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GSU View

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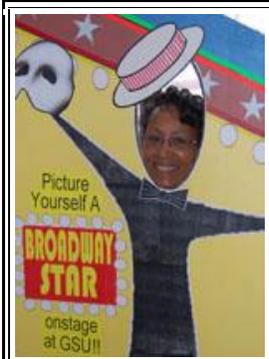
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News and Events

[Sing, Sing a Song...](#)

Audition times for the talent search that ultimately will place two GSU community members on stage at



Hollie Campell pictures herself as a Broadway Star

The Center for Performing Arts are currently being reserved.

The winners will appear in [100 Years of Broadway](#), on March 14, at 4 p.m. The first place winner will sing a solo with the stars and the second place winner will sing a chorus number with the stars.

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.

Full audition information and the application are available [online](#). The completed audition application must be submitted no later than February 11, to The Center for Performing Arts box office. The auditions are sponsored by the Intellectual Life Committee at GSU.

[Notes in Black History](#)

February is Black History Month. In observance of the month, Student Life is providing *Notes in Black History*. Each GSU View throughout the month will contain a bit of historical data, which ultimately impacted the lives of many.

Today's Note: Dr. George E. Alcorn, senior physicist at NASA, has over 25 inventions to produce advanced high performance solid state devices.

[Be Mine](#)

Be ready with beautiful carnations for your sweetie, friend, or self. The Civil Service Senate is sponsoring a Valentine's Day carnation sale. Orders are accepted until February 5 with payment due by February 8. Delivery of the flowers will be on February 11.

The cost is \$1.25 per carnation, six for \$6, and a dozen for \$12. To order, contact [Sandy Kawanna](#) at ext. 4011.

Quick Quizzes

Make online classes better with the ability to offer quizzes online, have them automatically graded, and generate statistical reports on the assessment results.

GSU's software enables instructors to upload quizzes right from the computer to the Blackboard shell.

The Center for Online Teaching and Learning is offering a hands-on workshop to share time-saving strategies that can use in creating online quizzes and exams on Thursday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to noon, in D2438.

Topics covered include:

- The advantages of online quizzes, surveys and self-tests
- Blackboard's capabilities for automatic grading and generating statistical reports
- How to create a quiz using Blackboard's Assessment tool
- How to use Respondus to easily load existing exams to CE-8
- How to use CE-8's features to address the issue of cheating

Seating for the workshop is limited. To reserve a place, email [Barbara Mandel](#).

SWSO Meeting Matters

The Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) will meet on Tuesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 18, at 3:15 p.m., in the student lounge. Plans will be discussed for GSU participation in 2010 Lobby (Advocacy) Day in Springfield on Wednesday, February 24.

Graduate and undergraduate social work students interested in participating in Lobby Day should contact [Terri Illum](#), SWSO Vice President and NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Liaison.

Let's Talk

Relationship problems often stem from communication difficulties. The Academic Resource Center is hosting a free, one-hour workshop on *Communication and Relationships* on Thursday, February 11, from noon to 1 p.m., in room B1241.

The conversation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact [Tamekia Scott](#) at ext. 2228.

Up-Up-Upward Bound and Away

GSU's Greater Success 4 U Upward Bound program recently announced that five participating Bloom High School students were named to the High Honor Roll this term. Those students are Tales Love, Lashawnda Poree, Stacie Hopkins, Vernell Hopkins, Dominique Jones, and Deonte Jones.

Several of the program's high school seniors have also been accepted to college. Congratulations to Tales Love - Howard University, Central State University, St. John University, Florida A&M University, Eastern Illinois University; Kaiedra Malone - Central State University; Dominique Jones - Central State University; Dione Griggs - Central State University; Darnell Calicott - Central State University; Herva Thompson-Harris - Stowe University; and Connie Dominique Jones - Eastern Illinois University.

Writing Celebrate

GSU will once again celebrate its authors. The University Library will host the Faculty Authors Reception on Wednesday, March 10, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., on the Library balcony.

All university faculty are invited to display their published works of scholarship. Please submit the works by Monday, February 22, for inclusion in the bibliography. Materials showcased at previous Authors Receptions are not eligible.

