News and Events

Convocation 2012 on Tuesday

Don’t miss Convocation 2012, tomorrow, August 14, at 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

President Maimon will deliver the State of the University and also announce winners of the 2012 Baysore Award and Excellence Awards.

Convocation is open to all members of the GSU community – students, faculty, and staff.

Student Artwork on Display

With the start of a new semester, the walls of the president’s conference room and waiting area outside of Dr. Maimon’s office are showcasing a new collection of GSU student artwork.

This temporary exhibit provides students with the opportunity to exhibit their work and gives visitors to the university and GSU faculty and staff a chance to appreciate their creations.

The students whose work is on display include Richard Cammarata, Tim Evett, Karen Jania, Daniel Paz, and Candace Schutt.

The students recently joined Dr. Maimon and Provost Allison for a celebratory lunch. Also attending the lunch were Dr. Reinhold Hill, Dean of CAS; Lori Montalbano, Chair of Communications, Visual and Performing Arts; Dr. Mort Maimon, and faculty members Jeff Stevenson and Jerry Slowik.

Picnic Fun

The threat of rain, overcast skies, and the occasional gust of wind did not dampen the spirit or blow away the good times at Friday’s Faculty/Staff Picnic. The event went off without a hitch with singing, dancing, games, good food, and lots of laughter.

Eri Villagomez and Kevin Barto from FDM recaptured the beanbag contest championship that they surrendered last year. Erin Tobias from the Family Development Center won the hula hoop contest and there were many raffle prize winners.

The picnic was sponsored by the Civil Service Senate, the Provost’s Office, and the...
GSU Spirit Committee. Thanks to all the many volunteers who helped make the picnic a success.

**Pierre Heads South of the Equator**

Pierre the Penguin took a South American sojourn when he traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil with Joseph Lenard, a university MBA student and food service director of the GSU Café.

In Brazil, Pierre enjoyed a week at the beach building sandcastles. He also traveled into the interior countryside and visited a rural pine tree farming community.

Send your pictures of Pierre’s summer travels to GSU View and you will be eligible for fabulous prizes in our Take Pierre on Vacation photo contest. For information on picking up your own GSU penguin for travels near and far, and how to enter the contest, visit Pierre’s webpage.

**Welcome New Students! Orientation Starts Thursday**

On August 16 and August 18 GSU will host its first Student Orientation. We hope this becomes a model program for introducing students to the university. This is a mandatory program. The purpose of orientation is to introduce students to GSU resources, services, and programs.

Undergraduate Orientation is Thursday, August 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Graduate Orientation is Saturday, August 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Both sessions will be held on-campus at the Center for Performing Arts.

If you have not yet registered, click here to register at the GSU website. Orientation features a welcome by President Maimon, an overview of services available to students, ITS overview, and breakout sessions in respective colleges. Information tables for more than a dozen university units will be set up to give further information on services available to students.

For more information on Orientation, contact Sheree Sanderson at ext. 4552.

**Ready, Set, Go for Fall 2012**

The Fall 2012 semester is just around the corner. Classes begin on August 20. Welcome Days or August 20 and 21, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. The Illinois Secretary of State’s Mobile Services Unit will be on campus on August 21, from 1 to 7 p.m.; providing services such as driver’s license renewal and vehicle title and registration.

Registration for courses is open until August 25 and there are many great courses available for students.

One of those courses, Coms 5090-04: Writing as Performance is new this semester and will be taught by new GSU faculty member Dr. Patrick Santoro. This three-hour class meets on Thursdays, from 7:30 to 10:20 p.m.,
and offers students the opportunity to gain an understanding of how the process of writing can be understood through and enhanced by the study of performance. Classes will function as interactive workshops, requiring students to participate in both discussion and performance. For more information about this class, contact Dr. Santoro.

To register for classes go to myGSU or the Registration website.

**Get Direct Deposit Reimbursements**

Reimbursements for travel or other approved university functions by faculty and staff can now be deposited directly into designated bank accounts. Such reimbursements are separate from payroll direct deposits.

In order to take advantage of this easy and fast process, it is important that you provide your banking information. The university will be using this information to direct deposit any reimbursements to which you are entitled, and for no other purpose. This process must be followed even if you already allow direct deposit for payroll.

To provide or update bank information:
1. Log into the myGSU portal at [http://mygovst.govst.edu](http://mygovst.govst.edu)
2. Click on Online Services and select Financial Information
3. Click on Bank Information (U.S.)
4. Enter your banking information, including account and routing numbers
5. Read and select I Agree to the Terms and Conditions
6. Click on the Submit button
7. You will receive an email confirmation that your submission was recorded

For questions on your myGSU user name and password, contact the GSU Help Desk at 708.534.4357. For questions on updating your bank information, contact GSU Accounts Payable at 708.235.7353.

**Preparing for the New Semester**

The Center for Online Teaching and Learning is beginning a new semester of “Blackboard Course-ready Tips” to assist faculty in preparing their courses for the fall semester. New tips are being e-mailed prior to faculty prior to the start of class. To view the daily tips and past Blackboard Tips and Strategies click: “Preparing for the New Semester.”

If you have questions about your Blackboard course contact: jbensiger@govst.edu, nrosebourgh@govst.edu, or bmandel@govst.edu.

**Furry, But Not Lovable**

Facilities Development and Management has recently seen an uptick in reports of mice in campus buildings. It is imperative that faculty and staff refrain from storing food in their office areas. Since most campus areas are cleaned during the day shift, it helps to remove trash items from office lunches or snacks to public garbage containers, many of which are emptied during the evening.

FDM has also received a handful of snake reports; eliminating mice should also cut down on snakes. Call ext. 4515 when you believe there are rodents or reptiles in your work area so FDM can place traps or search for entry points.

In addition, there are a few locations on campus where personal plants have migrated from office areas into hallways and public lounge areas. FDM does not discourage keeping plants in offices but asks that you avoid the temptation to put them in public areas. Students, faculty, and staff may have allergies that can be
triggered by plants and soil. Potted plants can obstruct exit corridors and additional cleaning may be needed if they are accidentally tipped over.

## Save a Cup, and the Environment

FSI, which manages GSU’s cafeteria and provides other food services, offers discounts on beverages if you use your own mug or tumbler. There’s a good reason for the discounts.

Americans throw away about 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups every year, and 2.5 million plastic beverage bottles every hour. Most of these materials do not biodegrade. The Styrofoam disposed of today will be present in landfills 500 years from now.

If you buy just one cup of a beverage in a disposable cup a day, you’ll end up creating about 23 pounds of waste in one year.

Make a switch to reusable mugs and tumblers. Considering most reusable drink holders are designed to be reused 3,000 times, the positive eco-impact of a reusable tumbler can be enormous.

Also, with the start of a new school year, it’s a good time to scour your work space for any brown trays you may have removed from the cafeteria trays to the dining room. If you use a tray outside of the cafeteria, please return them to the university dining area immediately. GSU has no staff to pick up trays from hallway or offices throughout campus, so your assistance is essential.