News and Events

Holiday Wishes 2012 (12-20-12)

GSU View extends best wishes to the university community for a peaceful, joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

GSU will be closed for winter break beginning Saturday, December 22. The university will reopen for all regular business, including the GSU Library and the Recreation and Fitness Center, on Wednesday, January 2. The spring semester begins January 22. For more information, visit www.govst.edu.

Keeping Our Campus Safe

James McGee, interim chief of GSU’s Department of Public Safety, this week issued a letter following the December shooting deaths in Newtown, Connecticut. The letter outlines steps that DPS has taken to prepare for emergencies.

You can read Chief McGee’s letter.

State Leaders Discuss Degree Completion

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon joined other Illinois education and government leaders at a December 14 meeting focusing on implementation strategies for increasing college completion and student success. The meeting was hosted by Complete College America and included teams from 33 states and the District of Columbia.

Under the theme of Building Guided Pathways to Success for States and Students, participants heard presentations on directing student choice and reducing time to graduation; new structures at community colleges, including changes to remediation; and the use of metrics, dashboards, and value-added funding for data driven changes.

GSU has moved to the forefront of degree completion efforts with the university’s innovative Dual Degree Program, which uses financial incentives and advising at the community college level to ensure a seamless transfer and achievement of both associate and bachelor’s degrees. The DDP is already recognized as a model for successful degree completion.
Team Illinois members met with Mike Baumgartner, vice president for finance and special projects at CCA (shown at right hand corner). Team members (from left to right) are Rep. Bob Pritchard, minority spokesperson, House Higher Education Committee; Cheryl Hyman, chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago and CCA Board member; Elaine Johnson, vice-president for academic affairs and workforce development, Illinois Community College Board; President Maimon; Harry Berman, interim executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Peg Lee, president, Oakton Community College; Eric Zarnikow, executive director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Lynne Haeffle, senior education policy director, Lt. Governor's Office; and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, chairwoman, House Higher Education Committee.

Illinois joined CCA’s inaugural alliance states in 2009. Illinois continues to pursue plans at the state and campus levels to meet the goal of 60 percent of all state residents holding a postsecondary degree or credential of marketable value by 2025.

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**Science Renovation Continues Over Break**

The renovation of GSU’s science facilities will continue over the university’s winter break. Several construction projects in F-wing are scheduled, including:

- Connecting the hot water heating system
- Connecting the cold water/chiller system
- Connecting the domestic water
- Connecting the emergency power panels

Welding will take place in the basement of the biology offices and associated fumes and odors can be expected. No lab experiments or student activities should be planned during this time.

Dates for construction in occupied F-wing are December 26, 27, 28, and 31.

In other news the Phase 1 construction project has a May 1 delivery date. The CAS Science Division has set a goal to move all labs into the new space by May 20, the beginning of summer term. Thanks to science faculty, staff, and student workers who participated in a recent inventory project, the Science Division has identified equipment that will be moved into the new space, and items that will be turned into scrap and surplus.

Anyone who is planning to spend any extended time inside of F-wing during the construction days should contact Karen D’Arcy or Steve Shih.

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**Advancing Diversity and Social Justice at GSU**

The Offices of Student Life and International Students are accepting applications for the Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice. The coalition’s mission is to encourage an accepting environment where students can embark upon a journey of education and empowerment by discovering similarities, differences, and challenges.
Representatives will challenge stereotypes, biases, and prejudices through advocacy, education, and building community awareness. Applicants must be committed to diversity and social justice issues and willing to commit to a one-year term. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Applications are available at http://www.govst.edu/diversity. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on February 1.

For additional information, contact Vanessa Newby, Director of Student Life at 708.534.4551.

2012 Electronic W-2 Forms Available (12-17-12)

You can streamline your personal tax process by signing up for an electronic W-2 form. Financial Services is offering GSU employees the option to update their employee profile through GSU's online portal to consent to receiving an electronic W-2. Signing up for the service allows all employees to access, view, and print their W-2 forms.

Your W-2 will be available for viewing and printing on or before January 31, 2013. All GSU employees will receive an electronic communication when the W-2s have been updated in Datatel Colleague.

Sign up today for an electronic W-2 by following the steps in this memo.

