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GSU View, 2011-10-20

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Tear Down This Wall

GSU celebrated a new era in science education with a ceremony marking the start of a $22.6 million renovation project. The project will bring world-class laboratories and classrooms to the university.

President Elaine P. Maimon and members of the Board of Trustees symbolically “tore down the walls” of the university’s E and F science buildings by removing paneling from the walls. They were joined by more than 150 students, university employees, community members, and dignitaries.

“Today, we tear down the walls of the 20th century and construct state of the art science labs appropriate to this model 21st century university and, most appropriate, worthy of our students,” Dr. Maimon said.

“Illinois needed a capital bill and needed to invest in those things that we share in common,” said State Senator Toi Hutchison (D-Olympia Fields). “When we make investments like this, it’s not just good for the Southland. It means that GSU can make a bigger contribution to this state.”

The renovated facilities will serve students and faculty in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, nursing, communications disorders, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

The area to be renovated comprises approximately 76,000 square feet, which will include six research labs, 11 teaching labs, 12 classrooms, nine prep and store rooms, a new lecture hall, and extensive renovations to the infrastructure.

One Book, One University - Persepolis
Join the discussion on *Persepolis*, this semester’s One Book, One University selection. A panel discussion on *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, by Marjane Satrapi, takes place Tuesday, November 1 in the Cafeteria Annex.

Panelists are Sandra Gandy, JoAnne Smith, and Jason Zingsheim. Provost Terry Allison will moderate the discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi’s memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution told in powerful black-and-white comic strip images.

The One Book, One University series is sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee. For more information, contact Lydia Morrow Ruetten at ext. 4116.

**Keep Kids Warm**

Don’t forget to donate new and gently used children’s coats to *Coats 4 Kids*. Students from the Group Communications class taught by Marilyn Yirku are sponsoring the coat drive. Coats will be collected through October 22. Coats may be dropped off at the Student Life suite, A2101.

**Cookies and Popcorn**

GSU’s Family Development Center is holding a cookie dough and popcorn fundraiser. Proceeds will help fund new classroom materials and provide refreshments for family night events. Twelve varieties of cookie dough, four types of popcorn, and new lava-licious fudge cakes are all available for sale.

The last day to submit orders is October 24. Help the Family Development Center today and give yourself a tasty treat. For information and to place an order, call ext. 7300 or 7320.

**Prior Learning and College Credit**

Students can assess their prior learning, and learn how it can be applied to a college portfolio and how it can lead to college credit at a seminar hosted by the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences. The Prior Learning Portfolio Seminar takes place Saturday, October 22, from 10 a.m. to noon, in Room D1496.

To register, e-mail idss@govst.edu or contact Tiffini Malvin at 708.534.4092. There is a $50 registration fee for the seminar, which covers the cost of materials and refreshments.
Halloween Cafeteria Treats

Halloween cupcakes have arrived at GSU’s cafeteria – and they are perfect for any seasonal spooky events.

Joe Lenart, food service director for FSI, says the cafeteria has already sold hundreds of the cupcakes, representing Frankenstein, owls, bats, ghosts, mummies and other Halloween favorites. “Demand has been exceeding supply but I am happy to say more are on the way,” he said.

You can pre-order Halloween cupcakes – the price is $8.99 for a dozen – by stopping at the cafeteria by next Tuesday.

GSA Plans Halloween Party

GSU’s Gay Straight Alliance will host a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 29 from 6 to 9 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. The free event is open to all persons 18 and older. Entertainment is planned and pizza will be served.

The Gay Straight Alliance has meetings scheduled today and on November 3. Meeting times are from 3 to 4 p.m., in Room F2600.

The King's Speech

The GSU Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association will be showing The King's Speech on Tuesday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts lobby. A question and answer session will follow the movie.

Admission is free, but donations will benefit the Stuttering Foundation. This event was made possible through a GSU Intellectual Life Grant.

For more information, please contact GSU’s NSSLHA chapter.

Library Friends Book Sale

Friends of the GSU Library are hosting a book sale on Thursday, October 27, from noon until 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Come to the sale and find a book, at a very reasonable price, that you will treasure for years.

Members of the Friends of the GSU Library may preview the book collection at 11 a.m. Proceeds of the sale
support Friends' programs and projects.

**Lunchtime Mysteries**

Friends of Mysteries will discuss *The Black Echo* by Michael Connelly at their next meeting, on Wednesday, October 26, at noon, in the cafeteria.

