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GSU View

University Newsletters

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News and Events

Enjoy The Nutcracker

With much to celebrate in 2009, Dr. Maimon has invited the GSU faculty and staff to attend to the annual performance of Salt Creek Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, at 5 p.m., on Saturday, December 12, in The Center for Performing Arts. Dr. Maimon extended the invitation in appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the GSU faculty and staff in 2009, including the recent HLC accreditation continuation process and the 40th Anniversary events.

"I hope you and a companion will be guests of the university at this holiday classic," wrote Dr. Maimon. "After meetings, self-studies, and dashboards, it's time for sugar plum fairies, waltzing flowers, and swirling snowflakes."

If you wish to attend *The Nutcracker* at this special GSU family performance, please reserve a maximum of two tickets by bringing a copy of the email you received on November 30 to the Center Box Office by 4 p.m., on Wednesday, December 9. Tickets are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional tickets for the 5 p.m. performance are \$33 for adults and \$28 for children 16 and under. For more information, call the Center at 708.235.2222.



The Nature of Science

True or false?

- Science reveals incontrovertible, absolute truth.
- Scientific theories mature into laws that represent absolute truth.

Scientists know both statements are false but, all too often, that's not the case with high school science students, and even their teachers. Recent studies show students often fail to understand that science is tentative, partially subjective, and involves creativity.



GSU professors Gary Lyon and Pam Guimond addressed barriers to teaching about “the nature of science” in a presentation at this month’s Illinois Science Teachers Association convention in Peoria. Lyon, who teaches chemistry, and Guimond, who teaches biology, also train prospective science teachers in the College of Arts and Science’s secondary education program.

Looking at the nature of science, they say, goes to the philosophical heart of what must be part of any scientific research. Students in GSU’s chemistry and biology education programs are required to think about the nature of science, and to include that thinking in their lesson plans.

“Science is new, fluid, and flexible,” Lyon says, “It requires creativity.” The ongoing acquisition of scientific knowledge is socially and culturally embedded, and involves human interference and imagination.

Last spring, Lyon and Guimond conducted a daylong nature of science workshop for teachers at a Chicago-area private high school. Those science teachers’ responses to the workshop were the basis for the PowerPoint presentation at the Peoria convention. Lyon and Guimond were able to identify barriers to teaching about the nature of science. These range from lack of resources to lack of student motivation to time constraints – in the classroom, for training, and for concept development. Sometimes, they concluded, teachers need to overcome old habits about science instruction.

“We had a good response to the presentation,” Guimond says. “We’ve heard from other teachers interested in workshops on the nature of science.”

Money in the Bank

The Financial Services and Comptroller’s Office (FS&C) now offers direct deposit of reimbursement checks for faculty and staff. The bank account used for the direct deposit will be the account provided to the payroll department for direct deposit of university payroll.

The day a reimbursement is electronically processed, the employee will receive an email from GSU Accounts Payable specifying the dollar amount and description of the reimbursement.

The direct deposit normally shows up within a few business days of the

email notification. The reimbursement should arrive in employee bank accounts within two business days of the email notification.

Employees will be notified of all modifications to travel vouchers by email if the employee is using GSU interoffice mail or by U.S. mail.

Please direct all comments and questions to the GSU Accounts Payable staff at ext. 7354.

Employee of the Year Ballots

Employee of the Year selection ballots are due by Monday, November 30. Submit the form to Senatha Jenkins in the Department of Human Resources in an envelope marked *confidential* or place it in one of the Employee of the Month nomination boxes located by the College of Health and Human Services (G-Wing) or by The Center of Performing Arts. Remember to vote...only once.

World AIDS Day – December 1

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.

Common Hour on Social Responsibility

GSU School of School 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 counseling are sponsoring this event. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. CPDU and CE credits are available.

Understanding Intuition

Understanding the meaning and uses of intuition is the focus of an Intuition Workshop conducted by Professor Kim Snow on December 3, from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. The workshop is sponsored by the Illinois Counseling Association, GSU Chapter. Refreshments will be served.

Moving Up

Civil Service employees are invited to attend *How to Move within the Civil Service System*, a presentation by Human Resource manager, Pulchratia Kinney-Smith, on December 3, from noon to 1 p.m., in room D34115.

The presentation will address areas of concern and answer the most commonly asked questions from current employees who are interested in promotion or moving to another Civil Service permanent position.

Provost Candidates on Campus

Two highly qualified candidates for GSU Provost will visit the university during the first two weeks of December.

On Friday, December 4, Dr. Terry Allison, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at California State University, Los Angeles, will visit GSU. Before moving to Cal State LA, he served in various positions at California State University, San Marcos.

On Tuesday, December 8, Dr. Carmen Coballes-Vega, Dean of the College of Professional Studies, Metropolitan State University (St. Paul, Minnesota), will visit the university. Before moving to Metropolitan State, she served as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

These invitations result from months of careful screening and deliberations by the Provost Search and Screening Committee. The GSU community is encouraged to welcome them and to attend the open sessions designated on the agendas.

Evaluation forms for attendee commentary will be available.

Mentors Lead to Success

The Latino Center for Excellence is seeking graduate students interested in helping undergraduate students find academic success at GSU. Student mentors will serve as a resource, and listen, counsel, and motivate undergraduates.

Mentors must be registered in any graduate program at GSU, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be able to commit the necessary time. They will receive the support needed to ensure a beneficial experience for the mentor and the mentee, a \$1,000 stipend, and the opportunity to make a difference.

For more information, contact [Carlos Cantu](#), Activity Director at ext. 4553.

Careers in Healthcare

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring a career fair for healthcare workers. Current students, alumni, and community members interested in finding employment in the field of healthcare are invited to attend. More than 35 potential employers will be present. Fields represented will include OT/PT, nursing, healthcare administration, and non-profit agencies.

The Healthcare Career Fair is on Tuesday, December 8, from 4 to 6 p.m., in The Center for Performing Arts lobby at Governors State University. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the career fair, call 708.235.3974.

December Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Committee meetings and the full Board meeting will take place on Friday, December 11, beginning with breakfast at 8 a.m. Committee meetings will not take place on Friday, December 4.

Retirement Investment Information

John Olson, the VALIC Representative under the university's 403(b) plan, will be on campus tomorrow, December 1, in the Visitors' Center (room D1408) from 9 a.m. to noon. Appointments are not needed to see John regarding your account or starting a new one.

GSU also has three other authorized vendors able to accept new contributions. They are TIAA-CREF, Fidelity, and the Legend Group.

Nominate the Student Commencement Speaker

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the winter commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010.

Please complete both of the [Commencement Faculty-Staff Recommendation Nomination](#) form and the [Commencement Student Nomination](#) form and submit them to [Vanessa Newby](#), (room A2104) no later than Wednesday, December 16. Please note that student nominees must be available to meet for an interview on Friday, January 8, between noon and 5 p.m.

Library Offers More Bestsellers

What do an airline pilot, an actor, and a basketball coach have in common? In 2009, they all wrote a New York Times best seller. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's penned *Highest Duty*, his account of the day he and his crew successfully crash-landed an airplane in the Hudson River.

Michael J. Fox actor, husband, father, and activist, wrote *Always Looking Up*, his bestselling explanation of how his life challenges are opportunities, not closed doors.

The head coach of the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights, C. Vivian Stringer, shares her love of her family and basketball and the tragedies and triumphs she has endured in her memoir, *Standing Tall*.

These and other bestsellers are now available at the GSU Library.

