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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**VENDOR
FAIR** [3](#)

**TIP OF THE
MONTH** [4](#)

**FEATURE
ARTICLE** [5](#)

**REGARDING
EMPLOYEE
OF THE
MONTH** [6](#)

CARPOOLING [6](#)

**SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS** [7](#)

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- [Civil Service Senate
Mission Statement](#) [Pg 2](#)
- [Our Purpose](#) [Pg 2](#)
- [Officers and Senators](#) [Pg 2](#)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Illinois State and
University Employees
Make some NOISE!**

Recently there has been a push for new legislation to change the benefit language of not only future state employees but also current state employees! Some proposals have included things such as increased contribution (without increase benefits) or longer contribution (mandate more years of service before receiving benefits).

It is often presumed that we are protected by laws that would not allow this to happen to those of us already employed but that doesn't mean the government, in such disparate financial times, won't try and find a loop hole. A recent news item from Jane Wells (our SUAA rep) explained that we recently just dodged such a bullet and this is why I bring it up.

There is power in numbers

and there is something we can do to help. If you have not already done so, please join the SUAA for less than \$5 a month. This helps show the government we are serious and just how many active state employees will get upset and make a fuss if benefits are reduced. As state employees, we need to keep up with what is in the news and on the websites (see links below) regarding our benefits and make an effort to write your congressmen.

Don't be afraid to make some noise. Be pro-active and let legislators know you are concerned and that we are informed tax payers that will fight for our rights and that also we are conscientious voters.

Remember that we need to pay attention to what is going on in Springfield and get involved by exercising our right to free speech and to vote for the people whoshare our views.

www.suaa.org
www.gsusuaa.com

On a second note I would like to acknowledge Kristi DeLaurentiis, a founding member of the board of trustees, who is now retiring. Kristi has long been very supportive of the Civil Service staff and we will miss her representation on the Board. Please join me in wishing her the best as she continues her community involvement and support through various avenues.

-Laura Owens



CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: MISSION STATEMENT

The Civil Service Senate works to promote scholarship and morale and protects the rights and benefits of the civil service constituency.

The Civil Service Senate helps promote:

- Quality Instruction and Scholarship by helping to create a positive university experience for students by supporting civil service employee continuing education through scholarship.
- Innovation and Improved Productivity by promoting a positive work environment through morale building events. This helps to create efficiency through increased productivity.
- Enhanced Collaboration and Partnerships by encouraging unity through special events and collaborative efforts with students, faculty, community, and staff.

CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: OUR PURPOSE

The Senate shall recommend policies and procedures concerning Civil Service affairs, evaluations, salary, merit, Civil Service education and development, Civil Service governance, grievances, and campus physical resources. The Civil Service Senate shall advise on the specific decisions which may be made under any of these policies and

which shall be set forth in the By-laws of the Civil Service Senate. This advisement shall be limited to those decision not specifically covered or stipulated by a ratified Civil Service union agreement and those not in the process of bargaining.

[Back to Page 1](#)

SENATE OFFICERS AND SENATORS

The complete Senate roster for the 2011-2012 year is as follows:

Executive Officers:

President:

Laura Owens

Vice President:

Sheryl Jones-Harper (Personnel Resolution Chair)

Recording Secretary:

Lynne Clayton

(Scholarship Committee Chair/Affairs Committee Co-Chair)

Financial Secretary: Joyce Giroux

Correspondence Secretary:

Tiffani Malvin

Lynne Clayton (2012)

Paula Cosenza (2012)

Andrea Dal Polo (2012)

Joyce Giroux (2013)

Ann Jaso (2013)

Shelina Jenkins (2012)

Sheryl Jones-Harper (2012)

Denise Jones (2013)

Shawn Jones (2013)

Sandi Kawanna (2012)

Marlene Lees (2013)

Tiffani Malvin (2013)

Kathy Miller (2013)

Eric Nicholson (2012)

Laura Owens (2013)

Gina Ragland-Owolabi (2012)

Raquel Rios-Aguirre (2012)

Kelly Robinson (2012)

Mary Rothenberg (2013)

Karen Sinwelski (2013)

Scott Smith (2013)

Karen Stuenkel (2013)

Pam Taylor (2013)

Cynthia Woodard (2012)

[Back to Page 1](#)

Senate Meeting Dates

July 12, 2011

August 9, 2011

September 13, 2011

October 11, 2011

November 8, 2011

All meetings are held
in Room D1496

Location subject to
availability. Notification will
be provided if there are
schedule changes.

