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GSU View

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News and Events

[IRiS Project Kick Off](#)



Hundreds of GSU faculty, staff members, and students joined together Tuesday to celebrate the debut of the IRiS Project, the university's new integrated software system. The event was co-sponsored by Datatel, who was recently selected as the software vendor for campus-wide project. The Hall of Governors was decorated with green and white balloons as the campus community got its first look at the widespread changes that come with the IRiS Project, and which will streamline nearly all data processing functions at the university.

All the elements of a celebration – food, prizes, a live band, a stilt-walker making balloon toys – were on hand for the project kickoff. The new system, which replaces CARS/CX, will facilitate the delivery of efficient, cost-effective, technology - enabled improvements for all essential services at GSU.

President Maimon spoke to the crowd regarding the significant changes that will take place. "Change is inevitable," she said. "But growth is optional. We have chosen the option to grow this university." Maimon also noted that the project is "not about software, but rather about evaluating our internal processes and examining how we can do things better."



IRiS Project team members were dressed in green shirts at the event. They will begin the implementation process with business process analysis training and will examine current processes to determine how they can be improved or redesigned.

Sandra Gieson, Executive Director for ERP Implementation, predicted it will take 15 months to implement the new system; audience members cheered that timetable. She explained "IRiS" stands for "inspire hope," "realize dreams," and "strengthen community."

The campus-wide event also included tours of the new IRiS Project training room and a raffle for iPods.

It Just Makes Cents



In addition to the rollout of the IRiS Project, the administration announced another new initiative at the Tuesday afternoon event – It Just Makes Cents.

The innovative program, similar to Why Not?, encourages members of the GSU community to suggest money saving and revenue generating ideas. Citing the State’s financial crisis, the It Just Makes Cents website notes, “The university remains committed to continuing to serve our students and the Southland region – but that can only be accomplished with your help.”

Those submitting ideas are encouraged to think outside the box to improve GSU’s bottom line.

Submissions can be made via the new [It Just Makes Cents website](#).

A Whole New Mind Book Discussion

A reading group discussion of the bestseller *A Whole New Mind - Why Right-Brainers Will Rule The Future*, by Daniel Pink will take place on the last day of the current art exhibit of works inspired by the book. The discussion will take place on Thursday June 24, from 7 to 8 p.m., in the Visual Arts Gallery. Everyone is welcome to view the art and enjoy the conversation.

Saturday Portfolio Workshop

The College of Arts and Sciences at GSU will hold a Prior Learning Portfolio Workshop on Saturday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Attendees will learn how to develop a portfolio of prior learning to apply toward a B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

The two-hour session includes an explanation of the portfolio submission process. The cost of the workshop is \$50, which includes materials, text, and refreshments.

Prospective Interdisciplinary Studies students may complete a prior-learning portfolio to demonstrate how experiential learning compares to college-level coursework. Based on a review of the submitted materials, equivalent college credit may be awarded for student’s prior experience.

For more information or to register, call 708.534.4092 or e-mail sidl@govst.edu.

Job Hunter Boot Camp

GSU is teaming with Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) and other public and private organizations to provide resources to members of the community seeking employment and those looking to start their own business on Thursday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is the third event in a series of Job Hunter Boot Camps sponsored by Congresswomen Halvorson and the first in which GSU has been involved.

The event will offer participants a chance to better prepare themselves for the changing job market with practical advice from a number of area professionals. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in workshops on topics ranging from navigating the job market online to finance and budgeting. Participants are also encouraged to bring their resumes for review.

Veterans in particular will have an opportunity to work with the VA and Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) to explore the programs they offer to veterans of the armed services.

In addition to job seekers, small business owners and those looking to start their own business will have an opportunity to connect with representatives from GSU's CenterPoint Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Small Business Administration to gain insight and information on how to get your business going and growing.

Additional event participants include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Will County Workforce Investment Board.

For more information or to register, call 815.726.4998 or visit www.halvorson.house.gov/bootcamp.

New Rules for GSU Students at the FDC

The Family Development Center is in the process of undergoing NAEYC Accreditation and DCFS licensing. DCFS requires the implementation of a few changes to the program involving the interaction of GSU students with enrolled children. The administration of the Family Development Center is hosting a brief informational meeting for faculty and advisors regarding the changes and when they will be implemented.

The 30-minute meeting will be Tuesday June 29, at 3 p.m., in the art studio at the FDC. All faculty and advisors who have GSU students in internships, practicums, or in classes at the Family Development Center in which they interact with children are asked to attend this meeting.

For more information or to RSVP, contact [Carol Morrison](#) at ext. 7336.

Storming the Gates

Storming the Gates, a 25-minute documentary film on minority access to higher education, will be screened on July 14, at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. A panel discussion will follow to investigate the issue further.

The Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) produced the film, which chronicles the African American and Latino quest for access and equity in Illinois colleges and universities. Minority presence on college resulted from tremendous struggle and

sacrifice, and the struggle continues. *Storming the Gates* illustrates the links between access and the civil rights movements of Blacks and Latinos in the sixties and seventies. It highlights the importance and the central role Illinois played in the national struggle for access and equity.

A panel of education leaders and experts, many who appear in the documentary, will discuss the contemporary significance of the struggle. Panel members will include IALHEA members Dr. Michael Toney, Executive Director, Urban Health Program - University of Illinois at Chicago and D.J. Wells, adjunct GSU faculty and Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Urban Health Program - University of Illinois at Chicago.

The event is free, open to the public, and sponsored by Access to a College Education Student Support Services (ACESSS) and Student Life at GSU. For more information, contact [Vanessa Newby](#) at ext. 4552.

Travel with Pierre



What an amazing week for Pierre! His travels took him to Iola, Wisconsin with Susan (FDM) and Bob (CenterPoint) Rakstang where he had a very close encounter with Tony, the newest member of the Rakstang family. After a



narrow escape, Pierre needed to get away from it all. And he did – all the way to Egypt. Photos submitted by Jackie Small of Institutional Advancement show Pierre checking out the pyramids.

Pierre is home now and ready to take off on more adventures. For information on how you can pick up your own Pierre travelling companion and submit photos for our Take Pierre on Vacation contest, go to Pierre's [webpage](#).

