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GSU View

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News and Events

Super Summer Opens at Sculpture Park

Enjoy great art, great fun, and great friends at the Saturday, May 3 day of activities for at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

The day begins with refreshments and a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:45 a.m., on the patio behind the Hall of Governors.

“Kids, Kolors, and Kites,” from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., combines artistry with the joy of creating and flying kites. Children 8 years old and older accompanied by an adult learn about kites, create their own kites, and then fly them over the trees and sculptures of the park. Members of the Kite Enthusiasts of Chicago will be on hand to help with the activity. No advance registration is required. There is a \$10 fee (cash or check) per kite for materials.

Tours of both the northern portion of the park, (from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.), and the southern portion, (from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.), are led by enthusiastic docents who provide new insight into the remarkable vision of the artists. Tours are free and no advance registration is required. Guests are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes for the walk around the sculpture park. Tours begin on the patio behind in the Hall of Governors.

A bicycle tour of the park offers a completely different view of the sculptures. It begins outside, behind D-Wing, at 2 p.m. All participants must wear bicycle helmets and there will be some riding on public roads. This tour is free and no pre-registration is required.

For more information, call 708.534.4486 or e-mail the [park director](#).

The ScholarShip Sails On

President Maimon was quoted in the Summer 2008 edition of the [MLA Newsletter](#). The publication is the primary news vehicle for the Modern Language Association. Dr. Maimon commented on the pairing of basic-writing and general education courses.

Read the full article, [Brining Writing in from the Cold](#), which appears on page three of the newsletter.

X-Ray Soiree - Keep Away

This evening, May 1, the university will be closed to faculty, students, staff, and visitors between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. GSU is upgrading the infrastructure of the swimming pool, which requires coring through the roof slab. Prior to coring, the roof slab will need to be x-rayed in order to locate reinforcement bars and other cables. To safely accomplish this work, all non-essential personnel must vacate the University. The Department of Public Safety will help ensure that the building has been evacuated prior to the commencement of this work.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns please call the Facilities Office at ext. 4515.

CS Review Goes High Tech

Increased printing costs have forced the Civil Service Senate to discontinue their printed newsletter. Have no fear, as the Senate is still dedicated to providing the latest news to the GSU community. In fact, accessing the latest news is now available at the click of the mouse on the CS Review blog - <http://csreview2008.blogspot.com/>.

Supervisors are encouraged to print the blog out each time it is updated for staff without access to a printer. All civil service employees are encouraged to participate by submitting articles and information to [John De Young](#).

GSU Welcomes Spring/Summer Students

The Spring/Summer Welcome Days are on Monday and Tuesday, May 5 and 6, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. When students validate their GSU ID they will receive a \$5 gift card to Follett's Bookstore. Students, faculty, staff, and community members may register to vote thanks to the Women's League of Voters from Homewood and the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute. There will be food, drinks, and, of course, hot fresh popcorn!

GSU departments including the Academic Resource Center, DPS, and the Library will be on hand to answer questions. For more information, call 708.534.4550.

Mother's Day Appreciation Reception

The Black Student Union is sponsoring a Mother's Day Appreciation Reception on Wednesday, May 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Stop by for tasty cookies and punch. Students must present a valid GSU ID to claim a special gift! For more information contact [Larry Bledsoe](#).

A Stitch in Time

Are you interested in quilting, thinking about beginning, or are a long-time quilter? Join the new, informal quilting group on campus - no chair, no mandatory stuff, no stuffiness - just enjoyment of quilting and sharing with friends.

The first meeting is on May 8, from noon to 1 p.m., on the Library balcony. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for the second Thursday of each month, at the same time and location.

As a new group, there are plenty of opportunities for development. Participants are encouraged to bring their ideas and hopes for the group to this first meeting, where discussion will focus on the future of the group. Potential future meeting topics may include information sessions about quilting techniques, show & tell, handwork, and problem-solving for those who have run into difficulties with a project.

For more information, contact Dianne Kronika at x3979.

Benefits Choice Period Announced - Choose Wisely

Currently, the State of Illinois is negotiating with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union. Because negotiations are expected to be ongoing for the near future, the State is planning two Benefit Choice Periods this year.

Benefits Choice Period Number 1 is from May 1 to May 31, 2008, which allows changes in your benefits that will take effect July 1, 2008. The Department of Central Management Services (CMS) will mail booklets to all currently enrolled members describing this change period, including the change form necessary to make any changes. If you do not make any changes during Benefit Choice Periods 1 or 2, the benefits you currently have will continue as is for Fiscal Year 2009.

If, however, you have a Flexible Spending Account and are currently contributing to the Medical Care and/or Dependent Care Assistance Plans (MCAP/DCAP), your contributions will terminate June 30, 2008. If you wish to participate in Fiscal Year 2009 (7/1/08 through 6/30/09), you must re-enroll. Re-enrollment forms will be mailed to current participants. New enrollment forms for those who wish to participate, beginning July 1, 2008, can be obtained through the H.R. website, then click "Employee Benefits" and then "Quicklinks to Employee Benefits." Forms are also available in the Human Resource Office.

Please note, you must enroll or re-enroll during Benefits Choice Period Number 1 to participate in MCAP and/or DCAP in Fiscal Year 2009.

Benefit Choice Period Number 2 will be scheduled after negotiations have been finalized with AFSCME. Plans are to continue with the current health and dental contribution rates, effective July 1, 2008, until negotiations are completed and new information is known.

We have been advised that the same vendors will continue in Fiscal Year 2009. Optional Life Insurance rates will continue with Minnesota Life at their same level as well as the rates for the Accidental Death and Dismemberment program. Spouse Life and Dependent Child(ren)'s Life remains at a flat \$10,000 of coverage, but the monthly premium rate has been reduced to \$6.94 per month for your spouse's life insurance and \$.52 per month for your child(ren)'s life insurance.

From May 1, 2008, the State of Illinois' Benefit Choice website will be available to all members.

The booklet mailed for the first Benefits Choice Period will have limited information as little is known at this time. The State is contemplating a second mailing for the second Benefits Choice Period with a more comprehensive book for the new Fiscal Year (2009).



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