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GSU View, 2012-11-15

Office of Marketing and Communications

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Affordability, retention, and college completion – all key components of GSU’s commitment to students – took the spotlight Tuesday during Lt. Governor Sheila Simon’s visit to the university.

During her two-and-a-half hour visit, Simon met with students, faculty, staff, and administrators. She called on federal, state, and higher education officials to work together to keep college affordable so thousands of Illinois students can earn the credentials needed for good-paying jobs.

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President Elaine P. Maimon thanked Simon for her efforts to make college education affordable and accessible in Illinois. Simon is considered Governor Pat Quinn’s point person on education reform.

“I admire Lt. Governor Simon’s commitment to making a college education affordable and accessible,” Dr. Maimon said. “Her visit to GSU gave us an opportunity to showcase what we are doing, specifically the Dual Degree Program and our plans for first-year students. The Lieutenant Governor is passionate about student success, and we are, too.”

Simon is visiting all 12 public universities in Illinois this fall to hold College Affordability Summits with students, faculty and administrators. Simon has outlined three ways stakeholders can work together to make college affordable – consumer protections, targeted assistance, and tax credits
for tuition payments.

According to a College Board trends report published last month, costs at public and private universities nationwide increased more than 4 percent this school year, while the cost of community college increased more than 5 percent since last school year. Compounding the burden, federal student aid declined for the first time in three years.

GSU officials pointed out that Governors State has the most affordable tuition of any public university in Illinois. The Dual Degree Program, a national model for college completion, offers a proven path to seamless, successful transfer from community college to university. GSU has long been a leader in working with non-traditional students to help them achieve their education goals.

Dr. Maimon said she supports Lt. Governor Simon’s initiatives to encourage more students to graduate with high quality degrees and cited the GSU Promise program as an example of working towards accomplishing that goal.

“We have established an endowment to support the GSU Promise, offering low-income students in the Dual Degree Program the opportunity to complete both the associate and bachelor’s degrees debt-free,” Dr. Maimon said.

**Be Timely with Timesheets**

Beginning this month, it is imperative that employee timesheets are submitted before the end of the month, and for all future pay periods, Gail Bradshaw, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity, announced this week.

During the past month, Human Resources and Payroll staffs have been working to input all the data in Colleague that is necessary for the automated leave plan feature to go live effective January, 2013.

This feature will allow faculty and staff to see a summary of earned accrued leave on pay advices and also allows GSU employees to review the details of their earned accrued leave by specific type, including vacation leave, non-compensable sick leave, compensable sick leave, cumulative and non-cumulative sick leave, and personal leave. This information will be recorded on the Leave Plan Summary page.

In order for this to happen, November timesheets for all employees must be completed and submitted to the Payroll Unit no later than November 30. Leave accrual reporting for employees whose timesheets are not submitted by November 30 will not have an accurate leave accrual record in January when the Leave Plans go live in Colleague.
**Holiday Reception – December 7**

President Elaine P. Maimon and the Governor State University Board of Trustees invite faculty and staff to a reception celebrating the joyous holiday season.

The reception takes place Friday, December 7, from noon to 2 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Please RSVP at 708.534.6364.

**‘Speaking in Tongues’ at CPA Saturday**

Governors State University Center for Performing Arts opens its groundbreaking 2012-2013 *One More Night* series with a significant theater event – playwright Shepsu Aakhu’s *Speaking in Tongues: The Chronicles of Babel*. The play is coming to GSU Center for one performance only, on Saturday, November 17, at 8 p.m.

*Speaking in Tongues*, presented by MPAACT Productions, is the powerful story of an extended family living in Chicago’s now-demolished Washington Park housing project. Aakhu based his play on many hours of oral history recollections that he gathered from family members.

Critics applauded the play when it was first performed at Chicago’s Greenhouse Theatre Center. “This is a brilliant play to which I give my highest recommendation,” wrote Chicago Theater Beat. “The details that Aakhu brings out in the family’s memories resonate with truths both humorous and poignant…the seven-member cast is excellent,” said the Chicago Tribune.

General admission tickets for *Speaking in Tongues: The Chronicles of Babel* are $30, but only $10 for GSU students and $20 for faculty and staff. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at www.centertickets.net or (708) 235-2222.

*Speaking in Tongues* is the first of four *One More Night* productions in GSU Center’s 2012-2013 season. *One More Night* is funded for a second year by a generous grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

**DDP Orientation Points Toward Success**

Thirty-five Dual Degree Program students last week learned how GSU is providing the tools for a seamless, successful transfer between community college and
university. The students are currently attending one of nine community college systems partnering with GSU in the nationally-recognized Dual Degree Program.

