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FC InMotion

NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT GSU'S TRANSFORMATION

June 2013

GSU's First Class Newsletter

Vol.1 Issue 3

Alphabet Soup Millennials in the Classroom

By Darcie Campos,
Director, Career Services

As we move closer to FC14 we must ask, "What are the implications for the classroom and academics based on this traditional student population?"

First and foremost, it is essential to note that this generation is accustomed to receiving regular, consistent feedback of a positive nature regarding their academic work. They want to know exactly what is expected of them as they want to live up to the standards, but they need to know what those standards are. The challenge is to give them enough structure to meet their needs and enough motivation to move outside of that structure. Similarly, they expect the standards to be high, but fair, and they will measure their grade and efforts against those of their classmates.

These students are confident of their values, which are increasingly conservative. They are trusting of authority and faculty, but not if they perceive we are trying to sell our conflicting values rather than facts or knowledge. We need to help these Millennials to test and stretch what they believe while demonstrating respect for their beliefs, or we will lose them.

Be prepared as parents will call you, as it is difficult for them to stop from being involved. The same is said for the students as it will be equally difficult for them to take



control of their lives. FERPA guidelines are important and often cause confusion for students and parents. Therefore, it will be important for the university to educate our new GSU families about FERPA. Regular consistent clarification of the guidelines is crucial, and explanation will be necessary.

While these students enjoy collaborative work and receiving group grades, it will be a challenge to get them to critique one another. Therefore, the best

approach will be individual work followed by blended collaborative output. In addition, they do not like to be singled out, so another challenge is to find incentives for sole efforts that will complement group work.

Another implication is the pressure this generation feels to succeed. This can often lead to cheating and plagiarism, which is complicated by the fact that it is more difficult to define cheating and originality within group work. Also, the presence of technology, especially the Internet and the ability to cut and paste, will cause us to take a closer look at honor codes and the importance of making the rules clear.

Lastly we must recognize that service oriented careers are rising in interest, and these students have made it known that they want to use technology to solve world issues and to make life better. It will be our job to ensure that we put in place the appropriate technology and tools necessary to make this achievable.

In Motion Responds to Suggestions and Questions

The GSU community submitted questions and article suggestions for the third edition of In Motion. If you have questions or suggestions for future editions send them to Engage@govst.edu.

1. Will we have an athletics program in 2014?

We already do! While we continue to explore the possibility of competitive intercollegiate athletics as part of an increasingly robust and vibrant campus life, we

have a nascent but vibrant roster of club sports. Currently our six established or emerging club sports teams include table tennis, softball, golf, bowling, basketball and volleyball. The leadership team in the Recreation and Fitness Center is currently working on the bylaws for club sports that will provide an opportunity for additional sports teams to be developed as student interest emerges. Last season GSU hosted a regional National Collegiate Table Tennis competition and the GSU team competed against teams from Purdue, Northwest-



ern, UW-Madison, and DePaul. This season the men's softball team is currently in competition, and the golf team is getting ready to make its presence known. Additionally, Ann Manning-Nagel was recently recognized as Advisor of the Year for her work and service with the bowling team. So, while, institutional membership in competitive intercollegiate athletics is not yet a reality for GSU, you can certainly support our club sports teams now! For more information, visit www.govst.edu/recfit/sportsteams/ or contact Dean Jennings at djennings@govst.edu or 708.534.4945.

2. What if more than 270 students want to attend GSU?

Our commitment for FC14 is to enroll no more than 270 students (three cohort groups each with 90 students). As we build for the future (figuratively and literally!) our incoming classes may grow to include more students. It is important to be strategic about our growth. We need to consider classroom space, residence hall rooms, the number of faculty and staff, and many other resources that need to be in place to ensure a quality First Year Experience ("FYE"). Perhaps if GSU was planning just another run-of-the-mill college experience we could consider enrolling a larger incoming class. However, our cohort model is based on having the highest level of impact on the student's experience. That means more concentrated time dedicated to each student's experience whether that means more feedback from faculty to help students transition to college, peer mentors in the FYE course, or residence hall programs that combine "living with learning." As we grow, we will carefully consider how adding

new students will influence the quality of our educational experience while also making sure to maintain enrollment balance with our critically important community college partners.

