Mascot Match-up: Let the voting begin

After receiving over 400 suggestions, Governors State University has narrowed its choices for an official mascot down to four: the Bengals, the Prairie Wolves, the Jaguars and the Gladiators.

The university is soliciting the help of students, faculty, staff and the extended community once again for help in making the final choice.

The final choice for the GSU mascot will be a combination of the community and university input. The community is able to vote for one week by visiting http://www.govst.edu/mascotmatchup. By going to that web address, voters will see the four groups of designs, one for each mascot. Voters will vote for one group in its entirety, not just one image.

During that weeklong period, anyone can vote for one of the final four as many times as they want. Voting officially begins Monday, April 7 and ends at midnight Monday, April 14. A combination of the votes tallied and university officials’ input will ultimately determine who the very first GSU mascot is.

Voters are also encouraged to attend the Mascot Match-up 3-on-3 basketball tournament April 10, at 3 p.m. Four basketball teams, each representing one of the four GSU mascot choices, will battle it out for supremacy.

The official announcement of the university mascot is scheduled for the first week of May. Prizes will go to those who submitted the four finalists.

Professor stresses the benefits of ePortfolios

GSU welcomed Dr. Kathleen Yancey, Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and distinguished research professor at Florida State University, who led the general education symposium April 4 on ePortfolios.

Dr. Yancey is considered an expert in the subject and leads the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research. The website is http://ncepr.org/. She began with an ePortfolio
review (definitions, models, options) and then shared her experience on their purpose and multiple uses. Dr. Yancey and GSU faculty then discussed the details of creating an ePortfolio and how it can be used for faculty and students.

In the second half of the symposium, faculty and any interested staff stayed to dig more deeply into the topic – including how to help students create their own ePortfolios and how they can be used further in assessment. Dr. Yancey also addressed the issue of rubrics used for a variety of evaluation purposes.

Many thanks to Dr. Yancey for her presentation.

April is sexual assault awareness month

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. This year’s programming is themed “It’s time … to talk about it! Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence.”

For more information, go to http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home.

Cell phone drive: collecting cell phones to save lives

During the month of April, The Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice will be collecting cell phones and other electronics. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence partners with Cellular Recycler for the collection of used cell phones and select digital electronics. Your donation will support programming that helps stop violence in the home.

To donate please drop items in the collection boxes located in the Recreation and Fitness Center (A1106) during Monday – Friday. Operational hours are 6 a.m.–9 p.m. Or you can make donations at the Student Life Suites (A2100) during Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

NCADV is recycling items to:
• Fund programming that empowers victims of domestic violence, connects victims and survivors to helpful resources, and helps them remain free from abuse.
• Support legislation aimed at ending domestic violence.
• Give support and resources to organizations across the U.S. working to stop violence in the home.

Any cell phone in any condition and their accessories (most wanted: iPhone and Blackberries, but we will take what you have) are welcome. Chargers, accessories, cords, etc. are accepted too.
For a full list of accepted items, visit [http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DonateaPhone.php](http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DonateaPhone.php).

**Put your public speaking skills to the test**

The Communication Studies Initiative, a student organization, will be hosting its first public speaking contest on April 22, 2014 in Sherman Hall from 5-7 p.m. All students are welcome to participate and there will be cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. For more information, please contact either Arness Krause at akrause@govst.edu or Etta Oben at eoben@students.govst.edu for more information.

This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate your outstanding public speaking skills and win a little money, so please join us.

**Restorative Justice Conference**

The Restorative Justice Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 16, from 11 a.m.--4 p.m. in the CPA Lobby. Check in will begin at 10 a.m.

The conference will also feature student poster presentations from Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School in Harvey and a marketplace that will include local organizations that promote the balanced approach; accountability, safety, and competency development.

Join us to gain insight into how restorative justice practices can advance your culture and climate.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be David R. Karp, associate dean of student affairs and professor of sociology at Skidmore College. Dr. Karp is nationally known for his work in restorative justice with a focus on colleges and universities. Restorative justice practices contribute to accountability, safety, and competency development – all important factors in working with today’s students.

Visit [www.govst.edu/dos](http://www.govst.edu/dos) or e-mail lcarra@govst.edu to register or find more information. On-site registration is also available for $40 at the door. This event is open to the general public.

