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Office of Marketing and Communications

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GSU’s innovative Dual Degree Program took center stage at last week’s Higher Learning Commission (HLC) annual meeting.

President Maimon, along with Kankakee Community College President John Avendano and Prairie State College President Eric Radtke, made a presentation on the DDP at a Presidents and Trustees session during the HLC conference in Chicago.

“President Radtke, President Avendano, and I were most gratified by the positive responses of the more than a hundred presidents and trustees in the audience,” Maimon said. “Several attendees sought advice on replicating the Dual Degree Program on their campuses. At least one university president plans to visit us to learn more about this extraordinary university/community college partnership.”

HLC President Sylvia Manning complimented the three DDP partners for a fine presentation, and thanked Dr. Maimon for her efforts in introducing the program to senior higher education officials.

“The attendance alone, as you noted at the end of a long day, must have told you how interested people would be in what you had to tell,” Manning said. “It was an inspiring story.”

“Dr. Maimon’s understanding of the importance of associate degree completion by transfer students from community colleges is unique and commendable,” President Radtke said. “The DDP program is an excellent model that provides strong incentives for students to persist to completion.”
The Dual Degree Program was established to provide a seamless transfer between community college and university, and to bolster completion rates both at the community college and university levels. GSU and its eight community college partners are working together to ensure that students achieve their associate degree, then transfer to the university to complete their bachelor’s degree. The university provides financial incentives and advising to community college students in the DDP. More than 200 community college students are currently enrolled in the DDP.

The Higher Learning Commission is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the multi-state North Central region.

**NMSP on Chicago Tonight**

Tune into *Chicago Tonight* on WTTW-Channel 11 on Tuesday, April 10 for a story about GSU’s own Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. The WTTW crew was on campus last week, filming the park and an interview with park director Geoff Bates. *Chicago Tonight* is on at 7 p.m. and midnight.

Spring is a great time to visit the nationally-renowned sculpture park, which is free and open dawn to dusk 365 days a year.

**GSU’s Marketing Efforts Honored**

“Success by Degrees,” GSU’s new slogan, emerged victorious when awards were recently announced in the nation’s largest national educational advertising competition.

GSU was a four-time winner in the 27th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by the Higher Education Market Report. Three of the university’s four awards were related to “Success by Degrees” marketing initiatives.

GSU received:
• A Gold award in the Imprinted Materials category for its Success by Degrees t-shirt.
• A Silver award in the Television Advertising category for its Success by Degrees campaign.
• A Merit award in the Newsletter category for stories on Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.
• A Merit award in the Newspaper Advertising category for its Success by Degrees campaign.

The combined efforts of the Office of Marketing and Communication, the Graphics Department, and Digital Learning and Media Design helped GSU post such impressive results.

During this year’s Educational Advertising Awards competition, more than 2,900 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.

**Gender Matters 2012**

Gender Matters 2012 takes place at GSU on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14. Gender Matters is an academic conference highlighting research on gender, women, and sexuality across all disciplines and historical periods.

Richard T. Rodriguez, Associate Professor of English and Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois, will present the Gender Matters keynote address, *Gentrify My Love: On the Borders of Neighborly Desires*, Friday, at 1:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. It is free and open to the public.

For more information on Gender Matters, go to the [conference website](#).

**Stop Kiss on Three Nights This Week**
Stop Kiss, by Diana Son, will be presented as an all-student production on April 11, 12, and 13. The one-act play will be presented at 8 p.m., on Wednesday and Thursday; and 7 p.m., on Friday. All performances are taking place free of charge in Engbretson Hall.

Stop Kiss cast members include Shawnta Young, Niki Kimmel, Joe Butler, Chris Zurales, Dabney Buchanan, Adriene Farmer, and Carla S. Roberson. Other production personnel include filming by Matt Sass and White; film editing by Sass; and publicity and house management by Keyana Marshall.

Stop Kiss contains adult themes and explicit language.

Stop Kiss is made possible by an Intellectual Life Committee Grant and the support of Dr. Jason Zingsheim, faculty advisor.

China Consulate Delegation Visits GSU

A delegation of the China Consulate, led by Ms. Weijia Chen, Counselor of the Education Section of China Consulate General at Chicago, recently visited campus to meet with university administrators. Discussions focused on GSU’s international student exchange programs and Chinese language and culture education.

The delegation also met the GSU table tennis team and toured the Family Development Center.