For more information or to submit a work, contact [Helen Benos](#) at ext. 7514.

Heat up Your Winter

Looking for a way to heat up those cold winter nights? Sign up for belly dancing class at the GSU's Recreation and Fitness Center. The next session of classes will be held on March 3, 11, 18, 25, and 31, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is only \$25 for non-members, \$15 for fitness center members, and \$5 for GSU students. For more information or to register, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center (A-1106) at ext. 4945.

With One Hand in Your Pocket

Time to dig out your loose change and take part in GSU's first Penny Wars. The competition begins today and continues through February 26.



Employees, students, and visitors may feed the banks places around the university with pennies to support the cause and the department. One point is earned for every penny gathered by the department. However, competing departments can sabotage the bank by adding nickels, dimes, quarters, and folding money to the container. Each silver coin or bill reduces the number of points in that container by the amount of the coin or bill.

Participating departments include:

- FOC 3rd Floor Administration
- CAS
- COE
- Student Life
- Purchasing
- Business Office
- Academic Resource Center
- Human Resources
- CenterPoint

Containers will be emptied and points tallied every Thursday. Totals will be posted in the Monday edition of the GSU View. The department with the most points for that week will display a rotating jumbo Lincoln penny. At the end of the competition, the department with the greatest number of points will be awarded the jumbo penny to display for the next year.

Baskets of Love

Remember your sweetheart this Valentine's Day with a basket of goodies. Baskets are filled with various gifts to celebrate the day. From teddy bears to chocolates, from flowers to balloons, and from toys to toiletries, there is a basket for everyone on your Valentine's Day list. Buy a basket and support the Spanish Language Reading Club.

Orders must be placed by Friday, February 5. Basket pick up is Thursday, February 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. A catalog of baskets and order forms are available in Room A-2134 or by contacting the [Spanish Language Reading Club](#).

Table Tennis to Compete

Two members of the GSU table tennis team will compete in the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region 8 Conference on February 6, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The full seven-member GSU team will compete in the Upper Midwest Regional tournaments of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) on February 20, at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Team coach and faculty sponsor, T.J. Wang, will accompany the team to both matches.

Capstone Initiative Caps Successful Program

Undergraduate psychology students benefit from capstone courses demonstrating they have learned the necessary concepts and values in their field, and are prepared for the workplace or graduate education.

That's the message Dr. Jean Johnson and two GSU Psychology and Counseling colleagues plan to bring to next month's Midwest Institute for Students and Teachers of Psychology conference. Dr. Johnson, along with Dr. Al Tuskenis and Dr. Chris Dyslin, will lead a roundtable session on *Capstone Courses and Program Portfolios* based, in part, on preliminary data from Psych 546, *Psychological Issues and Social Values*, the program's capstone class. As a capstone course, the newly-redesigned class requires students nearing graduation to keep a portfolio that shows they have met the program's benchmarked requirements.



At the conference, the GSU faculty members hope to initiate intercollegiate research into the usefulness of capstone courses, especially those with student portfolios. Dr. Johnson said she and her colleagues will ask their counterparts at other colleges and universities to share information on capstone courses. GSU's professors will make a similar roundtable presentation at the May meeting of the Midwest Psychological Association.

"We'd like to go national with this," Dr. Johnson said.

The capstone initiative is the latest development in the undergraduate psychology program, which has undergone substantial restructuring in the last five years. Dr. Johnson coordinated efforts to revamp the undergraduate curriculum, aligning program objectives and course offerings to 10 American Psychological Association goals. Undergraduate psychology is now the only fully benchmarked degree program at GSU. Every course, and syllabus, must now reflect stated program goals.

One class added since the restructuring, Psych 400, *Thinking and Writing in Psychology*, clearly demonstrates the program's enhanced rigor, Dr. Johnson says. Data shows Psych 400 has had "significant positive effects" in student performance, both for undergraduates and in graduate studies.

Dr. Johnson and her colleagues last year made seven presentations, most on the Thinking and Writing course, and a final version of a paper on the class is nearly ready for publication.