**Film screening—“Cambodian Son”**

Associate professor Sanghoon Lee will host a screening of the film “Cambodian Son” Wednesday, April 9 from 4:30–6:30p.m. in room F1622. This powerful documentary tells the story of Cambodian poet/spoken artist Kosal Khiev. It is directed by Masahiro Sugano.
The film’s director will attend the screening and have a Q&A session afterward. This event is free and open to the public.

**Flash sale event – April 8**

The GSU Bookstore will be having the third Flash Sale Event on Tuesday, April 8th. This sale will feature 25 percent off all t-shirts, and 25 percent additional off clearance items at our campus store.

**Commencement announcement from Provost Bordelon**

Commencement is a special time for our university. It is the culmination of hours of study and preparation on the part of our graduates. It also recognizes and celebrates your dedicated service to our students and to the university community.

As we all know, a successful commencement ceremony requires the time and commitment of many individuals. Participation by faculty and staff is extremely important. I encourage you to participate in the appropriate ceremony or in both ceremonies, if you wish. It is essential, however, that faculty and staff connected with the colleges turn out in large numbers for these ceremonies. Nevertheless, preparation has begun, please pay special attention to deadlines, as they must be respected.

This year’s faculty marshal coordinator will be John Cook, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Education. Tonnika Gillespie recently joined Governor State University as the administrative assistant to the provost. She will assist John in coordinating our faculty marshals and other related commencement business.

The College of Business and Public Administration and the College of Arts and Sciences students will graduate in the morning, beginning at 10 a.m. Mr. Scott Turow, distinguished writer and attorney, will be the honorary degree recipient during this ceremony. The second ceremony of the day, for the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Education students, will begin at 5 p.m. Accepting an honorary degree at this ceremony will be Mr. Orbert Davis, an Emmy Award winning trumpeter, composer and educator.

Both ceremonies will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Ill. and will last approximately two hours.

On the evening of Thursday, May 15, our doctoral graduates will be honored during our now traditional hooding ceremony in the Center for Performing Arts. I encourage you to participate in this special occasion as well.

Imagine the feeling of pride our graduates will have when they see GSU faculty and staff members participating in these culminating activities. Our students have worked hard to reach this day. Please celebrate with them. Also, please complete and submit the attached Commencement Ceremony Participation Form by Wednesday, April 23.
If you would like to purchase custom or rental regalia, please follow the instructions on the bottom of the attached form.

I look forward to seeing you!

**Friends of the Library book, media and surprise sale**

The donations to the Friends of the Library during the most recent book drive have been outstanding. There are a number of newer items in a broad variety of subject areas including best sellers, education, psychology, nursing and criminal justice to name a few. In addition, we have a number of CDs, DVDs and cassettes along with a number of surprises that you will just have to stop by to see.

The sale will be from 10 a.m. -- 3 p.m. in the alcove between the top of the stairs in the main entrance to GSU and the elevator. A large bag of books will be $5. A small bag of books will be $3. Individual books, depending upon whether they are paperback or hard cover, will begin at 25 cents.

“By supporting the Friends of the Library Book Sale, you are supporting the GSU Library in so many ways,” said Ann Manning Nagel, president of the Friends of the Library. “Your support helped us to furnish the library book exchange area outside of the library, the Skylight Gallery in the library, and a number of events including the recent autism workshop,” she said.

**Book discussion: Alice Munro’s “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”**

Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten will lead a discussion of Alice Munro’s short story “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage” on Wednesday, April 9, from noon -- 1 p.m. in room D2417, the library conference room.

“Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage” is also the title of a book of short stories by Alice Munro, winner of the Nobel Prize® in Literature 2013. The short story inspired the movie “Hateship Loveship,” which recently premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and stars Kristen Wiig, Guy Pearce, Nick Nolte, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Christine Lahti.

The story is a narrative featuring, Johanna, a matronly woman of middle age who has worked as a housekeeper and caregiver. Due to a very mean-spirited teen-age action, Johanna thinks that a man is in love with her for the first time in her life.

