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**RSVP for Prairie Place Groundbreaking**

Be a part of history as GSU takes a giant step toward building Prairie Place, the university’s first on-campus housing. You can attend the groundbreaking ceremony for Prairie Place on Friday, April 5. This once-in-a-lifetime event is open to all members of the campus community.

The afternoon’s activities begin at 3:30 p.m. in GSU’s Hall of Governors, where light refreshments will be served. At 4 p.m., President Elaine P. Maimon and special guests will speak about the significance of GSU’s first student housing. Guests will then be escorted to the construction site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

RSVP by March 31 for the Prairie Place groundbreaking at 708.534.6364 or pperdue@govst.edu.

Prairie Place will be ready for occupancy in Summer, 2014.

**Bringing GSU’s Message to Springfield**

President Maimon joined other representatives from Illinois universities last week in testifying before state House and Senate Appropriations Committees in the Capitol in Springfield.

“I appeal to you to see the relationship among reduced appropriations, the possible increase in university contributions to the normal costs of pensions, and the concern to keep tuition increases to a minimum,” Dr. Maimon said, providing lawmakers with a context for their decision making for the upcoming 2014 fiscal year appropriations for Illinois public universities.

During her six years as president of GSU, Dr. Maimon said, the university has reallocated...
resources to fulfill its mission as a comprehensive university, even as state appropriations have declined. GSU remains the most affordable university in Illinois. Enrollment is on the rise – the Fall 2012 enrollment was up 2.59 percent in credit hours; full-time undergrad transfer student have increased 10 percent; and undergraduate applications have increased 30 percent.

GSU is seeking planning funds for a multi-purpose classroom building. The university is at capacity during the evening, and the first freshman class in 2014 plus other daytime classes that have been added will soon fill classrooms during the day, Dr. Maimon said.

Erin Fletcher, student trustee on the GSU Board of Trustees, also testified in Springfield.

“As a student this is part of my education outside of the classroom,” Fletcher said. “This experience has allowed me the opportunity to understand the operational processes that our president and all of the university presidents here today do to make sure that their student's educational needs are met.

“As a student leader it is my responsibility to make sure that the values and mission statement of our institution are being met and reflected in the best interest of the student body. This experience is one that I will share with the student body so that they can be just as informed about what happens at this level.”

**SBA Regional Chief Tours Clients of Illinois International Trade Center at GSU**

Marianne Markowitz, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, last Friday completed a two-day tour of Chicago area small business exporters.

The four companies on the tour are all clients of the Illinois International Trade Center at Governors State University. The companies -- Chicago Export Packing Company, of Chicago; Automated Design Corporation, of Romeoville; PARC Corporation, of Romeoville; and Pactrans Air & Sea, of Bensenville – have benefited from SBA's export assistance programs that enabled them to grow and create jobs.

“We are very proud of the success of our clients’ export businesses,” said Hongxia (Mary) Ma, director of Illinois International Trade Center at GSU. “They have created positive economic impact in our business community. At the Illinois International Trade Center, we are committed to share our specialty, the experience and resources to serve more local small businesses and promote U.S. products and services to export into the global marketplace.”

Markowitz and Ma were joined on the tour by federal, state and local officials including
district directors from the U.S. Congressional Offices of Bobby Rush, Danny Davis and Tammy Duckworth; Romeoville Mayor John Noak; Daniel Goff, Deputy Director of the Office of Trade and Investment for Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and Mark Petrilli, State Director Illinois Small Business Development Center.

SBA offers loan programs such as Export Express, Export Working Capital and International Trade loans to help business exporters gain the access to the capital they need and encourage lenders to provide support for small businesses to see market potential abroad.

All four companies participated in a Chinese Trade Mission last summer, which led to incredible growth opportunities for each of them.

**Student Senate Voting Ends Friday**

Online voting for GSU’s Student Senate and other offices continues through Friday, March 29.

Students can access the ballot at [http://eballot4.votenet.com/govst](http://eballot4.votenet.com/govst). Your user name is your last name; your password is your student ID number.

