Portal Team Completes Usability Study

The Portal Implementation Team, led by Eric Matanyi, worked with its Datatel Colleague consultant to create and complete a myGSU portal usability study. Eight faculty members, eight staff members, and 14 students, who were randomly selected to partake in the study, completed a test of the myGSU system.

Study participants were observed by members of the Portal Team as they worked through predetermined common tasks based on their demographics. Participants were asked about both substance and style of the portal.

In addition to testing general navigation, the participants were asked to complete specific tasks, mimicking day-to-day use of the system. Sample tasks included locating a list of medical benefits, travel voucher forms, advising records, cafeteria menu, a professor’s e-mail address and office number, and textbooks required for classes.

After completing the study, participant’s recommendations included creating more prominent links to various areas and creating specific directories with links to most needed areas. The Portal Team will continue to develop and enhance myGSU for students, faculty, and staff in anticipation of its live date later this spring.

Student Senate 2011 Election Results

The votes are tallied and the results are in. The new GSU Student Senate will be installed April 5, at the Student Senate meeting. The new senators’ term of office runs from April, 2011 until April 2012. The Board of Trustee Representative’s term is from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Election Results
Lisa Wallace, COE – President
Jada Nettle, CAS – Board of Trustee Representative
Anthony R. Cozzi, CAS – IBHE Representative

CAS Senators
Megan Clarke – Senator
Adrienne Farmer – Senator

CBPA Senators
Siqi “CK” Wu – Senator
Andre Barnett – Senator
CHHS Senators
Patricia Hernandez Lombardi – Senator

IDSS Senators
Erin Fletcher – Senator
Betty Campbell – Senator

Senators-at-Large
Willie Stingley, CAS
Shawnta Young, CBPA
Karolina Holota, CAS
Denice Hill, IDSS
Sara Ionescu, CHHS

Grand Opening - New Student Gaming Lounge
The new GSU Student Gaming Lounge is now open. The Student Senate is sponsoring a grand opening celebration – complete with pizza and games of pool and table tennis. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration on March 10, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The new Student Gaming Lounge is located in the lower level of A wing, north of the Rec and Fitness Center. Check out this new GSU facility, savor the pizza, and try your hand with cue and paddle.

Women’s History Month 2011
March is Women’s History Month. In observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Student Life is sponsoring Stepping into Awareness: A Forum to Raise Awareness for HIV Prevention on March 8. The event includes an exhibit/information tables from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Hall of Governors and a presentation at noon, in the Hall of Honors. Everyone is welcome.

Rock the Red Pump
In support of the National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, everyone is encouraged to wear red shoes on Thursday, March 10.

Master of Arts in Reading Information Session
COE will host information sessions for certified teachers interested in earning a Master of Arts in Reading in an on campus graduate cohort program beginning in Fall 2011. An additional, optional bilingual/English as a Second Language endorsement will also be offered. The information session will be held today, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., in room D34015.

The cohort is open to only 20 successful graduate applicants. The program consists of 12 courses that lead to K-12 certification as a reading specialist, which is required for literacy coach and similar positions. Financial aid is available to qualified applicants.

For more information and to register, contact John Powers, Academic Advisor, at ext. 6363.

Literary Conversation
GSU’s One Book, One University event for the spring semester is Winesburg, Ohio by Sherwood Anderson, which served as the basis for the recent award-winning film Chicago Heights. This 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 professors Rosemary Johnsen and Daniel Nearing and assistant professor Christopher White will serve on the discussion panel.

Join the discussion on the book, the film, and the connections between them. One Book, One University is sponsored by the Intellectual Life Committee.

**Copyright Review**

Join members of the University Copyright Committee in viewing the Webinar, Copyright For Classroom Teaching, on Wednesday, March 9, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., in D2401C in the Library. The session will cover uses of copyrighted material in the classroom when permission is not necessary; changes needed when a face-to-face course moves online; and opportunities and risks posed by commercial social media sites.

**2011 Excellence Award Nominations**

Nominations for Excellence Awards are currently being accepted. Excellence Awards recognize valued and exceptional faculty member or academic support professional for outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: teaching/primary duties, research/creative activity, and service. The awards reflect achievement in academic year 2009-10. Up to three Excellence Awards of $6,000 (one-time payment) will be awarded.

Letters of nomination should be submitted to the Excellence Awards Committee in care of Jill Stanley of the Provost’s Office. They are due by Thursday, March 10, by 5 p.m. Late nominations will not be considered.

Read the memo from the Excellence Awards Committee.

Read the evaluation criteria.

**The Last Battle**

This is the last week of the GSU Penny Wars and your last chance to get into battle. Last week’s totals showed a tight race between the Library, Institutional Advancement and CAS but it looks as if COE and the 3rd Floor are gearing up for a final push.

Join the fray. Deposit your pennies in the jars for a positive addition or your silver and bills to contribute a negative addition. Remember all funds collected support Civil Service Senate programs and scholarships. Thursday is the final day of the 2011 Penny Wars. The winner will be announced next week.

3rd Floor - 692
CenterPoint - 167
CHHS - 109
CAS - 1406
CBPA - 202
COE - 744
Financial Services - 57
HR - 59
Institutional Advancement - 1373
Library - 1697
Student Life - 147
Alumni Spotlight - Linda Veleckis Nussbaum

Linda Veleckis Nussbaum was recently appointed the interim executive director for the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra.

Linda is a longtime principal second violinist and orchestral contractor for the IPO. She is the orchestra manager of the Lithuanian Opera of Chicago, the president of Candenza Music and a private music teacher. She is an accomplished violinist with a BA and MA in music.

Linda received an MBA from the College of Business and Public Administration in 1995.

Grant Applications Due

University Research Grants (URG) are funded by the Provost’s Office to encourage scholarly research within the GSU community. All faculty, staff, and students are eligible to apply. Students must have a faculty mentor. Student applications will be considered once all faculty applications have been reviewed. All URG projects must take place between July 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012.

Applications for 2011-12 are due on March 21. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than April 30. For more information, contact Margaret H. Neumann, chair of URG Committee at ext. 4968.

USG Application 2011