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University Newsletters

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Office of Public Affairs

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News and Events

MLK, Jr. Day

The university will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but the day will be celebrated with a special observance at The Center for Performing Arts. *A Day On – Not a Day Off* will begin with a pre-program at 10:30 a.m., followed by a program at 11 a.m. The program includes welcoming remarks by President Maimon, guest speaker Apostle Carl White Jr., and musical guests Dr. Stirling Culp, the Rich Central Symphonic Band, and Dena Allen Spivey. The event is free and open to the public.

Inauguration Celebration

In celebration of the inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama on January 20, the Student Senate is sponsoring a social gathering between 9 and 10:30 a.m. with light refreshments that will afford students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to discuss the election, the new presidency, and future of the United States. Observance will continue during the swearing in ceremony at 11 a.m. Viewing will be possible on a large screen television installed in the Hall of Governors or on one of the many television monitors situated around campus.

Honorary Degree to District 162 Superintendent

At its Winter Commencement ceremony on January 31, GSU will grant more than 650 bachelor's and master's degrees to students who have worked diligently and with great success toward this goal. The university will also award an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa), to Dr. Blondean Davis, Superintendent of Matteson School District 162.

Under Davis' leadership, the students of District 162 attained a 45 percent rise in achievement scores on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. Schools in her district rank among the top elementary schools in the state. In 2008, Dr. Davis was named Illinois Superintendent of the Year.

Commencement Volunteers Commence Volunteering

A really big show needs a lot of helping hands. Volunteers are encouraged to join in making Winter Commencement a success for the university, our graduates, and their families. Volunteers will assist with pre-ceremony setup, faculty and marshal robbing, student check-in and check-out, ushering, and many other duties.

GSU Commencement will take place on Saturday, January 31, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served.

Those interested are asked to contact Karen Caesar-Smith k-caesar-smith@govst.edu at ext 6360.

Be a Student Senator

Election and petition packets are available at [online](#) for the positions of Student Senator, Student Representative to the Governors State University Board of Trustees, and Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee. Completed packets are due to Sara Appel, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership (A2132), by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

The elections will be conducted online this year. Online voting begins Monday, January 26 and continues through Thursday, January 29. To vote, students must go to <https://eballot.votenet.com/GOVST>. The username is the student's last name and the password is his/her student id number.

Honorary Degree Nominations

The Honorary Degree Nomination Review Committee will on Thursday, January 22. The committee meets at least once in each of fall and winter trimesters. According to the Board of Trustees Regulations Section III B, the committee recommends to the President proposed honorary degree recipients selected from nominations by the faculty, students, staff, alumni, and Trustees.

Current members of the review committee are:

Paul Blobaum, Associate Professor, Library, President of Faculty Senate, Chair

Chip Coldren, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, CAS

Najma Adam, Associate Professor, Social Work, CHHS

Nancy Miller, Assistant Professor, Education, COE

Beth Cada, Full Professor, Occupational Therapy, CHHS

Kathy Miller, President, Civil Service Senate

Joan Vaughan, VP, Advancement

Jane Hudak, Provost

Letters of nomination should include authoritative vitae and/or biographical data, contact information (phone and mailing address), and other pertinent information.

Please forward nominations by Wednesday, January 21 for consideration this month. Nominations may be sent to [Paul Blobaum](#) or [Joan Vaughan](#).

Wanted: NMSP Docents

Don't just take a tour of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Lead one. Now is your chance to gain insight and understanding of the 26 pieces of art through the NMSP docent program. Docents lead tours, host programs and receptions, and act as ambassadors of the park.

Docent orientation consists of seven evening sessions spread over a 12-week period and a morning tour of the sculpture park. Session topics include park history, an introduction to the history of sculpture, presentations on each piece in the collection, and pointers on how to conduct tours of the sculpture park.

Sessions are conducted Thursday, from February 26 through May 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at GSU. Refreshments and materials are provided. Advance registration and a \$25 fee are required.

For more information on the park docent program and volunteer opportunities at the [sculpture park](#), call ext 4486.

A New You

Are you down because your pants size is up? Or is it simply time to get back in shape? You're not alone.

Join your colleagues on Wednesday, January 28 for *Weight Watchers at Work*. This preliminary informational meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m., in room F1603.

In order for the program to run, at least 20 participants are needed to commit to a 17-week session. So bring a friend or three. The cost of participation is \$186, payable in three installments (or by payroll deduction) of \$62.

For more information, contact [Julia Jamison](#) at ext. 7468.

Work Away From Work

Sometimes your office is the worst place to be productive. If you want to get away to get things done, try the GSU Library. Library laptops are now available for checkout for use within the Library.

Let's Get Fit

In addition to *Weight Watchers at Work*, the Department of Human Resources is also offering a program to help you fulfill your New Year's resolution. *Let's Get Fit* runs from February 1 through April 30.

GSU employees are encouraged to work out on campus at least three times a week for 30 minutes a session to earn points and become eligible for valuable incentives.

How to earn points:

- Walk through GSU for 30 minutes
- Work out at the Recreation and Fitness Center
- Attend a weekly *Weight Watchers at Work* meeting

Sign up in Human Resources today to begin your program. For more information, contact [Julia Jamison](#) at ext. 7468.

Donation Success

The GSU community generously donated \$6,599.00 to the Annual State Employees Combined Appeal SECA 2008 Campaign.



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