Get Ready for Winter Break

GSU will be closed for winter break beginning Saturday, December 22. The university will reopen for all regular business, including the GSU Library and the Recreation and Fitness Center, on January 2, 2013. The spring semester begins January 22. For more information, visit www.govst.edu.

FDM Looks for New Ways to ‘Beet’ Snow, Ice

As the official start of winter approaches, GSU is looking ahead to keeping university roadways clear of snow and ice. This year, Facilities Development and Management (FDM) is turning to newer types of de-icing agents that are friendlier to the environment, and especially water quality.

Newer types of organic de-icers are carbohydrate byproducts of sugar beet production. Beet juice is used to treat rock salt. It reduces the bonding of snow and ice to pavement and enhances the melting capabilities of other de-icers in various methods. As a result, FDM can reduce the overall use of de-icing products, including rock salt.

Organic de-icers are safe to use and do not harm people, plants, or pets. They are water soluble and will not permanently stain clothing, carpets, or flooring. They reduce corrosion to cars and other equipment and are safer for concrete and other pavements compared to other typical de-icers.

For further information, contact FDM at 708.534.4515.
Benefit Information Posted on Portal

Gail M. Bradshaw, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity, last week announced that GSU staff members can access their leave plan and benefit accrual balances on the employee profile section of the GSU portal.

The new information has been posted on the portal thanks to the cooperation of employees in submitting their November timesheets prior to the end of the month, Bradshaw said.

“A summary of your sick and vacation accruals will be on your Pay Advice and you will be able to view all of your accrual information on your Benefit Plan Summary screen,” she said. “Please note that you may see some information on your leave balances in December. Please ignore them since our task of inputting all of the information is not yet complete and all of the information has not been verified.”

Employees need to submit their signed December timesheets by Friday, December 21.

GSU Café Hours for This Week

GSU Café will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through December 19.

On December 17, 18, and 19, GSU will feature a fixed menu with three-course meal for $5 plus tax (drink not included). Meals will include choice of soup or salad, entrée of the day, and dessert of the day.

Entrées on those days are:
- December 17: Roast Turkey
- December 18: Roast Pork Loin
- December 19: Roast Beef

The Knowledge Exchange – Registration

“Never stop learning” could be the mantra of students in The Knowledge Exchange, sponsored by the School of Extended Learning. Classes are offered for adults on a wide range of topics. Registration for winter classes begins on December 17. Classes begin on January 18 and are held Fridays, from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 3 p.m.

Course offerings include history classes focusing on the ancient empires and the wives of Henry VIII, cinema studies of stage plays turned into movies, investigations into Great Decisions of recent international affairs, and life in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Knowledge Exchange is a continuation of The Adult Learning Exchange (T.A.L.E.) with the same focus – to continue to offer unique and diverse non-credited courses at a reasonable price ($73 per class, $28 for an additional class). Classes are designed for participants aged 55 years and over and provide a relaxed and friendly environment, open to shared learning, and the free exchange of opinions and ideas.

Classes are peer-led by a community of dedicated volunteers including
GSU faculty and many former Exchange students.

To request more information or to register, contact Suzanne Patterson at 708.534.4393.

**Planning Under Way for Black, Women’s History Months**

Plans are in the works to commemorate Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March with a series of programs and events sponsored by Student Life. The theme of Black History Month is Cross Roads of Freedom. Women and Innovation, Paving the Road is the theme for Women’s History Month.

Faculty are invited to contribute by hosting an “open class.” Open classes provide faculty with the opportunity to invite the wider GSU community to attend one of their own scheduled class meetings to participate in a relevant educational opportunity. In February, a topic relevant to the African American experience and contributions and, in March, topics related to Women’s contributions would be appropriate.

Please consider contributing to the dialogue and programming honoring Black History Month and Women’s History Month.

To submit one or more open classes for the GSU calendar of events, please complete the simple online form by January 10. The online form is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gsuopenclass.

For more information, contact Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.

**Winter Break 2012 (12-13-12)**

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**AY12-13 Catalog Addendum**

The AY12-13 Catalog Addendum is posted on the GSU Website. The addendum includes approved substantive changes and approved additional information that are in effect before the beginning of the 2013-2014 Academic Year.

The Provost's Office continues to input the course requisite information into the Colleague system. After all requisite information is entered, the course information, including course requisites, will be downloaded. The revised course section of the catalog will then be posted.