"The Intellectual Life Committee chose this book as this semester’s One Book, One University selection. It is fitting that during Women’s History Month we discuss a short story that some have said reflects Munro at her very best,” Ruetten said. “The Intellectual Life Committee invites you to bring your lunch and join in an hour of thoughtful discussion,” she said.
The Intellectual Life Committee is making the book available to students, through Dean Ruetten, for $5 and is underwriting the majority of the cost. For a copy, contact Dean Ruetten or go to room D2419 the day of the discussion to purchase a copy. Two copies of this book are on reserve in the library: PR9199.3.M8 H38 2001. Copies of this book are also available in the book store at retail prices.

**GSU to host speech by former Surgeon General**

Dr. Joycelyn Elders will present her keynote address "Evolving Gender Roles in the 21st Century" as part of the Gender Matters Conference. Elders’ speech takes place in Sherman Music Hall Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 7-9 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Elders will present lively discussion on the status of women's health, gender issues in health, education, economics and politics as well as gender equality. And she questions if we are making progress in closing the gap.

Dr. Elders is a long-time proponent of calling for connecting research to practice. During the U.S. Senate hearings on her confirmation, Elders said, "I want to change the way we think about health by putting prevention first. I want to be the voice and vision of the poor and powerless. I want to change concern about social problems that affect health into commitment. And I would like to make every child born in America a wanted child."

An Evening with Dr. Joycelyn Elders is made possible by the generous support of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College Health and Human Services, and an Intellectual Life Grant.

**A new look for the GSU library**

The GSU Library is part of a building renovation that will begin the weekend of April 5. We are looking forward to this much needed upgrade to our library. There will be a new entrance to the library, private study areas and a 21st Century upgrade of furniture just to offer a few highlights.

The library will remain open through the renovation and library faculty and staff are committed to providing all students, faculty and the GSU community with seamless service as we approach finals and the end of the semester.

The first major change will come on Monday morning, April 7. At that time the current entrance to the library will be closed. The new library entrance will be in the same general location, but directly opposite the current library entrance. The new entrance will be through the balcony emergency doors which have traditionally been kept closed.

The new colorful Friends of the Library drop box will be placed outside the entrance doors for after-hours drop off. The library return slot that you are accustomed to using will not be available.
While construction is getting ready to begin, the ACS Lab will remain fully functional until the end of the spring semester. During the summer semester only rooms D2438 and D2440 will be serving as a computer lab. The library will retain 28 computers for student, faculty and community use. A pay for print station, photocopier, change machine, fax/scanner, and microform scanner will also be available.

Separate research, circulation, technology, and writing center desks will be maintained. Library faculty availability will remain the same, and library hours from now through the end of the semester will also remain the same.

“We have made every effort to preserve and maintain our customer service,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “We will be sharing information regularly until the renovation is completed in mid-August.”

If you have any questions, please send them to GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

**GSU to host state science academy**

Governors State University is proud to host the 106th Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, 2014. About 200 undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members from colleges and universities throughout Illinois are expected to attend the conference. The meeting will present student research projects via poster displays and oral presentations.

An additional highlight of the meeting is a keynote address titled “Science and Cinema” at 8 p.m. on Friday evening given by Dr. Marius Stan. Dr. Stan is a senior scientist with the Energy Engineering and Systems Analysis Directorate at Argonne National Laboratory, a senior fellow with the Computation Institute at the University of Chicago, and a senior fellow with the Institute for Science and Engineering at Northwestern University. He is also an actor and writer. You might recognize him from the TV series “Breaking Bad” where he was featured as the carwash owner, Bogdan Wolynetz.

The keynote address, poster sessions, and oral presentations are free and open to the public, general admission ticket are available through the GSU Center for Performing Arts box office. Poster sessions will be held from 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Friday. Oral presentations will be held from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

**Submissions being accepted for GSU Faculty Authors’ Reception**

Faculty members are invited to submit their work for the annual GSU Faculty Authors' Reception, which will take place April 23 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the FOC Atrium Hallway, G160. Authors are asked to submit their work by 5 p.m. Monday, April 14.

This year, we are pleased that the Friends of the GSU Library will once again be co-sponsoring the GSU Faculty Authors’ Reception. Together, The GSU Library and Friends of the Library look forward to acknowledging GSU’s esteemed authors.

