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News and Events

Singing with the Stars at GSU

GSU's got talent and this is your chance to show it off. On March 14, at 4 p.m., The Center for Performing Arts will present 100 Years of Broadway.

And two talented members of the GSU community will be on stage with the stars of Broadway showing that GSU has talent. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and retirees are all welcome to try out and win a spot in the spotlight.

Auditions will take place February 18, beginning at 2 p.m., in The Center for Performing Arts. Each contestant must sing two minutes of a Broadway song. They must bring their own music and/or a piano player. Callbacks are on February 25. Fans are welcome to attend to root for their favorite contestant.

The first place winner will sing a solo with the stars and the second place winner will sing a chorus number with the stars. Everyone who tries out will get a BIG discount on tickets to the show and the winners will get two free tickets each.

Applications for the audition are due no later than February 11, to The Center for Performing Arts box office. For more information, contact Patricia Guy at ext. 7489.

Come One, Come All

All commencement volunteers and employees working to help make Commencement a great success are asked to attend an orientation on Tuesday, February 2, at 10 a.m., in the Center for Performing Arts, on the Mezzanine Level.

If you have not volunteered already, there is still time. Contact Pulchratia Kinney-Smith at p-kinney-smith@govst.edu or call 534-7466.

The 2010 Winter Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 6, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center.



Winter Walking Tour of Sculpture Park

Join Park Curator and Director Geoffrey Bates for the annual winter walk of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park on January 31, 2010, at 2 p.m. The quiet, often snow-covered landscape highlights the presence of each artwork.

The park collection includes 26 pieces by nationally and internationally recognized

artists. The walk is along both paved and unpaved paths so appropriate cold weather gear is recommended.

Visitors should meet inside the Hall of Governors near the sculpture Art Ark by Terrence Karpowicz. For more information, call ext. 4486, [email the park](#), or visit the [NMSP website](#).

Leading the Way

Dr. Lucianne Brown, a Chicago area pioneer in the use of computers in the classroom, recently took her expertise in educational technology overseas. Dr. Brown presented her paper, *Using Mobile Learning to Teach Reading*, at last October's Handheld Learning 2009 conference in London, England. The annual conference on learning, teaching and mobile computing attracted thousands of participants from all around the world.

According to Dr. Brown, a lecturer in the College of Education, the conference marked the first time she presented her entire paper, written as a doctoral dissertation. The paper is based on research on cell phone learning that she conducted with a group of students at Lincoln-Way Central High School. Dr. Brown gave the students cell phones loaded with vocabulary words to determine if they would benefit from "electronic flash cards." Another group of students worked on vocabulary lists without the cell phones. Her research indicated that the students with cell phones learned the vocabulary words and showed high motivation levels.



At the London conference, Dr. Brown was one of six presenters of long papers in the research strand, and the only research presenter from the United States. She said her paper was well-received and that she came back from the conference with "lots of new ideas" on how to use new technology in training teachers.

At GSU, Dr. Brown teaches her students in Internet use – specifically digital offerings through the Library of Congress – and how to conduct online primary source research.

Educators in other countries are making substantial progress in furthering teaching applications for cell phones and other handheld devices, she said. "In India and South Africa, there is much more going on (with handheld devices) than in the United States. In those countries, children as young as kindergarten age are learning with the help of cell phones."

Dr. Brown's paper appeared in the Fall 2009 edition of the *Journal for Computing Teachers*.

Access Limited

The driveway leading to the F Wing dock will be closed Monday, January 25 through Friday January 29. The kitchen dock will remain accessible.

DPS Recognized for Generous Efforts

GSU's Department of Public Safety has been recognized for its fundraising efforts on behalf of the Illinois Special Olympics Torch Run Committee. Chief Debra Boyd accepted a bronze plaque from the committee at this month's Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Winter Conference in Tinley Park.



In 2009, the DPS raised \$8,393 for the Special Olympics Torch Run. Officer Crystal Richards coordinated fundraising, distribution of items, and the university-wide picnic after the run. Numerous members of the department volunteered their time to raise funds, work at the barbecue, solicit donations for the picnic, and serve after the run. Several people outside the DPS also assisted in fundraising efforts. The department is grateful for everyone's help and contribution.

Officer Johnny McDowell has been the department's leading fundraiser for several years. Last year, he singlehandedly raised more than \$4,000 through the sale of hats, t-shirts, and pins. That exceeded his previous yearly fundraising amount by about \$500.



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