**Honoring Black and Women’s History Events**

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**GSU Board of Trustees Meeting – December 7 (12-10-12)**

Governors State University’s Board of Trustees Friday accepted financial and compliance audits for the 2011 fiscal year. At their final 2012 meeting, trustees heard reports on the audits from Dr. Gebeeyehu Ejigu, Executive Vice President, and Karen Kissel, Vice President for Administration and Finance.

The fiscal audit, from the accounting firm of E.C. Ortiz & Co., indicates that GSU is in “very good financial condition,” Dr. Ejigu said. The audit showed university net assets increased by 12 percent from the
previous year. The increase in equity is “a very good indicator of the health of the university,” he said. Dr. Ejigu said the boost in assets can be credited to increases in tuition, fees, grants, and contracts.

Trustee Pat Ormsby said he was “very impressed” by the financial report. The audit shows that GSU’s financial condition is extremely strong, he said.

During his report, Board Chair Jack Beaupre praised the university’s administration for taking steps to strengthen GSU’s fiscal condition. As a result, “we are probably in better financial condition than any other university in Illinois,” he said.

In her report, Kissel addressed findings from the FY 2011 compliance audit, which prompted improvements in 12 areas of university operations. Steps have been implemented in 10 of those areas, involving governmental auditing standards, federal compliance, and state compliance. Two areas are still under study. One involves faculty time sheets and the other deals with membership and vacancies on the Board of Trustees, which has been an area of concern for some time now.

Kissel said the federal compliance issues are related to grant programs. In recent years, she said, GSU has made great strides in securing federal grants and the university has made a significant investment in its grant structure. Compliance questions are being addressed with improvements to the university’s grant management infrastructure, she said.

President Elaine P. Maimon, in her report, announced what is likely to be the name for GSU’s first on-campus housing, scheduled to open in Fall, 2014. The name, “Prairie Place,” reflects GSU’s location “where the prairie meets the city,” she said.

Dr. Maimon recapped “an exciting semester” that included:

- The November 1 appearance of “Chicago Live” at the Center for Performing Arts. Dr. Maimon said she is hopeful that the live stage show, produced by the Chicago Tribune, becomes an annual event.
- “8,” the play, presented by the Southland Area Theatre Ensemble on October 25 and 26. It was the first time the play was presented in Illinois.
- The November 7 appearance by Nikki Giovanni, internationally renowned poet, author, and humanitarian.
- The November 26 Chicago Tribune story focusing on planning for GSU’s first freshman students in 2014, and the university’s exemplary partnership with area community colleges. The article prompted a follow-up story on WBEZ radio.

Dr. Maimon said considerable progress is being made in the design of GSU’s first year program. On October 19, first year specialists John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot appeared at a symposium addressing how to best construct a first year program. Gardner subsequently praised GSU’s efforts in a posting on his blog. The workshop was the second symposium that is laying the groundwork for GSU’s freshmen program. A third symposium is planned for next March.
Last month, Dr. Maimon established the Lower Division Steering Committee, which will create a time-line with critical implementation deadlines for the first year program, and make sure that the university is on track to accomplish all that is needed. Dr. Reinhold Hill, CAS Dean, will chair the eight-member committee, which had its first meeting December 6.

In other business, the Board:

- Awarded rank and tenure to Dr. Lori Montalbano, Division Chair of the Division of Communication, Visual, and Performing Arts, in CAS. She assumed her position at GSU in July. Dr. Montalbano was awarded tenure as a full professor of communications studies.
- Approved a request for a new unit of instruction, the Bachelor of Arts in Economics. The BA in Economics is being proposed in conjunction with a BS in Economics, via a separate proposal. Both economics degrees were proposed by the GSU Interdisciplinary Academic Master Planning Committee as a move to strengthen the university’s baccalaureate degree options. Provost Terry Allison said the BA in Economics will require students to take more courses in math and business; as proposed, students would have to take 27 hours of business courses. The new degree program must be approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
- Authorized the amending of an existing contract with the law firm of Franczek Radelet. The firm is providing services to the university in a continuing legal matter.

Beaupre recognized Dr. Ejigu as an “ambassador” for GSU during his recent six-week assignment to South China Normal University. During Dr. Ejigu’s assignment to China as a Fulbright Specialist, he presented lectures and workshops designed to cover the structure, governance, financing, organization, and management of the United States educational system at all levels.

