first place. This
GSU defeated teams from University of Wisconsin-Madison, UIC, Purdue, Northwestern, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The women’s team, coached by visiting professor Hongliu (Connie) Cao, from GDUT, China, won second place in the Spring tournament, improving on last Fall’s performance. UW-Madison’s women’s team won first place.

“Thanks go to GSU’s co-ed and women’s team members for their outstanding performance and representation for the school in these two regional tournaments,” said head coach, Dr. T.J. Wang, associate professor of accounting. “Team members have successfully demonstrated GSU spirit.”

Co-ed team members include Captain Wenjie (Neo) Nie, Yuanfei (Vergil) Cai, Yuefan (Penn) Lin, Lishun (Leeson) Lu, Rahul Pinninti, and Ravikiran Yerabolu. Women’s team members are Captain Jie (Jassie) Wang, Xue Hong (Carmen) Chen, Shuyu (Zoe) Guo, Jing (Jackie) He, and Emily Leary.

One of the Best of the Best

The GSU community knew it was excellent. Now it is official! Film Critic Roger Ebert has named Chicago Heights one of the Best Art Films of 2010.

Chicago Heights is an award-winning, experimental, black and white feature film made with a $1,000 budget for food, equipment on loan from Governors State University, and during the free time of the all-volunteer cast and crew. The film was directed by associate professor Daniel Nearing and assistant professor Sanghoon Lee was the producer and cinematographer.

In his article, Ebert says that art films “require directors with a clear idea of complex purposes. They require subtleties of lighting and sound that create a self-contained world. Most of all, they require sympathy.”

The film is based on Winesburg, Ohio, Sherwood Anderson's classic 1919 collection of interconnected short stories. The story is transposed ingeniously to a predominantly African American community in the present-day south Chicago region. It is a gorgeously photographed, beautifully scored film, shot, and edited in and around the region.

“Daniel Nearing accomplishes the uncanny feat of distilling the book's essence,” writes Ebert. “What Nearing does, and it is rather brilliant, is show us Nathan in old age, under a blanket on his bed, remembering, dreaming or hallucinating about the people he has known.”
Congratulations Dan, Sanghoon, and the cast and crew of *Chicago Heights*!

Read [Ebert’s entire article](#).

**Make a Deposit**

Donate your blood and get a free pair of lounge pants and the satisfaction of knowing you may have saved a life. The recent severe winter weather and dropping temperatures has affected blood inventories for patients being treated in area hospitals. Heartland Blood Centers is reporting an urgent need for blood donors to rebuild inventories that have plummeted.

Students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to respond to the call for blood donors on February 21, from 3 to 7 p.m., in E-Lounge. The Master’s in Occupational Therapy student club is sponsoring the blood drive.

Photo identification is required to donate blood. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Job Prospects**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring an employment fair for people interested in jobs and internship opportunities in education and related fields on Tuesday, February 22, from 3 to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Current students, alumni, and community members are invited to attend. Potential employers are also invited to register as participants. This is an opportunity to match jobs and internship positions with qualified personnel. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information or to register, call 708.235.3974.

**CBPA Grad Programs Open House**

CBPA is hosting a graduate programs open house on Saturday, February 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

Faculty, advisors, administrators, and current students will be on hand to discuss master’s degree programs in accounting, business administration (MBA), management information systems, and public administration. Participants will also be able to apply for program admission. Breakfast will also be served.

For more information and to RSVP please call 708.534.4391 or e-mail BPAINFO@govst.edu.
**Civic Reflection Workshop**

Civic reflection creates a deeper understanding of service for individuals and community organizations. Learning civic reflection skills is also a way to develop crucial professional competencies. To increase awareness of civic reflection on campus and to improve individual civic reflection skills, GSU is sponsoring a Civic Reflections Workshop.

The workshop will be held on March 1, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Facilitators Dr. Lorri Glass, Dr. Larry Levinson, and Sheree Y. Sanderson are all members of the GSU Civic Reflection Team. The team hopes that reflective discussion strengthens the reach and effectiveness of the volunteer work that workshops participants are able to achieve.

This workshop is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Sheree Sanderson at ext. 4552.

**Meditative Minds**

Maintain your peace of mind through meditation. Research shows that meditation not only helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, but also increases creativity. All sessions are free.

• 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, from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m., with Tim Pedigo, in room D2441  
• Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m., with Maristella Zell, in room B1240

**Presentation on Human Trafficking**

The Illinois Social Work Field Directors’ Network, in association with the GSU Social Work Department, will address the global dilemma of human trafficking on Friday, March 4. The presentation will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

The program features the screening of a short film related to the subject and a panel featuring Lisa Fedina, MSW, Rescue and Restore Project Coordinator, Illinois Department of Human Services, and Ellyce Dalberg from the Salvation Army's Stop It Program. Ashley Brooks, MA, and Robert Brooks, JD, will offer a social work and legal perspective on bonded labor in south India.

Program objectives include increasing knowledge of human trafficking; examining legal aspects and service options for victims; and identifying strategies to address the growing concern of human trafficking. Five CEUs will be offered to all licensed social workers who attend the program.

The registration deadline is February 25. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to pre-register online at [www.govst.edu/humantrafficking](http://www.govst.edu/humantrafficking).

Additional information is available by contacting JoAnne Smith.
Now Read the Book

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.

Alumni Matters - CBPA Graduate Excels

Ryan Williamson, a 2008 GSU accounting program graduate, has received the prestigious Elijah Watt Sells Award for excellence on the Uniform CPA Examination.

The Elijah Watt Sells Award is presented annually by the American Association of Certified Public Accountants to candidates who have obtained the 10 highest cumulative scores on all four sections of the computerized Uniform CPA Examination.

Williamson was one of 15 award winners across the country for his performance on the 2009 examination. Nationally, more than 93,000 persons sat for the examination that year.

“GSU helped me gain the skills I needed to enter the world of accounting and succeed on the CPA exam,” Williamson said. “I appreciate having learned from many dedicated professors. They wanted to make sure that students not only learned the rudiments of accounting, but also could see how course concepts applied to tasks we would encounter in the workplace.”

Williamson also said he appreciated GSU’s flexibility in course scheduling. By taking courses at night, he was able to work as an accounting intern while finishing his accounting degree at GSU.

Williamson received a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from GSU’s College of Business and Public Administration. Williams is currently employed with Groskreutz, Schmidt, Abraham, Eshelman, and Gerretse in Kankakee.
**ARC Open During Spring Break**

The Academic Resource Center will be open for business during GSU’s Spring Break, March 14 to 18. ARC staffers will be on campus to provide tutoring, counseling, and disability services.

For further information, call 708.235.7421.