News and Events

President Maimon: Keep Guns Off Campus

In her most recent column in the Northwest Indiana Times, President Elaine P. Maimon argues that Illinois needs to take action to keep guns off university campuses.

“While I regret the court decision to force Illinois to join the other 49 states in permitting concealed carry, the major point of this column is to seek legislation that prohibits the public from bringing guns of any kind anywhere on university campuses,” Dr. Maimon writes. “That means not in the buildings, not on the quads, not in the parking lots and not in cars driving through the campus.”

Read Dr. Maimon’s column.

Student Concerns Program is Introduced

In an effort to coordinate the support for students in need of assistance, the Office of the Dean of Students recently launched the Student Concerns Program. In addition to identifying and connecting students to valuable resources before more substantial problems potentially arise, the Student Concerns Program functions as a portal to provide faculty and staff with resources for managing students in distress.

The program utilizes current GSU structures such as Academic Advisors, each college’s student services, and the Academic Resource Center to help students. Faculty and staff play a key role in identifying students who are in distress; as such the Student Concerns Program depends on their referrals to identify students who might benefit from proactive outreach and assistance.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to report behaviors or concerns of any GSU student by using the online Student Concerns Program form to identify students and describe their area of concern(s). Completed “Student Concern” forms are reviewed and then connected directly to campus resources best suited to address the conveyed concern. Student concerns can include, but are not limited to academic, physical, or emotional concerns. Please visit the program website at to learn more about the initiative or to complete a student concerns report.

Further information about the program is also available at the Dean of Students’ office at 708.235.7595.
**Reflections on Fatherhood Premieres Sunday**

Compelling stories about fathers and families are at the heart of a televised documentary between two award winning journalists, created by GSU faculty and students and making its broadcast debut on WTTW Channel 11.

*Reflections on Fatherhood* will premiere on Sunday, February 10 at 4 p.m. and will be re-broadcast on Monday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m. The show was inspired by Dear Dad: Reflections on Fatherhood, by John W. Fountain, a nationally renowned journalist, professor, and author. Veteran television journalist Robert Jordan, of WGN-TV, hosts the program.

*Reflections on Fatherhood* takes the form of an intimate conversation between Fountain and Jordan. In recorded vignettes, four members of the GSU community – students, staff, and family members – tell stories about their fathers that are interspersed throughout the conversation.

Dyson said she decided to develop *Reflections on Fatherhood* after a chance meeting with Fountain, who gave her copy of his book. She secured $500 in seed money through a grant from GSU’s Intellectual Life Committee. Jordan and Fountain agreed to appear on the program and more than 30 members of the campus community responded to an item in GSU View, agreeing to tell personal stories about their fathers. The conversation between Fountain and Jordan was recorded last April before a live audience in a GSU TV studio.

You can watch a preview of *Reflections on Fatherhood*.

**GSU Hosts Second District Forum Thursday**

GSU will host a forum for candidates seeking the vacant Congressional seat in Illinois’ Second District. The forum, in GSU’s Center for Performing Arts, takes place at 6 p.m., on Thursday, February 7.

During the forum, candidates will be asked how they can best serve the residents of the Second District, which includes sections of Chicago’s south side and parts of southern Cook County, areas in Will County, and all of Kankakee County. Mike Flannery, Political Editor for WFLD FOX 32, will moderate the forum, which is free and open to the public.

The Second District Congressional seat was held for 17 years by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Chicago Democrat. He resigned November 22, citing health reasons. The primary election takes place February 26, with the special election for the seat to follow on April 9.

The forum will be broadcast live over GSU’s cable access channel, The Educator. GSU’s broadcast area extends from Chicago, Illinois to Kankakee, Illinois on Comcast channel 16. It can also be found on WideOpenWest (WOW!) Cable, channel 24 in South Holland, Oak Forest and Calumet City. The forum will be repeated after Thursday - check your cable listings for subsequent showings. CAN-TV will also show the forum live, and provide it to several cable outlets.
In presenting the forum, GSU is partnering with League of Women Voters chapters in Homewood-Flossmoor, Dolton-Harvey-Riverdale, and the Park Forest area, and Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that prioritizes the development of civic leadership in underserved Chicago high school youth.

**Watch Governor’s Speech on GSU Monitors**
Illinois Governor Pat Quinn will present the annual State of the State Address on Wednesday, February 6, at noon.