### Civil Service Shines (12-06-12)

The Civil Service at GSU really knows how to celebrate, and the Civil Service Day Show, produced by Lynne Clayton of COE, showcased performances by some of GSU’s most talented faculty, staff, and students. The well-attended Civil Service Day Show included comments by Laura Owens, president of the Civil Service Senate; Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, president of GSU; and Jack Beaupre, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Shirley Zhang, of Financial Services, was awarded the Leroy Morrison Award for her continued support of the Civil Service Senate and her delicious egg rolls. Brenda Moore, of Financial Aid, was named Employee of the Year.

The show included performances by Beth Hawkins, of CHHS; James “Chip” Coldren, of CAS; GSU student Eddie Rogers; Phil Orsci, of FDM; Keith Briggs, of FDM; and Ayita Woods, of HR. GSU Acappella also performed. Acappella
members include Keith Briggs, Lynne Clayton; Vanyette Exton of CHHS; Sheryl Jones-Harper of Financial Services; student Samantha Steele; and Deirdre Webb, of the Registrar’s Office.

The Civil Service luncheon followed the show.

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<th><strong>Board of Trustees Meeting – December 7</strong></th>
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<td>For further information, contact Joan Johns Maloney at 708.534.4131.</td>
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<td>The reception takes place Friday, December 7, from noon to 2 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Please RSVP to Penny Perdue at 708.534.6364.</td>
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<th><strong>Alumni Association Establishes New Scholarship</strong></th>
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<td>The GSU Alumni Association has created a new scholarship to provide scholarships for high achieving, incoming freshman students. The Association is currently raising funds to endow the scholarship.</td>
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<td>For a limited time only, the Alumni Association is offering a hand-made hat for only $10. The entire purchase price will go toward the endowment. See Cheri Garey in D34070 to order your hat(s) today.</td>
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<th><strong>University Winter Closing Dates</strong></th>
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<td>Governors State University will be closed from December 26 through December 28, 2012. Employees are expected to use vacation or compensatory benefit leave time on those days. If an employee wants to use sick time on any of those days, the employee must bring in documentation from a health professional of their illness on those dates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>So that time sheets are submitted timely, please have all employees submit their completed time sheets on or prior to December 21, 2012. The names of any employees who will be on campus working on any of those days should be submitted to the Department of Public Safety. Employees working in the main building must sign in and out with DPS. Employees working in any of the outer buildings must call DPS when they arrive and leave each day worked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please share the above instructions with the employees in your departments/college and contact Human Resources with any questions.</td>
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**Holiday Tradition Continues with Magical Nutcracker**

Waltzing flowers, giant mice, and the Sugar Plum Fairy are coming to GSU Center for Performing Arts as *The Nutcracker*, performed by Salt Creek Ballet, returns for two shows on Saturday, December 8, at 1 and 5 p.m.

Salt Creek Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* has been a holiday tradition at GSU Center since 1998. The whimsical tale of young Clara and her magical journey, all set to Tchaikovsky’s enchanting score, is a wonderful production for the entire family. Featured dancers for *The Nutcracker* at GSU Center are Maria Mosina and Alexei Tyukov, both of the Colorado Ballet.

A free holiday party will take place between the two performances, from approximately 3 to 5 p.m. All audience members are welcome to attend. Santa will make an appearance – bring your own camera – and various costumed performers from the show will attend and mingle with audience members. Holiday treats and beverages will be available for purchase.

Tickets for *The Nutcracker* are $15 to $50. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at [www.centertickets.net](http://www.centertickets.net) or 708.235.2222.

**December Hours at GSU Café**

Through December 19, GSU Café will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

On Friday, December 7, it will close at 11 a.m. due to the GSU Holiday Celebration in the Hall of Governors.

GSU Café will be closed for maintenance on Friday, December 15.

On December 17, 18, and 19, GSU will feature a fixed menu with three-course meal for $5 plus tax (drink not included). Meals will include choice of soup or salad, entrée of the day, and dessert of the day.

Entrées on those days are:
- December 17: Roast Turkey
- December 18: Roast Pork Loin
- December 19: Roast Beef

Check out GSU Café’s daily [hot entrée menu](http://www.centertickets.net).

**Colleague Users Group December Meeting**

The next meeting of the Colleague Users Group (CUG) is Wednesday, December 12, at 2 p.m., in D34115.

