President Maimon Welcomes Students Back
President Elaine P. Maimon welcomes new and returning students back to campus with a special message.

Download Dr. Maimon's Message

Convocation 2011
President Elaine P. Maimon reported at Thursday’s Convocation that the state of Governors State University is excellent, even in uncertain times.

“The waters continue to be troubled, but our strong sailing craft travels forward,” Dr. Maimon told a capacity audience in Sherman Hall. “We do so because we understand that we are masters of our fate.”

Dr. Maimon announced a groundbreaking celebration for renovation of the E & F science wing on October 18. The Illinois Capital Development Board went out to bid this month for the state-funded, $22.5 million E & F renovation. In addition, the university has received an additional $3 million National Science Foundation grant for the renovation of GSU’s science research labs.

“This long-awaited event – 10 years in the making – will celebrate 21st century science facilities,” she said of the groundbreaking. “Such facilities change everything on a campus, enabling our students and faculty to engage fully in scientific discovery and learning.”

Dr. Maimon also announced that the U.S. Department of Education has selected GSU for a September 9 rally. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kantner, who will speak at the event, chose GSU “because she sees us preparing students for productive lives as citizens,” Dr. Maimon said.

During her State of the University address, Dr. Maimon said positive momentum at GSU is clearly evident on campus as faculty and staff continue to give students quality education opportunities, while building for the future. She praised members of the numerous IRIS Project teams for working tirelessly to implement GSU’s new computer system. Physical improvements on campus – from new signs to improved lighting to road construction projects – are making the university safer and more accommodating for students and employees, she said.
Dr. Maimon also announced that GSU’s administration is cautiously moving toward student housing on campus, and is exploring whether the university should admit freshman and sophomore students.

Winners of this year’s Faculty Excellence Awards were announced at Convocation. Dr. Maimon presented the awards to Dr. Lisa Chang, Professor of Math Education in the College of Education; Dr. Pamela Guimond, Assistant Professor of Biology Education and Advisor for Secondary Education in the College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Roberta O’Shea, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy in the College of Health and Human Services.

Labriola Addresses International Conference

Tony Labriola, GSU Professor of Television and Film, recently presented a keynote address to the 23rd International Conference on Systems Research, sponsored by the International Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS), in Baden-Baden, Germany.

The address, “Image is Everything: Shedding Shadows on the Light,” focused on images as an increasingly dominant form of new “linguistic” or semiotic communication.

At the conference’s concluding ceremony, Labriola received the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award from IIAS for his research work in media and film education.

The conference is a forum for the presentation and discussion of current systems research in humanities, sciences, and engineering.

Activities Galore at Welcome Days

A week of welcoming activities begins with the traditional Welcome Days, today and tomorrow, from noon to 6 p.m. The activities have been relocated outside to the patio and lake area. Activities include music, trivia for students, giveaways, ID validation, and an abundance of information.

In addition, This Week at GSU (TWAG) will participate with an open studio for students to audition to become a TWAG host. The Illinois Secretary of State’s office will be on campus on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. to provide a number of services.

To round out the week, the Clubs and Organizations Engagement Fair takes center stage on Wednesday, August 24. Members of student clubs will be share information with their fellow students. Each club will decorate its own table and a prize will be awarded to the club with the best table decorations.

At the Student Community Resource Fair, on Thursday, August 25, vendors from the community are invited to share their resources with students.

In case of rain, Welcome Week activities will relocate to the Hall of Governors.

For further information, contact Sheree Sanderson at ext. 4552.

Faculty and Staff Picnic Festivities

GSU’s Summer Picnic for faculty and staff has been rescheduled to Friday, September 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Food, games, prizes, and a fun-filled day in the sun are on the agenda, and it’s all free for faculty and staff. Activities include a beanbag tournament, closest to the pin contest, Scramble Board, bingo, Karaoke Idol, and Minute to Win It. Mark your calendar and don’t forget to RSVP to gsusummerpicnic@govst.edu by August 31.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Please contact Gina Ragland-Owolabi at ext. 7559.
The picnic is sponsored by the Civil Service Senate, the Provost’s Office, and the GSU Spirit Committee.

**News You Can Use**

Catch up on GSU news and events every day with the new, student-produced daily news show, This Week @ GSU. The two-minute segments provide up to date information about current events and campus news. You can watch it on Facebook, YouTube, the GSU website, and local public access cable.

A different host will appear each week. Departments wishing to have their event or news featured in the show should e-mail information to thisweek@govst.edu.

**Services You Can Use**

Secretary of State’s Mobile Service Unit will be at GSU tomorrow, August 23, from 1:30 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Services available at the mobile service unit include driver’s license renewal, replacement, and corrections; State ID card renewal, replacement, and corrections; vehicle sticker sales; passenger and b-truck license plates; vehicle title and registration; parking placards for persons with disabilities; and organ/tissue donor information. In addition, vision tests and the written driver’s license exam can be taken. No driving tests will be given.

The services provided are available to all qualified Illinois residents. State law allows driver’s license renewal up to one year in advance. Proper identification is required for new and duplicate driver’s licenses and state ID cards. Acceptable forms of payment include personal checks, cash, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit and debit cards.

For information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

**Commemorating 9-11**

GSU is commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001 by asking members of the university community to submit stories that will be read aloud at a public ceremony. Participants are asked to tell their stories about “where I was on 9-11.”

“Through discussing this anniversary at the university, we already have learned that some of our community experienced very painful personal losses on 9-11” said Reinhold Hill, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “If there are individuals who would like to contribute stories, but who would not like to read aloud their own stories, we encourage you to contribute. We will find someone who will read your story with care and respect.”

GSU will host a public reading of the stories on Monday, September 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

Stories should be sent to Dean Hill by September 2. Submission may be sent by e-mail or by mailing them to Dean Reinhold Hill, in the College of Arts and Sciences. Stories should be no more than four double-spaced typed pages and no longer than 10 minutes in length.

Persons who are not on campus can also contribute stories. If they cannot read their story at the ceremony, other readers will be located.

**Zumba Mondays**

Dance your way to fitness at the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center. Zumba classes will be offered on Mondays, from noon to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., from September 12 through December 12.

Zumba is exercise that combines Latin and international dance and fitness inspired movements. Participants dance away their worries and tone and sculpt their muscles with salsa, merengue, cumbia, reggaetone, samba, and belly dancing.
A 15 session punch card is only $10 for GSU students, $40 for Recreation and Fitness Center members, and $80 for non-members. You only pay for the sessions you attend.

For more information and to register, call 708.534.4556 or visit room A1106.