Gov. Quinn's speech will be broadcast live over GSU’s campus monitors.

**Join the Colleague Users Group Meeting this Wednesday**
The Colleague Users Group (CUG) monthly meeting is Wednesday, February 6 at 2 p.m. in the Hall of Honors.

The forum will include three presentations:
- *Using Colleague Communications Management* by Sylvia Ponce DeLeon, Financial Aid Interim Director
- *What’s New in the Portal?* by Hugo Solano, ITS Associate Director of Applications Development
- *Waitlisting – How Did It Work for Your College?* by Colleen Rock, Provost’s Office Director, Academic and Tech Support Services, and Bonnie Simpson, Assistant to the Registrar.

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.

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

**The Collector Closes with Wednesday Reception**
The closing reception for *The Collector*, at the GSU Visual Arts Gallery, takes place Wednesday, February 6, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the gallery. Remarks are scheduled between 6 and 7 p.m.

Artists exhibiting work at *The Collector* are Dalton Brown, Susan Clinard, Luis De La Torre, Stephen Flemister, Theaster Gates, Skip Hill, Barbara Jones-Hogu, Marva Pitchford Jolly, Tim Lemming, Joyce Owens, Max Sansing, and Julian Williams.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Visual Arts Gallery at 708.534.4021.

**Book Scan Fax Station Now In the Library**
If you need to scan a document or send a fax, consider using the new Book Scan Fax Station now located in the library. The system has a touch screen that is very user friendly and will prompt you to which ever function you need.

Scanning is free. It is possible to scan from a document or book. Scanned items can
Faxing is $1 per page whether you are sending your fax within the United States or internationally. A maximum of 20 pages at a time can be faxed. There are no refunds for faxing. The Scan Station only accepts cash, and is solely for outgoing copies.

Students can make printed copies by using the GSU Print Shop’s convenient paid-for-print copier/printer system located in both the ACS Lab and the GSU Library. Each page you print/copy is 10 cents.

For help or information regarding the Book Scan Fax Station, visit the Technology Desk in the library.

Remember. The GSU Library is your research resource available to you during regular library hours or online 24/7. Find us at www.govst.edu/library.

**Veterans Writing Groups Forming**

Veterans are invited to join a new Veterans Writing Group, where they will discover or re-discover the craft of narrative writing in a small, supportive group environment. Veterans will enhance and learn new skills and share camaraderie with other vets in a six-week workshop. Groups are forming now.

“Narrative writing helps veterans bridge the cultural divide between their military and civilian life,” explains Robin Thompson, University Lecturer and Coordinator of the program. Their stories are important and may one day become a valuable family heirloom or community resource – everyone benefits.”

There is no charge for participation in the Veterans Writing Group. To register, contact Thompson at 708.534.4581.

**Dr. Elizabeth Johnson is Black History Month Speaker at Virginia Tech**

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Assistant Professor of History and Social Sciences, will speak on her forthcoming book, *Resistance and Empowerment in Black Women’s Hair Styling*, during a February 14 Black History Month appearance at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Johnson will also speak before a classroom on February 15.

Dr. Johnson’s research and speaking interests are grounded in Black Feminist, Group Identity, and Critical Race theories and they include: hair aesthetics and body image; 19th century U.S. history; and magazine, television, and film representation of ethnicity and gender. Her book will be released in June, 2013.

Dr. Johnson’s Black History Month event at GSU, *Africana Hip Hop Dance with Riley*, takes place Tuesday, February 5, from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.
Call for Nominations - GSU Black Women Rock

In celebration of Black History Month, we are pleased to announce GSU's First Black Women Rock awards. Phenomenal students will be recognized who have achieved success in the following areas:

- Sistah Philanthropist: a person engaged in civic activities
- Literary Expressionist: a writer, poet, etc.
- Passionate Advocate: a political or social advocate
- Creative Soul: film producer, performing artist, script writer, etc.
- Miz Entrepreneur: a sole proprietor or partner in a business endeavor.


Self-nominations are also accepted. Only GSU students are eligible. Finalists will be selected by the Black History Month Committee. The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 15.

The GSU Black Women Rock Awards Ceremony will be held on February 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Sherman Hall. This event is sponsored by student Life and is free and open to the public. For more information contact Vanessa Newby.

