

Governors State University
OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

GSU View

University Newsletters

12-18-2008

GSU View, 2008-12-18

Office of Public Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview>

Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs GSU View (2008, December 18). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/98>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSU View by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.



News and Events

A Holiday Message from Dr. Maimon

As the winter holidays approach, I want to thank you for all that you do to make GSU a wonderful place. The New Year marks the university's 40th anniversary, and throughout 2009, we will be celebrating our history and our future.



GSU was founded as an experimenting university—one that embraced change and the power of transformational thinking. That tradition continues, as GSU affirms core values and develops strategies to achieve them. In October, the Board of Trustees approved “Strategy 2015,” GSU’s new strategic plan, setting forth our blueprint for the next six years. Special thanks to the Strategic Planning Task Force, chaired by Vice Provost John Stoll and Professor Karen D’Arcy, for leading the highly inclusive process that produced this guiding document.

“Strategy 2015” affirms our mission to serve a diverse group of first-generation college students with the highest quality education. In addition to our special focus on working adults, we are strengthening our outreach to community college transfer students, particularly those residing in the south suburbs and in the City of Chicago. In 2008, we have expanded our policies of dual admission and established our first baccalaureate completion center at Kankakee Community College. We have re-deployed free shuttle service to and from the University Park Metra Station, thereby fulfilling the dreams of our founders by providing to inner-city Chicago students an accessible, excellent university option in a tranquil suburban setting.

The waning year has brought severe economic challenges to the global community, the nation, the State of Illinois, and, inevitably, to our university. Many thanks to the Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC) for the transformative budget processes we implemented in 2008, and for the sound advice on budgeting, which we have adopted. As 2009 begins, our bywords continue to be “prudence” and “strategic thinking.” Many thanks to the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee that is examining ways for us to fulfill our mission of reaching new populations of students, while at the same time helping us to be masters of our financial fate. GSU’s enrollment for Winter 2009 is tracking positively, with increases over Winter 2008, but it will take everyone’s best efforts to fulfill the goals of “Strategy 2015” in the recruitment and retention of students.

We became a safer campus in 2008, thanks to the excellent work of the Campus Safety Committee and the Emergency Response Team. On Monday, December 8, we were tested under “game conditions,” when a fire broke out in the boiler room. Our systems worked smoothly. Of course, in matters of safety as with everything else at GSU, we are committed to continuous improvement.

In 2008, Dr. Sandra Mayfield took over responsibility for our major mechanism for continuous improvement, “Why Not?” We will be awarding the Fall 2008 prize early in 2009. We are dedicated to the openness that has always distinguished university life. Thanks for your participation in faculty roundtables, student forums, charettes, panels, and campus activities.

Many thanks for your generous response to the Campus Community Campaign and special kudos to Vice President Joan Vaughan and her staff for building a professional philanthropic infrastructure for broad-based external funding in these difficult economic times. The GSU Promise has never been more important than during this time period when “debt” is perceived as the worst of all four-letter words. The very students we were founded to serve need the promise of a debt-free baccalaureate.

In July 2008, the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) welcomed a new dean, Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis. As 2008 closes,

Dr. Deb Bordelon takes the reins as Dean of the College of Education. They have joined a faculty, staff, and administration that works hard (PBAC, Calendar Implementation Committee, Emergency Response Team), but also has fun. The Civil Service Day Show gets better every year.

As the calendar year closes, let us take a moment to appreciate our opportunities to do meaningful work toward creating a New Year of unity and hope. Happy holidays to all.



Street Parking Ends

As winter weather leads to slick roadways and frequent plowing, GSU will no longer allow street parking along the inner ring road or the carillon drive. Street parking was made available this fall during re-construction of the B and C lots. Lot B has reopened and Lot C is slated to partially reopen before the holiday break.

The new, permanent parking restriction will begin on Friday, December 19. Any cars found parked along a roadway will receive warning tickets through the end of the month.

Please contact the Department of Public Safety at ext. 4900 with questions.

Your Computer Deserves a Break Too

ITS reminds all employees to shutdown all on campus computers before leaving for the holiday break. Most desktop computers on campus will be affected by the power outage work being done December 26 through 31. A loss of power to a computer left on may result in file and data corruption.

Please contact the GSU Helpdesk at ext. 4357 with questions or concerns.

Auxiliary Services Holiday Deadlines

Mail services will pick-up all outgoing mail early on Tuesday, December 23. Critical mailing that needs to go out during the holidays should be left in department/office outgoing trays by the end of the day on Monday, December 22.

Mail service will resume on January 2, though mail may not be delivered until the afternoon.

Also, please note, the last day to place orders from Office Max, the Print Shop, or Sodexo catering is December 19. All orders placed after that date will be held until the university reopens on January 2 and, therefore, may not be ready for the week of January 5.

For questions, call Jerad Garrison at ext. 7445.

Volunteer Today for Winter Commencement

Volunteers are essential to the success of many GSU events, especially Commencement. As the Winter 2009 Commencement quickly approaches, the Commencement committee needs your help.

The 2009 Winter Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for, Saturday, January 31, at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Volunteers will assist with pre-ceremony setup, faculty and marshal robing, student check-in and check-out, ushering, and many other

duties. Your assistance will ensure the overall success of the event and enable the campus community to honor its graduates and recognize their achievements in an exemplary manner.

To confirm your participation as a volunteer for the 2009 Winter Commencement, please respond to [Karen Caesar-Smith](#) at ext. 6360.

WebCT-Blackboard Online Classrooms

Faculty can log into the WebCT-Blackboard system and set up online course sections with a few easy clicks of the mouse. Whether they are only posting a syllabus and key readings or building an extensive learning environment, an online classroom can be created quickly and easily.

Build an online classroom quickly and easily with GSU's WebCT-Blackboard system. Just login at www.govst.edu/elearning and follow the attached set-up guide. Students will gain access to the online classrooms beginning January 5.

WebCT support is available via e-mail or by calling ext. 4106.



Copyright © 2008 Governors State University | [Privacy Policy](#)
1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466-0975
708.534.5000 | [E-mail GSUView](#)