*The Black Echo* is the first of Connelly’s crime novels featuring LAPD detective Harry Bosch. Next month, Friends of Mysteries will return to Connelly’s Mickey Heller novels with a discussion of *The 5th Witness*, the latest book in the series.

Join the Friends of Mysteries for a lively discussion of these even livelier books.

**Estate Planning Presentation**

The Will County Community Foundation (WCCF) and GSU joined together recently to present Estate Planning for Retirement Plans. Attending the event were members of the community, students, and faculty. President Maimon welcomed the participants.

Natalie Choate of McClennen & Fish LLP presented. Choate specializes in estate planning and retirement benefits matters and is the author of a monthly column on retirement benefits for MorningstarAdvisor.com.

Additional presenters included Karl Maurer, Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor, Portfolio Manager, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Michael Trench, Executive Director, WCCF; and Rich Allen of Nationwide Insurance.

**Civil Service Senate Hosts Arts and Crafts Fair**

Governors State University’s Civil Service Senate is sponsoring its annual Arts and Crafts Fair on November 15, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. All proceeds from this event benefit the Civil Service Senate Educational Assistance Fund. The event is free and open to the public.

Artisans and crafters are needed for the fair. Set-up time begins at 9 a.m. on the day of the event. To register or for further information, contact Kathy Miller at 708.534.4561, or Karen Stuenkel at 708.534.4120.

**Ailey II Returns to CPA**
The Ailey II Dance Company will perform Generations at GSU’s Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, October 28, at 8 p.m. The show explores the company’s past, present, and future with feature dances from each period. This long-celebrated dance company combines the hottest young talent with the creative vision of today’s most outstanding choreographers. Tickets are available at the CPA box office or online.

A free, special lecture and demonstration by Ailey II Dance Company members will be held on Thursday, October 27, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., at the CPA. The presentation includes excerpts of repertory, onstage audience participation, introduction to the dancers, and a Q and A session. The presentation is sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Reservations are required. To reserve seats for the free lecture and demonstration, contact Burt Dikelsky at 708.235.2238.

**Trade Center Success Story Recognized**

Hongxia (Mary) Ma, Director of the International Trade Center at GSU, was recently quoted in an edition of The Weekly Connection, a publication of the Illinois Small Business Development Center Network. CJS Trading Company, a client of the International Trade Center, was recognized in the publication as the “program success of the week.”

During a September trade mission to China, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced a $100 million sales agreement between Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), a worldwide food production company based in Decatur, and Jiusan Oils and Seeds, CJS Trading’s parent company. Under the agreement, ADM will supply Jiusan Oils and Seeds with 180,000 metric tons of soybeans by December 2012. China is the world’s largest market for Illinois soybeans.

Ma said CJS Trading is a very important client of the International Trade Center at GSU, and has received significant support in logistics and marketing.

“We are very excited to share the company’s recent achievements,” she said. “The company bought more than $100 million worth of soybeans last year, and this year it will be doubled.”

The International Trade Center also works with many other Chinese grain trading companies in Chicago, Ma said. “They will support us to export more grains to China,” she said.

**PT Faculty Member Honored**
Dr. Robin D. Washington, Assistant Professor in the College of Health and Human Services, has received the Sylvia Walker Education Award from the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC).

“We’re extremely proud that Dr. Washington received the Sylvia Walker Education Award,” noted Dr. Rebecca Wojcik, Chair of the Physical Therapy Department. “Dr. Washington clearly exemplifies the criteria upon which this award is based: excellence in rehabilitation education; commitment to student learning and development; a commitment to multiculturalism, and the ability to serve as an exemplary role model and mentor.”

“I am so honored to receive an award named after Sylvia Walker,” said Washington. “She helped break down both attitudinal and architectural barriers for people with disabilities so that they could gain full participation within society.”

Washington joined the GSU Physical Therapy faculty in August, 2010.

**TWAG News**

This Week @ GSU (TWAG), a student run, student produced news show that highlights what is happening on campus, is looking for submissions. This daily, two minute production focuses on student-oriented news and upcoming events. The show also needs information for its GSU Spotlight segment. GSU Spotlight highlights exceptional students, courses, professors, student workers, and organizations/clubs each week.

Contact TWAG with news and suggestions at thisweek@govst.edu.

**Scholarship Spotlight – Miranda Palmer**

Miranda Palmer of Olympia Fields received the Great Lakes Bank Endowed Scholarship. Miranda is a graduate student in the College of Health and Human Services’ Occupational Therapy program.

Miranda would like to open a free clinic and/or not-for-profit organization in the Southland where she can donate her services as an occupational therapist.