News and Events

Letter to the Governor

The Illinois Public University Chancellors and Presidents issued a letter to Governor Pat Quinn voicing their concern about reaching a fair and equitable solution to pension reform.

As convener of the council, Dr. Maimon noted, “Had all three required funding components been fulfilled over the years, the SURS program would now be stable, affordable and solvent. Two of the three necessary components of full funding have been steadfast and consistent: employee contributions and the return on assets from pension fund investments.

“As chief executives of the state’s public universities, we understand all too well that the present situation facing the state’s five pension funds is not sustainable. Notwithstanding the state funding history, successfully resolving this financial obligation requires all parties (university employers, employees, employee organizations, and the State of Illinois) to participate together in crafting a fair and equitable solution.”

Download the Illinois Public University Chancellors and Presidents’ letter.

Remembrance Day 11-11-11

GSU will mark Veterans Day on Friday, November 11 with a program beginning at 12:15 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. The program includes remarks by President Maimon and guest speaker, CSM Howard Robinson of the Illinois National Guard. Sgt. Major Robinson is the Senior Enlisted Person in the Illinois National Guard and also a GSU student.

The program also includes a moment of silence, military honor guard, rifle salute, and bugle presentation.

In addition to the lunchtime program, volunteers will read the names of the 6,200 plus American service men and women who died in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past decade. The Remembrance Day National Roll
Call begins at 8 a.m. and continues, with a break for the mid-day program, until all the names are read aloud. The reading of the names will also take place in the Hall of Governors.

People interested in volunteering to read names should contact Keith White at ext. 2223.

**Support the Adult Learner**

In celebration of Non-Traditional Students Week, CAS is hosting a panel discussion on how community colleges and universities can support the adult learner. The discussion takes place on Wednesday, November 9, at 3 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. It is free and open to the public.

Panel members will include representatives from regional community colleges and the discussion will be moderated by Dr. James Howley, Chair, Division of Liberal Arts. Refreshments will be served.

For a complete list of Non-Traditional Students Week activities, see the Events column in the GSU View.

**Eid Celebration and Explanation**

The GSU Muslim Student Association (MSA) is hosting an Eid celebration and awareness event today, at 6 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex, and Tuesday, November 8, at 3 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Everyone is invited to learn more about the holiday and the Muslim faith as well as enjoy Middle Eastern appetizers and refreshments.

**Authentic Tamales at GSU**

The Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) is selling authentic Mexican homemade tamales on Wednesday, November 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. or while supplies last, in the Hall of Governors.

Tamales are available with pork, chicken, or cheese. They are for sale at $12 a dozen, a la carte, or in a $5 lunch plate. The lunch plate includes two tamales, rice, salsa, and a beverage.

Proceeds of the sale support ALAS members’ United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference registration. To pre-order, contact Dan Paz.

Proceeds to support ALAS members’ USHLI Conference registration.
**Powerful Show - FLOW**

Powerful narratives, dynamic rhythm and rhymes, and live beats will electrify the audience when *Flow*, by Will Power, comes to the Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, November 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets range in price from $15 to $39, with special $15 tickets for students (of any educational institution). Tickets are available by calling 708.235.2222 or online.

*Flow*, a production of eta Creative Arts, is the first in the Center for Performing Arts’ “One More Night” series, which is bringing the best in Chicago theater to GSU for one final performance. “One More Night” is made possible by a generous grant from the Chicago Community Trust.

**Flow Director at Wednesday Conversation**

Sonita L. Surratt, director of *Flow*, cast members and GSU English Professor Rashidah Muhammad will discuss the powerful narrative that runs through *Flow* and the meaning behind the play on Wednesday, November 9, at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The distinguished lecture is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. For more information, contact Sheree Sanderson.

**Family Show at the CPA**

Find out if a moose will really eat a muffin in this wonderful production of *If you Give a Moose a Muffin*, by The Magik Theatre. The curtain rises on Sunday, November 13, at 1 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts.