Labriola Directs Rabbit Hole

Tony Labriola, professor in Digital Learning, is directing the upcoming production of Rabbit Hole at the Drama Group in Chicago Heights. Performances are on April 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21, at 7:30 p.m., and April 15 and 22, at 2 p.m.

Rabbit Hole won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in
2007 and was nominated for five Tony Awards. Nominated for an Oscar last year, the play chronicles the journey of a close-knit family reinventing itself in the wake of tragedy.

In June, the Drama Group will perform the play in Hastings, England at the Stables Theatre as part of a cultural exchange program initiated in 1999 by Labriola and members of both theatres. Each theatre produces a show representative of their country and performs it in both countries.

“The project has been wildly successful, culturally enriching, personally rewarding, and just plain exciting,” commented Labriola. “British audiences are very receptive to our dramas and I think they’ll really love Rabbit Hole.”

The Drama Group Studio Theatre is located at 330 W. 202nd St., Chicago Heights. For more information, visit the Drama Group website.

**Adventure Club at FDC**

The Adventure Club is summer camp with a difference at the Family Development Center. Children ages 6 to 12 will enjoy nine weeks of fun and learning. Recreation activities include swimming, basketball, table tennis, foosball, air hockey, and lots of outdoor play. Fine arts activities involve art enrichment, creativity, field trips, and drama. Academic activities include economic education though business games and computer instruction and activities.

Adventure Club takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with before and after club childcare services available. The cost is only $175 per week. Adventure Club is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Eligible grant participants receive discounts based on income. Pell grant, TANF, SSI, and low income families receive camp free of charge. Childcare fees apply.

For more information, visit [www.govst.edu/children](http://www.govst.edu/children) or call 708.235.7300.

**Humanities and Social Science Division Chair**
Presentations

The university community is invited to attend the public presentations of the candidates for Humanities and Social Science Division Chair.

Dr. Weixing (Mark) Chen will present The Future of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences: Opportunities and Challenges on April 12, from 2 to 3:14 p.m., in D-2441. View Dr. Chen’s resume.

Dr. Jerome Blakemore will present The role of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences: Challenges, Opportunities, Barriers, and Vision, April 16, from 2 to 3:14 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. View Dr. Blakemore’s resume.

Dr. Andrae Marak will present on April 17, from 2 to 3:14 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. View Dr. Marak’s resume.

Home Inspection Course Deadline Nears

GSU is offering a home inspector certification course on May 11, 12, and 13, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The course provides the tools needed to successfully start a home inspection business and is open to those seeking both a part and full-time career opportunities. Studies show that full-time certified home inspectors earn approximately $50,000 per year.

GSU’s Office of Continuing Education has partnered with the American Home Inspection Training Institute (AHIT), the industry leader, to offer a comprehensive home inspection course. Students will accompany the instructor to five local homes to conduct actual hands-on inspections. The course includes training on structure, interiors, exteriors, plumbing, electrical, roofs, heating and cooling, and report writing. Students will also receive expert guidance in how to develop and market a business.

The course fee is $1,795, which includes all materials. Registration must be completed by April 13 and is available by calling 877.838.0959. Additional information is available at www.ahit.com/affiliates/govst or by calling 708.534.4099.
A Class Gift for the Future

Members of the graduating class of 2012 can leave a legacy of their achievement and success at GSU and honor the people who helped them to achieve.

2012 graduates can donate $20.12 to the class gift, which will help support the GSU Promise. Graduates may honor someone special who contributed to their success by making an additional $20 gift per honoree. All graduate contributors and honorees will be included in a special tribute at Commencement.

To help graduates save the amount, free piggy banks are available in the Development Office, room D34200.

Banks filled with the $20.12 contribution should be returned to the Development Office by April 26. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For more information, call 708.235.2188.

Outdoor Classroom

GSU is offering weeklong environmental education opportunities, for credit and non-credit, this summer in cooperation with Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont.

Students in Terrestrial Biology will develop an understanding of the regional environments and learn teaching application through the use of terraria and aquaria. The course is from June 26 through 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants in Biological Field Science will compare similar habitats, study variation in plant communities, and investigate the effects of pollution through field methods of environmental investigation. The course is from July 3 through 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The third course is Forest Investigations, which includes in depth examination of local forest communities using field methods of analysis. The course is from July 23 through 27, from 8 a.m. to 4
p.m.

For more information, contact Nancy Kaczmarczyk at 708.235.5983.