CUG provides a monthly forum for GSU community members to share and discuss their experiences using the system. Membership in CUG is open to all faculty and staff.
The forum will include presentations on the following: *Exporting Colleague Data into Excel, New Functionality: Leave Plans, and Upcoming Colleague Updates.*

Contact the Colleague Project Office with any questions about the meeting.

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**Board of Trustees – December 7 (12-03-12)**

The full Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Friday, December 7, in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors. The meeting will begin at approximately 10 a.m.

For further information, contact Joan Johns Maloney at 708.534.4131.

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**GSU Holiday Celebration – December 7**

President Elaine P. Maimon and the Governors 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 to Penny Perdue at 708.534.6364.

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**Civil Service Show and Lunch – December 5**

It is time to enjoy the fun, music, and camaraderie of the 29th Annual Civil Service Day. This year’s show, The GSU Community Revue and Variety Show 2012, begins Wednesday, December 5, at 10 a.m., in Sherman Hall. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the show.

The Civil Service Day banquet lunch will be served immediately after the show. All Civil Service employees are invited to attend the banquet.

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**‘The Nutcracker’ Returns to CPA – December 8**

Waltzing flowers, giant mice, and the Sugar Plum Fairy are coming to GSU Center for Performing Arts as *The Nutcracker*, performed by Salt Creek Ballet, returns for two shows on Saturday, December 8, at 1 and 5 p.m.

Salt Creek Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* has been a holiday tradition at GSU Center since 1998. The whimsical tale of young Clara and her magical journey, all set to Tchaikovsky’s enchanting score, is a wonderful production for the entire family. Featured dancers for *The Nutcracker* at GSU Center are Maria Mosina and Alexei Tyukov, both of the Colorado Ballet.

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Tickets for *The Nutcracker* are $15 to $50. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at www.centertickets.net or (708) 235-2222.

**Dining Service Survey Ends December 7**

The office of Auxiliary Services and University Housing needs your assistance. Please take a few minutes to answer a short survey regarding dining services at the GSU café. Your responses will be used to assist the university in enhancing the dining program at GSU.

The survey will be available online from through Friday, December 7. To access the survey, please click: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2QPHQDL

Thank you for your time, input, and completing the survey.

**Teacher Certification and $30,000**

Learn how to earn elementary or secondary (biology, chemistry, or mathematics) teacher certification and secure a teaching position through GSU’s Alternative Certification Program. Information sessions will be held on Tuesday, December 4, at 7 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The Alternative Teacher Certification program offers a way to earn a teaching certificate and embark on a new, rewarding career in education. The Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) leads to a Masters of Art in Teaching (MAT) in Urban Teacher Education in elementary or secondary (biology, chemistry, or mathematics). TQP provides an opportunity to co-teach for a year with a certified teacher, a $30,000 stipend, and a 25 percent reduction in tuition. TQP is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

This program is open to college graduates with a bachelor’s degree. The application deadline for the Alternative Certification program, beginning Spring 2013, is December 15.

For more information, call 708.534.4399 or visit www.govst.edu/altcert.

**Flowers of Appreciation**

Interim Chief Development Officer Will Davis and Jackie Small, Director of the Annual Campaign, delivered holiday flowers and sincere thanks to this year's Campus Community Campaign volunteers.

“We want to thank each and every volunteer and donor to this year’s campaign”, stated Small. “We owe our success to the volunteers, who
Governors State University - Newsletter

worked diligently to increase participation.”

It is not too late to join your peers in this year’s campaign “M.A.G.I.C.”, Making A Greater Individual Commitment to GSU. While the GSU Promise continues to be the focus of the Office of Development, you may designate your gift as you choose. Gifts aid GSU as it continues to provide exceptional educational experiences.

For additional information, contact your campus community volunteer or Jackie Small at ext. 2188.

### Registration Continues for Spring 2013


Registrants are reminded that the new course renumbering system is now in use. The renumbering will not affect student study plans or delay degree completion. A cross reference list, showing a comparison of the old and new course numbers is available at [www.govst.edu/renumber](http://www.govst.edu/renumber).

To register, students should visit the GSU [registration](http://www.govst.edu/registration) website. Students are urged to contact their advisors with questions.

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708.534.5000 | [Email GSUView](mailto:EmailGSUView)