[Back to Page 1](#)



2011 SPRING VENDOR FAIR



*Cynthia Leoni
Custom Floral Arrangements
Bourbonnais, Illinois*

[Back to Page 1](#)

*The Spring vendor fair
Boasts 24 vendors
and 44 tables*



*Maureen Chappell
The Herb Basket
Bourbonnais, Illinois
815 932-7893*

[Back to Page 1](#)



*Frances L. Brooks
Superior Crafts
708 720-3484*

[Back to Page 1](#)

TIP OF THE MONTH FROM ANDREA DALPOLO

Andrea DalPolo brought homemade spritz cookies and mini cheesecakes to the St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt. Here are the recipes for you to enjoy.

RECIPE 1**Classic Spritz Cookies**

1 ½ cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine, softened (do not substitute vegetable oil spreads)

1 cup sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 ½ cups all-purpose flour

Colored sugar or sprinkles (optional)

Preheat oven to

350 degrees. Beat Butter until creamy, Add sugar, egg and vanilla; beat well. Add flour, 1 cup at a time, mix well. Dough will be soft; do not refrigerate.

Fill Cookie Press with dough if you have a press.....

Bake 10-12 minutes or until firm but not brown.

Yield: 6-7 dozen cookies

**RECIPE 2****Mini Cheesecakes**

2- 8 ounce packages of cream cheese

2 eggs

¾ cup Sugar

1 tsp. Vanilla

1 box of regular size vanilla wafers

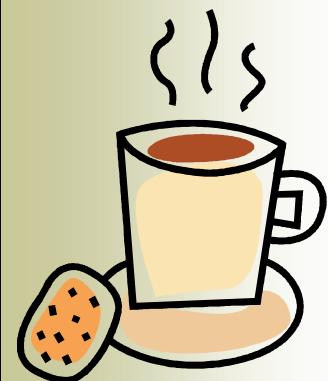
Cherry pie topping

Mix cream cheese, eggs, sugar and vanilla until smooth and creamy. Using "small" muffin tin and muffin papers line the muffin holder with mini papers and place 1 vanilla wafer in each upside down. Scoop the cream cheese mixture onto the top of the vanilla wafer covering the top of the cookie.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Once cooled, add pie topping

Yield: 30-40 mini cheesecakes



[Back to Page 1](#)

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Difference in a Smile By Kathy Miller

Recently, as I left my office in the FOC building, I turned and saw an employee walking toward me with his wife. I knew that this particular fellow was about to retire from GSU after a long admirable career. They were quite a distance from me but getting closer with each step we took. Then I did something my mother told me to never do. Slowly I lifted my arm straight out in front of me, extended out my finger and pointed directly at him.

Without saying a word to him, as I walked pointing at him, I began to see a huge grin form on his face. Then the grin changed, his lips turned up, his eyes sparkled and he smiled the largest smile one can imagine. I just continued pointing and said, “Uh huh” shaking my head up and down. His wife looked at me as if to say, “What?” I told her, “There it is, there is that smile!”

She looked at her husband and said to him, why are you smiling? He kept that smile and said, “21 days, 21 days.” We each chuckled as we walked pass each other then I heard him explain to his wife what “21 days” meant. It meant that he had only 21 days left until he officially retired.

How many people do you see walking around GSU with that “I’m retiring grin” on their faces? Quite a few of our co-workers and friends are making their final plans to retire from GSU this fiscal year. I know that most people walk around GSU smiling all the time, but this smile is different. It comes with a twinkle in their eye, and a hop in their step.

They have a certain air of confidence and relaxed calm about them. I think they smile that smile because they are happy to face a new chapter in their lives. I like to call this the “me” chapter. All of our lives we work hard to support ourselves and our families. We follow schedules, in bed by 10 p.m. up by 6 a.m. at work by 9a.m. We work five days or more a week, two days off then start the routine all over again. Some of us work even longer hours and more days. Now, our friends with the “retirement grins” have come the time in their lives when they get to think about “me” first for a change.