The following candidates are currently running for Student Senate:
- College of Arts and Sciences - Shaniqua Jones, Christopher Otten, Codjo Padonou, Russell Thomas, and Amanda Ziaja.
- College of Business and Public Administration - James Brown, Valencia Brown, Darren Heldt, and Shawnta Young.
- College of Education - Lisa Wallace.
- College of Health and Human Services - Michael Alexander and Crystal Locke.
- Board of Trustee Student Representative - Kayla Randolph-Clark.
- Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Representative - Imani Aloway, Regina Haynes, and Brandon Sanders.

Online voting and tabulation of votes are handled by an independent agency, Votenet Solutions.

For further information, contact Sheree Sanderson.

**Get Fitted for Regalia – April 2 and 3**

GSU has announced the university’s official Custom Academic Regalia Purchase Program.

Fitting for GSU regalia takes place April 2 and 3, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in E-Lounge. Faculty, administrators, and staff can be measured for regalia, place orders, and make
payments at this event. If you are unable to attend, please contact Karen Caesar-Smith at 708.534.6360.

The University has negotiated with Oak Hall Cap & Gown at a significantly reduced cost for the purchase of academic regalia by faculty, administrators, and staff. To encourage active participation by faculty and staff in Commencement and other events that include the wearing of academic regalia, GSU will be funding 50 percent of the cost that has been negotiated for each regalia package. Oak Hall will process payment for an employee’s 50 percent via check, Mastercard, VISA, Discover, or American Express.

Regalia options include:

- Bachelor Gown-Venture Black, Hood, Cap with tassel, garment bag and initials in gown: $219. (Employee pays $109.50; GSU pays $109.50)
- Master Gown-Venture Black, Hood, Cap with tassel, garment bag and initials in gown: $249. (Employee pays $124.50; GSU pays $124.50)
- Doctor Gown w/Matinee Velvet, Hood, six corner tam with tassel and initials in gown: $439. (Employee pays $219.50; GSU pays $219.50)

Because the university will be subsidizing the purchase of academic regalia by university employees, the university will no longer be providing employees with rented academic regalia. If employees prefer to rent academic regalia rather than purchase their own personalized regalia, each individual employee will be able to arrange rental of academic regalia with Oak Hall Cap & Gown at the employee’s expense when they are on campus April 2 and 3.

### Salute to Grads Ends Today

Get all your Commencement questions answered at Salute to Grads from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today, in the Hall of Governors.

At Salute to Grads, you can pick up your cap and gown, sit for portraits in graduation attire, and get all your Commencement questions answered. Refreshments will be available and vendors will be on hand. You can order a GSU class ring, diploma frames, announcements, and Commencement related items. Learn how to participate in the 2012-2013 class gift and all the advantages in joining the GSU Alumni Association.

For more information about Salute to Grads, call 708.534.4488 or send an e-mail to regoffice@govst.edu.
HLC Sessions Continue Next Week

Open forums on the upcoming Higher Learning Commission Focused Visit are scheduled next Tuesday and Wednesday. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to the sessions.

HLC granted Governors State University full accreditation in 2009. With that accreditation came a prescriptive recommendation for a 2013 HLC Focused Visit in the areas of “assessment and institutional effectiveness, including attention to general education and comparative outcomes for students in online programs.” In preparation for the Focused Visit, GSU provided the HLC site team with a Focused Visit Report as evidence of the remarkable work that has taken place on campus in response to the 2009 Self-Study.

Additionally, this visit includes the final step in the approval process for our plan to welcome lower division students in fall 2014. As a part of the final step in the approval process, a Substantive Change Report was submitted to describe GSU’s planned change in student body composition. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to read the posted reports at their earliest convenience.

HLC questions can be directed to the Provost’s Office.

HLC forums will be held:
- Tuesday, April 2, 9:30 a.m., Cafeteria Annex
- Tuesday, April 2, 2:30 p.m., Cafeteria Annex
- Wednesday, April 3, 9:30 a.m., Cafeteria Annex
- Tuesday, April 9, 2:30 p.m., Cafeteria Annex
- Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 a.m., Hall of Honors
- Wednesday, April 10, 2:30 p.m., Hall of Honors

Celtic Crossroads Comes to CPA Tonight

Just when you think that you have seen the best that Irish music has to offer, a fresh new show from Ireland is taking the art form to a spectacular level of innovation and virtuosity. Celtic Crossroads, coming to GSU Center for Performing Arts tonight at 7 p.m., does for Irish music what Riverdance has done to Irish dance.

