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News and Events

Rally Day in Springfield

GSU faculty and staff are encouraged to attend Rally Day in support of university priorities. Rally Day will take place on April 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Capital Building, in Springfield, Illinois. For more information about attending or bus transportation, contact [Marsha Katz](#).

College Courses for Everyone

Everyone is eligible to enroll in GSU's new six-week Vacation Education mini-term this summer.

Vacation Education courses run from June 1 through July 15 and require no prerequisites. The program is open everyone, age 17 and over, including non-Illinois residents, those who wish to continue their education, and those who have never taken a college course.

Application, submission of the \$25 application fee, and registration for specific courses may be completed simultaneously. Transcripts are not required.

All four colleges will offer courses during the special summer session. Course topics range from Abnormal Psychology to Introduction to Health Professions and from Elementary Education to Business Concepts.

Students who are currently suspended from GSU and/or who have an unpaid balance on their tuition will not be allowed to enroll.

For more information or to enroll, visit the [Vacation Education website](#).

Campus Community Campaign Celebration

This year's Campus Community Campaign has come to an end with the distinction of being one of the

most successful yet. All GSU employees are invited to celebrate this success at the Campus community Campaign Wrap-Up event on Thursday, April 16, at 4 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Festivities include a drawing for exceptional prizes including:

- A two night stay for two at the West Baden Springs Resort in French Lick, Indiana, with a choice of spa services or a round of golf
- Explore Chicago Package
- Tickets to a performance at The Center for Performing Arts

See you at the celebration!

Celebrate the Earth

A campus-wide celebration of the Earth Week will be held on Thursday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The celebration will include refreshments, displays, demonstrations, music, and activities focusing on environmental sustainability. Many “green” innovations, which have been initiated by GSU, will be celebrated as well, including the dedication of the newly re-paved parking lots at 2 p.m.



Activities will take place in parking lot B. Parking lots B and C are both part of the Earth Week celebration as they were paved recently using permeable pavers, an environmentally friendly surface that protects the water table from harmful chemicals.

The celebration also includes a pre-season Farmers Market featuring eco-friendly products. Local Toyota, Chevrolet, Ford, and Saturn car dealers will display their hybrid vehicles. Additional demonstrations include how to compost, sustainable dining practices, and solar powered garbage cans. IDOT will be on hand with a display of fuel conservation driving tips.

Students from Bloom Township High Schools will display their bio-diesel bus powered by fuels they make themselves in the classroom using old cooking oil and corn. The GSU Science Department will conduct natural history tours of the GSU campus. Art tours will be led by Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Director Geoffrey Bates. Children’s art and science activities will be led by students and educators from COE and CAS.

The GSU Earth Week Celebration and Parking Lot Dedication is free and open to the public. In case of rain, some activities and demonstrations will be moved into the main entry atrium. For more information, contact [Karen Caesar-Smith](#) at ext. 6360.

Shuttle Break

The GSU Shuttle Service will not be in operation during the trimester break beginning on April 21. Service will resume on May 4. For more information contact DPS at ext 4900.

Grant Funding for Research

Each year, the Provost's Office sponsors seed grants as a way to encourage research in and among our faculty, students, and staff. The funding is designed primarily to encourage scholarly activity. This year, the maximum grant is again \$3500.

Completed applications are due to the Provost's Office by 5 p.m., on Friday, May 1. All research and expenses must be incurred and completed and submitted during the 2010 fiscal year (July 2009-June 31, 2010) to be funded by these grants.

For more information, contact [Margaret Neumann](#), Chair, URG committee, at ext. 4968.

What's Your GSU Story?



There is still time to contribute your own GSU story to the 40th Anniversary celebration. In honor of the event, we are collecting stories of the positive impact and enduring memories of community members, alumni, students, retirees, or employees of the university.

Share the positive impact GSU has had on your life in 750 words or less. Many of the stories will be featured on the 40th Anniversary website. The top submissions will be announced at the GSU Gala Celebration on November 7 and will be printed in *IMPACT*, a publication commemorating the best submissions.

All literary genres are accepted via electronic submission to writingcompetition@govst.edu. No graphics please. Entries should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents only. The submission deadline is April 30.

For more information, visit the [Writing Competition FAQ](#) or contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 3956.

Summer at the FDC

The GSU Family Development Center is offering summer childcare for kindergarten to 12 year olds. The program accepts children from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekly field trips and swimming for eligible students are included. Payroll deduction required for discount.

Discounts are available for children and grandchildren of GSU students, staff, and faculty. Call today for more information, 708.235.7300.

Alumni Spotlight - Alejandra De La Pena

Alejandra De La Pena was named one of 19 finalists honored for the 2009 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Awards. Finalists exemplify the best practices for quality early childhood teaching: dedication, innovation, leadership, respect for children and their families, and commitment to professional growth. In April, five of these finalists will be chosen to represent the best of the field.

Alejandra received her MA in education administration from the College of Education in 2006.

Appreciation Expressed

The Friends of the Library wish to express their appreciation to the many donors, bakers, shoppers, and bidders who made their recent fundraiser a great success. The more than \$1000 raised through the sale of donated media materials and baked goods as well as the silent auction bidding on donated items will be used to support the University Library.



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1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466-0975
708.534.5000 | [E-mail GSUView](#)