Click [here](#) to download the submission form for your work. Please attach a file of your
published work/s and send to FriendsofGSULibrary@gmail.com with Attention: Alexis. Should you have any questions, please send them also to FriendsofGSULibrary@gmail.com. If your work is in hard copy format, please bring your submission along with this completed form to the library administrative office. Please do not leave your work at the circulation or reference desk.

**Nominations needed for Student Leadership Awards**

The deadline to nominate someone for a student leadership is fast approaching. Be sure to make your nominations for the Unsung Hero Award, the Outstanding Support Staff, Student Organization of the Year, Outstanding Grad Student, Program of the Year and the Rising Star Award.

Be sure to make your nominations before the April 10 deadline. To do so, go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StudentLeadershipAwards2014.

**Spring open market coming in May**

For one day only, the GSU Civil Service Senate will hold its Annual Spring Open Market on May 1, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Crafters and vendors will have their unique items on display and for sale in the Hall of Governors. Be sure to visit that day to find the perfect gift for someone’s birthday, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day or just because.

Crafters and vendors are encouraged to participate and can call 708.235.7559 before April 21 to reserve space.

**Deadline to register for university sustainable garden approaches**

Registration is now open through April 15 for returning gardeners to secure their previous plot in the university sustainable garden.

New gardeners or returning gardeners who desire a plot change may sign up after April 16 for the upcoming gardening season. All participants, including returning gardeners, must complete a 2014 application, rules agreement, and make payment to reserve their plot. For further information, please see the university sustainable garden website at http://www.govst.edu/garden/.

**Career and internship fair comes to campus this month**

Students, alumni and community members are invited to the spring 2014 Career and
Internship Fair, which focuses on the fields of communications, technology, business and public administration, criminal justice, addictions studies and community health.

The fair will be Thursday, April 17, from 2-5 p.m. in the lobbies of the Center for Performing Arts and the Hall of Governors. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet employers who are recruiting for interns and full-time employees. For more information visit http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Career_Services/Upcoming_Events_and_Career_Fairs/, or call 708.235.3974.

GSU will host Fourth Annual Gender Matters Conference

The fourth annual Gender Matters Conference, "Embodying Praxis, Engaging Solutions," will be held at Governors State University on April 11-12, 2014.

Gender Matters is an academic conference that highlights research on gender, women and sexuality across all disciplines and historical periods. This year's conference brings together students, activists and researchers from around the globe to discuss the ongoing role of gender in structuring society.

This year’s theme, "Embodying Praxis, Engaging Solutions," focuses attention on positive deviance, on exploring what works as we seek solutions and improvements to the challenges faced by our world. While conference planners invite work on all matters of gender, we are particularly interested in work that explores how evidence-based practices and outcomes related to gender and/or sexuality are used to affect positive change, behaviors, beliefs, attitudes, policies and procedures.

Pre-registration for the conference is required and the deadline is March 17. Information about the conference, registrations fees, and a preliminary program, can be found at http://www.govst.edu/gendermatters.

Docudrama “Still Life” comes to GSU

"Still Life," a documentary by Emily Mann and directed by Dr. Patrick Santoro, comes to Sherman Hall for two showings on April 17 and 18 at 8 p.m.

Shaped by the author from conversations with the people whose experience she sets forth, the documentary play explores the way that Vietnam has affected three lives: a Marine veteran, his estranged wife, and his mistress. The man confesses that he killed a Vietnamese family in cold blood and, carrying the seeds of violence with him, returned home to brutalize his pregnant wife. The wife, disillusioned and unhappy, wants to ignore the terrors that haunt her husband, believing that in time the awful memories will fade, while the mistress, an angry feminist, blames the man's destructiveness on the forces that conditioned him before he went to Vietnam.
In the end, these three become a metaphor for the nation as a whole—still trying to understand and overcome the lingering trauma that is the bitter legacy of the Vietnam experience.

For faculty or staff members in the following fields: theatre and performance studies, communication studies, gender and women’s studies, identity studies or psychology, anthropology and sociology, history, media studies, film studies, or counseling, please consider supporting the upcoming production and encourage students to attend, perhaps for extra credit.

The production has mature themes dealing with war, violence, documentary/docudrama, identity, trauma/loss, memory, interpersonal relationships, and ethnography/ethnographic methods. Tickets are $10, $5 for students.
To order tickets, visit CenterTickets.net, or call the box office at 708.235.2222.