

Governors State University
OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

GSU View

University Newsletters

11-19-2009

GSU View, 2009-11-19

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 (2009, November 19). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/199>

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.



On November 16, 17, and 18, a team of eight faculty members and administrators from other universities evaluated GSU on behalf of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association. The team has completed its review and will recommend to the HLC that GSU be reaccredited for the maximum number of years (10 years, with the next accreditation visit in academic year 2019-2020). The team's recommendation is preliminary and will be reviewed by HLC staff and/or review committees. However, the university is optimistic that the visitation team's recommendation will be the same as the Commission's final decision.

The team evaluated the university on five criteria:

- Mission and Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
- Engagement and Service

All five criteria were met. The HLC team was particularly impressed by the clear commitment to the university's mission, as expressed by numerous people throughout the visit, and the transparency of university decision making and strategic management, as exemplified by PBAC. The team especially praised GSU's commitment to diversity, the high morale of the institution, and model achievements in engagement with external communities. GSU's improved infrastructure was also recognized as a campus strength, although the team expressed concerns related to the E and F science wings and the need for immediate improvement in these facilities.

The team also recommended that the HLC approve GSU's request to offer

the nursing programs and the program in Addiction Studies fully online. The team did recommend, however, that the university develop, within three years, an institutional effectiveness plan which integrates the assessment of student learning, general education assessment, and institutional data for planning and improvement purposes. That plan will be reviewed by an HLC team.

President Maimon regards the visit as “highly successful” and another important step toward establishing Governors State University as an educational leader. “We learned a great deal from the visiting team, and they acknowledged that they learned a great deal from us,” noted Maimon. “That kind of productive dialogue is a major purpose of the peer review system of reaccreditation.”

Special thanks go to Drs. Eric Martin and Ann Vendrely, the HLC Self-Study co-chairs; Dr. David Curtis, Interim Provost; Dr. Sandra Mayfield, HLC Self-Study Coordinator for the Provost’s Office; and Jill Stanley, the support person who managed the travel, meals, and schedules of the team visitors. Additional thanks go to the many members of the university community who contributed time and effort on various self-study committees over the past two years.

“As we look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to express my personal gratitude to this vibrant community. The evaluation team leader commented especially on our forward momentum as a unifying force in our region,” Maimon added.

In approximately six weeks, GSU will receive a copy of the written report that will be officially submitted to the Commission.

In response to Wednesday’s oral report, campus celebrations are already underway.

President Joins AAC&U Trust

President Elaine P. Maimon recently joined a new Presidents’ Trust formed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

President Maimon and an esteemed national group of 81 other college and university leaders from around the country formed the Trust to make the case strongly and collectively for liberal education and its value in today’s world. The Presidents’ Trust is a leadership group within the AAC&U’s national initiative to promote Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes To College.



“At Governors State University, we believe that students benefit from

strong preparation in writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving — the liberal learning clearly articulated by the Presidents' Trust. It is essential that we combine liberal education with career education," said Maimon.

Members of the LEAP Presidents' Trust are leaders from all sectors of higher education and are committed to advocating for the vision, values, and practices that connect liberal education with the individual and societal needs of the twenty-first century. Through regional and national meetings and their own advocacy efforts, Trust members will engage with campus members and those outside of higher education about the core purposes and practices of liberal education. They are all also providing leadership for advancing reforms in the practice of liberal education both on campus and with other groups and organizations with which they are affiliated.

World AIDS Day

While the HIV/AIDS epidemic is not making the news as frequently or with as much urgency as it once did, the disease remains a growing and serious world health issue. World AIDS Day will be marked at GSU with an opportunity to learn the current statistics, facts, and answers about HIV/AIDS.



A panel discussion, with comments by those living with the disease and healthcare professional treating it, will be held at on December 1, at noon and again at 2:20 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

An information fair will also held on December 1, from noon to 5 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. A variety of service providers will offer information on the spread, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Both the information fair and panel discussion are free and open to the public.

This event is sponsored by the Academic Resource Center at GSU. For more information, contact [Tamekia Scott](#) at ext 2228.

TQE Scholarships for Winter 2010

The Teacher Quality Enhancement Recruitment (TQE-R) grant at Governors State University is offering scholarships, from \$500 to \$3,000, to students entering the university's secondary education programs in biology, chemistry, English, or math.