3. All of this change is a little stressful. Do you have any suggestions for managing the stress?

Many thanks to Dr. Barbara Gormley for answering this question for In Motion!

Have you ever noticed that we are always in transition? From sleeping to waking, from spring to summer, from semester to semester, from work to vacation and back to work, everything keeps changing.

To relax into stressful transitions, we can start by feeling how it feels to be in our bodies, and really notice what is going on. I am writing this article on my first day back to work after a two-week meditation and yoga retreat, and my shoulders are tense as I sit at the keyboard. Since I am paying attention, I can take some time to stretch my arms and back, which are probably sore since I haven't been at a keyboard in a while. I am in transition again, so I am going to be kind to my body. Some of you might get into contact with your body by going for a walk or run, by stretching or playing sports, but whatever you do, feel what your body is telling you. Listen to it, and try to respond. You'll be glad you did!

Once we are in contact with our bodies, we can check out our thoughts and feelings. Meditation is a great help with this, and free meditation instruction is available locally if you'd like to give it a try (see Matteson Meditation Group on meetup.com). Or maybe you prefer to pray, journal, or talk to a friend. Whatever you do, really pay attention to what comes up, and discover the wisdom in yourself about how to relax into it all.

As the great meditation master, Chogyam Trungpa, said, "We may as well cheer up – we're going to have to eventually."

More stress management strategies: www.helpguide.org/mental/stress_management_relief_coping.htm

Who Will Work at Prairie Place?

*By Betsy Joseph,
Director of Auxiliary Services and University Housing*

One of the questions I have been asked about our first residence hall is "What is the staffing plan for the hall?" The first building will have a full time, master's level, Residence Hall Director (RHD), an Assistant Residence Hall Director (ARHD - graduate assistant) and five

Resident Assistants (RA). All of these staff will live in the hall.

The role of the Residence Hall Director will be to provide year-round leadership and direction for the residence hall. The RHD will be responsible for enhancing student learning and academic success through the creation of a community environment that supports the overall development of students.

The RHD will be responsible for:

- Training, supervising, and evaluating paraprofessional staff (RAs) and an Assistant Residence Hall Director (ARHD - graduate assistant).
- Assisting and advising students in matters related to academic support, crisis intervention, referral, programming, discipline, routine conflicts, personal development, and leadership opportunities.
- Advising the residence hall council on such matters as budget, policy, and programming.
- Serving as the communication link with students and other areas of the department and university.
- Work in collaboration with facilities staff to ensure a clean and safe environment for students to live and study.

The first hall will also have an Assistant Residence Hall Director, who will be a graduate assistant. The ARHD will assist the RHD in training, supervising, and evaluating the paraprofessional staff; assist and advise students in matters related to academic support, crisis intervention, referral, programming, discipline, conflicts, personal development, and leadership opportunities; provide leadership for overseeing the day to day operations of the reception desk and night security servicing in the residential building.

There will be five Resident Assistants in the first hall. The Resident Assistant staff members are paraprofessional graduate and undergraduate members of the Department of University Housing. RAs will be responsible for establishing and maintaining an atmosphere which will promote the educational, social, cultural and personal development of residents. RA staff will have a variety of responsibilities including serving as role models, community leaders, educators, residence hall

administrators, helper/mentors, policy enforcers, and team members.

Search processes for all of these staff members will commence in late October 2013 and will continue into the spring 2014 semester. Preliminary training/orientation programs will occur in the spring and resume in July/August 2014, just prior to the official opening of the hall.

Of course, we will have several other very important staff members who work in Prairie Place. Specifics are being evaluated regarding the exact number of building service workers (housekeeping) and maintenance staff who will be assigned to the hall.

Over the years (sometimes I cannot believe it has been 35 years that I've worked in housing organizations!) I have come to see some of the most extraordinary teams develop inside of a residence hall. All of the staff in Prairie Place -- from the housekeeping staff who helps keep the facility in great condition, to the RA who gets up at 3 a.m. to help a student in crisis -- will work as a team to make our first residence hall a great place to live.