In this hilarious sequel to the 2009 runaway hit *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, the young host is again run ragged by a surprise visitor. If a big, hungry moose comes to visit, you might give him a muffin to make him feel at home. If you give him a muffin, he’ll want some jam to go with it.

Tickets are from $10.50 to $15.50. Birthday party packages are also available. Tickets may be purchased at 708.235.2222 or by visiting the CPA box office.

For more information about this and other Center shows, visit the Center's website.

**Scholarship and Teaching Center Kickoff Luncheon**

The newly formed Faculty Scholarship and Teaching Center is sponsoring a kickoff luncheon to herald the opening of the Center. The luncheon
takes place Thursday, November 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in E Lounge.

All faculties – Unit A, Unit B, and adjuncts – are invited to come together and meet the Center coordinators, Professors Raven James (CHHS) and Tony Labriola (DLMD), as well as members of the Faculty Development Advisory Council. The council will also present the results of its recent faculty needs survey.

The Center is interested in finding out how best to encourage and assist faculty. During the luncheon, the coordinators and council invite suggestions to brainstorm first steps and long-range goals in supporting faculty in all areas of teaching, scholarship and service.

Come and participate in a faculty driven process to sustain and strengthen collegiality at GSU.

**Storytelling Festival Returns to Governors State**

Tellebration! returns to GSU on Saturday, November 19 as three master storytellers will delight and captivate their audience as part of a worldwide celebration of the spoken word. The free event takes place at 7 p.m., in E Lounge.

Tellebration! was introduced to Chicago Southland audiences for the first time in 2010. The event originated 19 years ago as a means of building grassroots community support for the age-old art of storytelling. GSU is now one of 400 official sites around the world hosting storytelling events on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

“We are excited about this year’s lineup of storytellers and hope to exceed last year’s successful presentation,” said Lynne Clayton, producer of the event.

Storytellers at this year’s Tellebration!:
- Zane Chait is a member of both the National Storytelling Network and the Illinois Storytelling Inc. He has been sharing traditional tales and personal stories for many years.
- Dan Hechenberger, an assistant professor of social studies education at GSU, is a former interpretative ranger at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis and founder of Nipwaantiikaani, an educational non-profit organization that researches Midwest Native American history.
- Clayton, of GSU’s College of Education, began storytelling several years ago and has been a frequent teller at schools, daycare centers, nature centers, retirement homes, and senior centers throughout the region and
Donations will be accepted at Tellebration!, with all proceeds going to the South Suburban Humane Society and Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue. Tellebration! is made possible by the GSU Spirit Committee. Information is available by contacting Lynne Clayton at ext. 3075.

**GSU’s 2011 Lincoln Laureate**

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

This year’s Lincoln Laureate from GSU is Darwin Gordon of Chicago. Gordon exemplifies the characteristics of Lincoln Laureates, who are chosen for their commitment to the principles of democracy and humanity as embodied by Abraham Lincoln. Gordon was also honored for his outstanding academic achievement and his extensive and committed service to those in need.

On November 5, Gordon and the other student laureates from around the state participated in a ceremony recognizing their achievement at the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

Gordon’s commitment to helping others is demonstrated in his community service. He is active in assisting those who cannot leave their homes due to illness, people who are adjusting to life after incarceration, and those who are homeless. He is currently interning at the Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc. (MAGIC), an organization that advocates for youth programming and support.

“I want to give back to my community and to use my knowledge and experience to help others. I felt called to this field,” says Gordon.

Gordon returned to college after an 18-year hiatus. As a senior majoring in social work at GSU, Gordon has earned a 4.0 GPA and is in the University Honors Program. He is the president of the GSU Social Work Student Organization and participates in lobbying efforts to involve state government in issues related to social work and helping others.

“Darwin is an outstanding individual. He has set goals to further his education in preparation for impacting change in his community,” said Dr. Lori Glass, Assistant Professor of Social Work. “He is an exemplary student with outstanding leadership skills. He is an excellent model of good citizenship and leadership.”