This is a renewable scholarship until Fall 2010 so students may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent terms. Applications for Winter 2010 must be submitted by December 1, 2009. [Scholarship requirements and applications](#) are available online.

This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Civil Service Scholarships for Winter 2010

Applications for civil service scholarships are being accepted until January 16, 2010. Four applicants will be chosen to receive awards of \$250 each. Applicants need be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours and must be a civil servant at GSU or married to or a dependent of a member of the GSU civil service.

For more information and an application, contact [Senantha Jenkins](#) at ext 4484.

Alum Returns to the Classroom

This fall, Dr. Walt Henne returned to the GSU science labs where he first learned – and helped teach – college level chemistry and started his career in biomedical research. As a Professor of Biochemistry, he will guide a new generation of students toward an understanding and appreciation of how to conduct responsible, effective scientific research that helps change our world.

Dr. Henne is a proud GSU alumnus who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1996 and a Master's in Analytical Chemistry in 1999. He has a remarkable story but much of it is familiar to thousands of other non-traditional GSU alumni who work long hours at multiple jobs to finish their education. It's also remarkable that four members of his family are GSU graduates, and all attended the university at the same time.



Dr. Henne's wife Kristene and his brother Jeff both received B.S. degrees in Biology in 2000. His sister Christina received a B.A. degree in Elementary Education in 2001 and his brother-in-law Jerry Kovach graduated that same year with a B.A. in Social Sciences.

A native of a small farming community near Streator, Dr. Henne started attending GSU in 1994 after completing an Associate of Applied Sciences degree at Kankakee Community College.

GSU's flexible scheduling made it possible for Dr. Henne to go to school while working as an RN at a Kankakee rehabilitation facility. While an undergraduate, he started a second job as a teaching assistant, first in Organic Chemistry and later in Physiology, Analytical Chemistry, and Biochemistry.

After receiving his B.S., he continued his job as a teaching assistant while pursuing his master's degree. Dr. Henne's wife and brother also worked as teaching assistants in the science labs.

School of Counseling Common Hour

GSU School of Counseling Common Hour Series continues with the presentation *Social Responsibility: Counseling Adolescents and Children in School* on Wednesday, December 2, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Speakers include Raymond Piagentini, President of the Illinois School Counselor Association; Dr. Reginald Patterson, Elementary School Counseling, Chicago Public Schools; and Dr. Joyce Brown, Secondary School Counseling, Chicago Public Schools.

The Illinois Counseling Association, GSU Chapter, and graduate students in COUN858 (Development of School Counseling Services) are sponsoring this event. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Lincoln Laureate Honored

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.



This year's Lincoln Laureate from GSU is Adam Taylor of Matteson. According to those who nominated him, Taylor exemplifies the characteristics of Lincoln Laureates who are chosen for their commitment to the principles of democracy and humanity as embodied by Abraham Lincoln. Taylor has been an active and contributing member of the GSU community through his work as president of the Student Senate, participant in the Brother 2 Brother program, and member of the Black Student Union. As a student at GSU, he has worked as a Student Life assistant helping plan and implement student activities on campus.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois established the award in 1965. Each recipient receives the Student Laureate Medallion and a certificate of achievement. Taylor and other award recipients recently participated in a ceremony in Springfield, in the Old State Capitol. A luncheon honoring the recipients was held in the Executive Mansion following the ceremony.]

Taylor will graduate with a bachelor's degree in mathematics with teacher certification and will student teach at Collin Powell Middle School in Matteson next year.

No Tobacco Funding Policy at GSU

Effective immediately, GSU has a No Tobacco Funding policy. According to the California Youth Advocacy Network (CYAN), which helped develop the policy, GSU is the first university in the United States and the only university in Illinois to have such a strong university-wide statement against accepting tobacco money for research and sponsored programs.

Dr. Daniel Cortese of the College of Arts and Sciences, working with Dean Linda Samson, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies; Alexis Kennedy, GSU's General Counsel; and Kimberlee Homer Vagadori of CYAN, developed the university's No-Tobacco Funding policy.

Visit the [Office of Sponsored Programs and Research website](#) to review the policy.