During the orientation session, students met with advisors and faculty members, received information on financial aid and the GSU Promise, and got advice on choosing the right courses prior to transfer. They toured the campus and posed for a group photo on a fine fall day.

**Gobble Gobble Today**

Celebrate the holiday early with a complete Thanksgiving meal today at the GSU Café. Enjoy turkey breast and stuffing, mashed potatoes, and all the fixings for lunch or dinner.

FSI would like to wish everyone a well-deserved Thanksgiving break. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Thank You from the Friends**

During this season of Thanksgiving, the Friends of the GSU Library would like to thank all who helped make the Fall Book Sale a big success. More than 75 percent of the books were sold. The proceeds will support the work of the Friends of the GSU Library.

“We very much appreciate the support of the GSU community,” said Ann Marie Manning-Nagel, President of the Friends of the GSU Library. “The Friends are planning to host a variety of events on campus in the coming year including an author lecture, panel discussion, and the Spring Book Sale.”

The Friends of the GSU Library is always seeking new members. Visit the [Friends of the GSU Library](#) website.

**Research in Four Minutes or Less – November 16**

The Rapid Fire Research event is back for another year of clever, quick, visual “snapshots” of new and interesting faculty research at GSU. During this event, professors present their research – both completed and in progress – in four-minute, timed presentations.

All faculty are invited to attend and hear from colleagues about their research. Rapid Fire Research will be held on Friday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in E-Lounge. Lunch will be served.

**Veterans Club Hosts Skating Party – November 17**
Before you enjoy all that turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie, have fun roller skating with the GSU Veterans Club. The social event and fund raiser will be held on November 17, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Tinley Park Roller Rink, 17658 Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park. Admission is only $10 and proceeds will be used to support programs assisting members of the armed forces.

For more information, contact Eric Williams at 708.439.1999.

**A Cake and a Pie, Oh My – November 20**

Get your baking done for Thanksgiving at the Civil Service Senate Pat-a-Cake Pie and Cake Silent Auction on November 20, in the Hall of Governors. Bidding for the delicious creations begins at 11 a.m. and ends promptly at 1:30 p.m. All pies and cakes must be paid for and picked up by 2 p.m. Proceeds support the Educational Assistance Fund at GSU.

Donations and volunteers are also needed. Contact Andrea Dalpolo at ext. 4582.

**Put Your Talent to Good Use**

Can you sing, dance, or juggle? If so, the Civil Service Senate wants you.

The Senate will host the GSU Community Revue and Variety Show 2012 at Civil Service Day festivities on Wednesday, December 5. The event starts at 10 a.m., with the Revue starting at 10:45 a.m. The performances should not exceed five minutes. However, longer performances may be allowed if time permits.

GSU faculty, staff, and students can participate in the show.

Please contact Lynne Clayton at 708.534.3075 by November 21, to reserve your spot in the show.

**Performance Spotlight – November 29**

Students in Writing as Performance, one of the courses in the new Theater and Performance Studies program at GSU, will perform their works at Performance Spotlight, on November 29, at 8 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

**Don’t Toss – Recycle!**

Empty glass bottles can now be recycled at GSU. Those glass empties can now join the paper, cardboard, and empty aluminum and steel cans in the blue recycling containers located around campus.
In addition to the blue containers, battery collection tubes are also busy collecting all dead batteries. They are located in the ITS Building, the FDC, A wing first floor game area, C wing adjacent to the west exit and Human Resources offices, G building, vending machine area, and first floor F wing by the offices. Used batteries may also be dropped off at the FDM office, B1230.

Currently, no light bulbs or ballasts are recycled.

Now is the time to get into the practice of recycling in preparation for the annual RecycleMania contest which will begin in February.

**Health Professions Career and Internship Fair at GSU – November 28**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring the 2012 Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair on Wednesday, November 28, from 2 to 5 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts lobby on the GSU campus.

Prospective employers in the fields of physical and occupational therapy, nursing, social work, and non-profit social services will meet with job and internship candidates.

The career fair is open to current students, GSU alumni, and members of the community seeking employment in these fields. There is no charge for job seekers. Participants are advised to dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes.

Representatives from both public and private institutions, organizations, and businesses interested in meeting job candidates are also welcome.

For more information, call 708.235.3974 or email career@govst.edu.