New York Times at GSU

GSU is participating in The New York Times Newspaper Readership Program, which provides copies of The Times to our students. Students may pick-up a copy of The Times in three locations; Student Row (A2100), Student Commons (A2140), and the Student Gaming Lounge (A1105).

As a vibrant daily record of history as it is made, The New York Times’ prize-winning coverage of national and global events provides an invaluable classroom resource. More than 2,000 college educators across the country, encompassing virtually every discipline, have adopted The New York Times for their classes. We are excited to be a part of this highly flexible and innovative program.

For additional information contact Sheree Sanderson or visit www.nytimesincollege.com.

First Year Experience Symposium – Dr. Roberta Ness

The next in the series of symposia on the first year experience sponsored by the Office of the Provost will be held on Friday, March 8, in the Center for Performing Arts.

Dr. Roberta Ness is the featured speaker. Dr. Ness, author of Innovation Generation, will discuss ways to infuse innovation into your work and life. Click here to view her TED talk. It is informative and less than 15 minutes long.

In preparation for Dr. Ness’ visit to campus, seven copies of her book, Innovation Generation: How to Produce Creative and Useful Scientific Ideas, have been placed on three-day reserve in the library. The call number is YC9273 and they are listed under Dr. Terry Allison’s name.
Adhering to Illinois Articulation Initiative Procedures

Illinois Articulation Initiative procedures require all of faculty and staff to stay diligent to ensure that the university is a fully participating member of IAI by Spring, 2014. All new and revised courses need to be submitted to UCC by Monday, March 25 as per UCC guidelines.

Following UCC approval, general education and lower division core courses (as defined by IAI) need to be submitted by faculty to Randi Schneider and Lisa Helm by June 14.

The Office of the Provost is pleased to offer information sessions for faculty about the steps GSU will take to transition from being a ‘receiving only’ to a ‘fully participating’ university within the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). We will demonstrate navigation of the IAI website to find the expectations for General Education and discipline specific (lower division) course development in addition to the timeline for the GSU approval process. Faculty who will write or revise curriculum for General Education courses and/or lower division curriculum for submission to IAI Majors Panels should attend.

For a complete schedule of the information sessions, visit the Provost’s website.

Fight Back Against Cancer in 2013

GSU is teaming up with the American Cancer Society to fight back against cancer by participating in the Relay For Life. The relay will be held on May 17 and 18, at Marian Catholic High School, in Chicago Heights, but planning begins now.

Come to our Launch Party, on Tuesday, February 5, in the Hall of Governors, to learn about the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life. Stop by any time between 3 and 7 p.m. to learn how to get involved. There will be door prizes, refreshments, and lots of fun. All cancer survivors will be honored with a gift.

For more information, please visit www.relayforlife.org/chicagoheightsil or contact Vanessa Newby or Erin Markase.

R.A.D. Begins Today

Be prepared! The R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) course includes lecture, discussion, and hands-on self-defense techniques suitable for women of all abilities.

R.A.D. begins today and will meet every Monday for nine weeks until April 8. The first class on February 4 is free. The fee for the rest of the classes is only $25. Classes meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Register at the Recreation and Fitness Center, room A1106.

GSU Employees Must Comply with State’s ANCRA Act

Gail M. Bradshaw, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity, has directed that all employees, including all full and part-time, extra-help, temporary, graduate assistants and student workers, receive notification about the new Illinois
Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA).

To verify notification has been made, employees will receive an e-mail from HR shortly, containing information and instructions about this law, with a link to the DCFS Acknowledgement Form, which each employee must complete, print off, sign, and date.

Please keep a copy for your records, and send the original DCFS form to the GSU Human Resources Department by March 1. You can drop it in the night mailbox next to the HR Department entry door, or place it in the university mail addressed to the HR Department, or place it in the U.S. Mail addressed to: Governors State University, Attn: Human Resources Department, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484.

**Workshop Shows How to Write Winning Essays**

Learn to write winning scholarship and graduation admission essays at a workshop presenting strategies on how to convince your audience that you are among the best and brightest. The workshop takes place at 3 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, in D1496.

English Department faculty and the Writing Center staff will offer assistance about how to begin your essay, choose your approach, shape your writing, provide meaningful examples, and produce an error free piece. Previous scholarship winners and scholarship reviewers will provide valuable insight into the selection process.

Just bring yourself, your questions, and any instructions you may have been given about your essay. You’re sure to get specific, hands-on help with your application and a new understanding of the essay-writing process.