*Celtic Crossroads*, incorporating seven world-class musicians playing more than 20 instruments on stage, is a fantastic spectacle. From start to finish,
the performers present a captivating fusion of genres in the Irish music family -- Eastern European Gypsy, North American bluegrass, classical and jazz, and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe and the rest of the world.

Tickets for *Celtic Crossroads* are $15 to $55. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at www.centertickets.net or 708.235.2222.

**Family Night at the Movies – March 29**

GSU Family Night at the Movies returns Friday, March 29, with *The Impossible*, a 2013 feature starring Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, and Tom Holland. The movie begins at 6:45 p.m. in the GSU Center for Performing Arts.

Admission is free for GSU students and their families. *The Impossible* has a PG-13 rating.

**Reconstructed Returns**

It’s been a long time coming, but *Reconstructed* has published its second issue. To view the provocative poetry, stunning visual art, and a new short film, visit www3.govst.edu/reconstructed/.

As always, *Reconstructed* is looking for submissions for the next issue. If you’re a writer, poet, artist, or aspiring filmmaker, visit the *Reconstructed* website and click on the “submit” tab for details on how to get your work published.

For further information, contact reconstructed@govst.edu.

**Social Policy Class Sponsors Fundraiser**

GSU’s Social Work Social Policy II class is hosting a forum and fundraiser for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund on Monday, April 1, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The Palestine Children’s Relief Fund is a registered non-political, non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that was established in 1991 by concerned people in the U.S. to address the medical and humanitarian crisis facing Palestinian youths in the Middle East. It
has since expanded to help suffering children from the region, based only on their medical needs.

Rania Sadeq from the PCRF will make a presentation. The Debka Dancers will perform and samplers of Middle Eastern food will be available for purchase. The fundraiser is free and open to the public.

**Healthcare Leadership in Reform Era**

GSU’s Student Healthcare Management Association will sponsor a presentation by Dr. Ann Scott Blouin, RN, Ph.D., FACHE, Executive Vice President of Customer Relations, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, on Tuesday, April 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

Dr. Blouin will discuss *Leadership in an Era of Health Care Reform: Quality and Patient Safety Implications*. She has more than 30 years of health care administration, consulting, and nursing experience, and has held several leadership positions.

Dr. Ann Blouin

Dr. Blouin has also published and taught at nursing and medical schools and serves on the National Patient Safety Foundation Board of Governors.

The event is free and open to the public.

**Rape Aggression Defense Class Starts April 3**

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

The class is offered Wednesdays between April 3 and May 1 in the Recreation and Fitness Center. Two times are available - 3 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. The class is sponsored by the Recreation and Fitness Center. For more information, visit [www.govst.edu/wellnessprograms](http://www.govst.edu/wellnessprograms).

**Finding Common Ground in Gun Debate**

The GSU Forensics Team will host a panel discussion, *Communicating Possibilities: Reframing the Gun Debate and Finding Common Ground*, on Thursday, April 4, at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The discussion is part of *Enough is Enough*, a college campaign against violence in our society. It is free and open to the public.
Arness Krause, Forensics Team Coach and Adjunct Professor in the Division of Communication, Visual, and Performing Arts, said the discussion will attempt to reframe the debate over guns in our society. Panel members will address issues surrounding the current debate over guns from their areas of expertise – politics, history, language, and mass media.

Panel members include Dr. David Rhea, Assistant Professor of Communications Studies; Dr. Donald Culverson, Associate Professor of Political Justice Studies; Dr. David Golland, Assistant Professor of History; Arness Krause; and Etta Oben, Forensics Team Graduate Assistant Coach.

### Substitute Teacher Academy – April 27

GSU is sponsoring a daylong Substitute Teacher Academy with Resources on April 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Many school districts are in need of qualified substitute teachers. This workshop will help experienced and new substitutes increase their knowledge and skills.

The academy will teach substitute teachers what to expect in the classroom, what to do in an emergency, how to maintain classroom control, and how to follow the teacher’s lesson plans. It will also provide ideas and activities for both new and experienced substitutes that can be adapted and used in any school and any grade.

Participants must have a bachelor’s degree. The $50 registration fee includes lunch and all materials. Seating is limited to 40 registrants. Advance registration is required. Call 708.534.4536. Registration deadline is April 8.