Enjoy this next chapter of your life, your “me” chapter. Do all of the things you’ve been putting off. Don’t waste a moment. Travel, take classes of interest instead of necessity, volunteer to your favorite group, spend time with your family and friends, but mostly take the time to enjoy your “me” time!

Know this, we won’t forget about any of you. You have each touched the life of somebody here at GSU. You will always be a part of our fondest GSU memories.

On behalf of the Civil Service Senate, I want to wish each and every one of you a long happy and healthy retirement!

[Back to Page 1](#)



**“There it is,
there is that
smile!”**

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Employee of the Month

The Governors State University (GSU) Employee of the Month program recognizes a Civil Service employee who demonstrates exemplary work, makes significant contributions, and/or performs or demonstrates outstanding service. It was established to show appreciation of Civil Service staff members and show them they are valued members of the GSU community. This program is possible because of the generosity of Institutional Advancement and The Center for Performing Arts and is sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and the Civil Service Senate.

To qualify, an employee must be a status Civil Service employee with at least a 75% appointment, who has served GSU for twelve consecutive months in a Civil Service position, and has not been selected as an Employee of the Month within the past three years. The employee evaluation process plays an important role in the final selection, an employee whose current work record showing documentation that the performance evaluation form is less than satisfactory will be disqualified for consideration.

The selected Employee of the Month will receive a letter and certificate of recognition and a copy of the letter will be placed in the employee's personnel file and provided to the unit. An e-mail announcement will be sent to the university community, their photograph will be displayed, and they will receive the following; a designated parking space, a voucher for two tickets to The Center for Performing Arts and a monetary award of \$150. They will be eligible to be the "Employee of the Year", which is selected from a pool of the 12 Employee of the Month recipients and voted on by the entire GSU community.

Anybody from the GSU community, faculty, staff, and students may nominate a Civil Service staff member that is worthy of this award. You will find

the nomination forms on the "Employee of the Month" nomination boxes located in the Faculty Office Center lobby, in the Hall of Governors next to Engbretson Hall, and in Human Resources. You can download a printable nomination form at www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/empmonth.pdf Please be sure to complete the entire nomination form and submit it in an employee of the month box, at the locations listed above or to the Human Resources Office.

We encourage everyone to participate in this program. Nominate somebody today!

-Kathy Miller

[Back to Page 1](#)

CARPPOOLING

Car-Pooling: a Smart Alternative

By Kathy Miller

With the cost of fuel these days, you may want to consider car-pooling. It's an alternative way of driving to work. Whether you share the vehicle with one or more, you will save money, wear and tear on your vehicle, and you will be helping the environment.

Carpooling Advantages from the Pace Ride Share website:

“Saves money by splitting commuting costs for fuel, tolls, parking and vehicle wear & tear.

Lowers stress

Reduces pollution

Gives riders time for other activities such as reading, sleeping, working and socializing

Reduces traffic congestion

Car-pooling can be made flexible by sharing the driving responsibilities. Here are some basic suggestions if you are thinking about car-pooling. Establish an agreement as to how the car-pooling arrangements will operate. You should determine who is going to drive and when, whether smoking will be allowed, place and time to meet, how costs will be shared, and so on.”

For a successful car-pool, compromise is the key. For example, if you would like to listen to your favorite radio station, but everyone hates it, the radio should not be turned to your favorite radio station every day.

You can ask your friends at work about sharing a ride. You may be able to find a car-pool buddy or more than one by just asking around. If you can't car-pool every day maybe it's possible once or twice a week?

I found two websites on car-pooling. Pace and the State of Illinois sponsor the sites linked

below.

IllinoisCarpool.org is a service provided by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council and the Office of the Illinois Lieutenant Governor.

www.standingupforillinois.org/carpool/tripride.php

Pace Ride Share is a free, easy and convenient matching service that connects commuters who are interested in forming a carpool in and around Northeastern Illinois.

www.pacerideshare.com/en-US/

[Back to Page1](#)



GSU THE CS REVIEW STAFF

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Marlene Lees**

**Contributors:
Laura Owens
Kathy Miller
Andrea DalPolo**



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| GSU Fly In | Pre-empted |
| Bake Sale | May 13, 2011 |
| “Come Fly and Decorate a Kite” | June 29, 2011 |
| Civil Service Day | December, 2011 |

[Back to Page1](#)

Important Dates

The University Picnic
will be held on
Sep 9, 2011

[Back to Page 1](#)