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News and Events

Student Speaker – Mac-Z Zurawski



At the Governors State University's Winter Commencement on February 5, Mac-Z Zurawski will not only earn a Master of Arts in Political and Justice Studies, she will also have the honor of addressing the Class of 2010 as student commencement speaker.

Zurawski is a single mother of a young son. She has worked as a trash collector for the City of Chicago for the past 12 years and is an active volunteer in the community.

"I was inspired to go back to school for my son. I needed to look for something secure and stable. I needed to find a way to get off the garbage truck," says Zurawski.

Governors State University Winter Commencement will take place on Saturday, February 5, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois. Admission is by ticket only.

GSU Celebrates MLK

The 2011 GSU Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be held on Monday, January 24, from 10 to 11:30 p.m., in The Center for Performing Arts. The theme of this year's celebration is "Be the best you can be."

Elementary and junior high school students from the region will attend this important occasion. This program provides an opportunity to gain greater understanding and appreciation of how the vision and actions of Dr. King impacted the entire country and the world.



The special guest speaker is Vincent R. Jones, LLC, assistant professor in the GSU criminal justice program. The Master of Ceremonies is Bryant Monteilh, news anchor and GSU graduate student. The program also includes music and special readings and presentations.

Everyone is welcome.

Play Ball

Time to chalk that cue, wield that paddle, and have some fun! GSU now offers students, faculty and staff the chance to relax and enjoy billiards and table tennis. The new recreation facility is located in A-north hall on the first floor.

Balls, cues, and paddles can be checked out at the Recreation and Fitness Center service counter (A1105). The tables are open for play Mondays through Fridays, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4:30 p.m.

A valid GSU student or employee ID card is required to check out billiard and table tennis equipment.

For more information, call 708.534.4556.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Children interested in performing in “The Wizard of Oz” at The Center for Performing Arts can audition on Monday, February 7. Approximately 60 children’s roles are available for local children. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are encouraged to audition.

The Missoula Children’s Theatre production of classic children’s tale will take place on Friday, February 11, at 7 p.m., at The CPA.

Auditions on February 7 will begin at 4 p.m. Children planning to audition should arrive by 4 p.m. and expect to stay for the full two-hour audition session. No advance preparation is necessary – students should simply be ready to have a good time. There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play.

Immediately following the auditions, students will receive their role assignments and rehearsal dates and times. Children cast in the show must pay a fee of \$60, which will cover six tickets to the Friday night performance. Extra tickets to the show will be \$10 apiece.

For more information, contact [Burt Dikelsky](#) at ext. 2238.

Renumbering Forum

Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend a brown bag lunch on course renumbering and sequencing on Friday, January 21, from noon to 1 p.m., in E-Lounge. This event is the first in a series of open discussions on course renumbering.

Light refreshments will be provided but participants are also encouraged to bring their own lunch.

\$125 Million Milestone

CenterPoint at GSU passed the \$125 million mark in loan assistance. Since 2000, the center has helped 400 local entrepreneurs obtain more than \$125 million in loans to start or expand businesses throughout the Chicago Southland. In addition to its financial milestone, the center assisted local small businesses add over 3,000 new jobs and retain an additional 4,000 jobs in the region.



“Lending activity in 2010 was over \$7 million compared to just over \$2 million in 2009. Fixed asset lending (CenterPoint 504) and micro lending have both increased significantly in 2010 and look stronger as we head into 2011” said CenterPoint Director Hilary Burkinshaw.

CenterPoint at GSU has provided over 25,000 hours of business consulting, training, and assistance to the Southland business community. Through its network of specialists’ centers and micro lending partners, CenterPoint makes available to its clients a wide variety of free or affordable services including the CenterPoint 504 SBA Loan Program, entrepreneurship assistance, global trade, government contracting, and small business development.

For more information about CenterPoint, visit C3300 or the [CenterPoint website](#), or call ext. 4929.

Commence Volunteering

All commencement volunteers and employees working at Winter Commencement are asked to attend an orientation on Wednesday, January 26, at 10 a.m., in The Center for Performing Arts.

There is still time to volunteer and more volunteers are needed. Contact Pulchratia Kinney-Smith at ext. 7466.

The 2010 Spring Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 5, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center.

Candidates Sought



The GSU Student Senate is looking for students who want to make a difference at the university. Put your leadership ability to good use on the GSU Student Senate.

For the first time this year, students will have the opportunity to vote directly for President of the Student Senate as well as representatives from each college and at large representatives.

Graduate or undergraduate students enrolled either full or part time are eligible and encouraged to run for Senate positions. Pick up campaign packets at the Welcome Center or visit www.govst.edu/studentsenate. Completed candidate forms are due on February 3.

For more information, contact Sheree Sanderson at 708.534.4552.

Stress Addressed

Are you stressed out? GSU will present a stress management workshop entitled *Dealing with College Anxiety* on Monday, January 31, from noon to 1 p.m., in room B1241 and 6 to 7 p.m., in room B1215.

Workshop participants will have access to written materials and other information on time management, study skills, and test anxiety.

The GSU Academic Resource Center sponsors the workshop, which is free and open to members of the GSU community. Refreshments will be served. More information is available at 708.235.7334.

Jesse Jackson Sr. at GSU

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 17, held at The Center for Performing Arts. The community event was sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee. Many GSU students, faculty, and staff were involved in this well-attended annual celebration.

While on campus, Rev. Jackson was interviewed by a CNN news team. GSU staff from Digital Learning and Media Design (DLMD) assisted, and facilitating the use of the GSU television studios.

The CNN staff were impressed with the GSU television facility and commented to Charles Nolley, director of DLMD, that they were the best studios they had seen at any university.



Faculty Development in Writing

Faculty are invited to an interactive workshop, *I'm Not a Writing Teacher*, on February 4, from 1 to 3 p.m., in room D2002, at Joliet Junior College.

The workshop gives non-writing educators the opportunity to discuss how to handle student writing in college courses. Participants will be encouraged to share the triumphs and frustrations of incorporating writing into non-writing focused courses. Help and hints will be available from writing instructors.

The workshop is presented by the Writing Consortium in conjunction with the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center. For more information, contact [Becky Nugent](#).

Carlson on Loneliness



Dr. Jon Carlson of the College of Education will appear on the WGN Morning Show on February 3, in a segment airing between 8 and 9 p.m.

Dr. Carlson will be discussing his new book, *Never Be Lonely Again*, which he co-authored with Dr. Pat Love. The book discusses the way out of emptiness, isolation and an unfulfilled life.

Never Be Lonely Again will be released on February 1.

Children in Good Hands

GSU's Family Development Center (FDC) is now an Illinois state licensed childcare facility for infants, toddlers, and two year olds. Young children are cared for in specially equipped classrooms of eight children, each staffed with two teachers. The infant and toddler childcare center is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The staff of the FDC has been extensively and specially trained to care for young children. The facility has been renovated to serve the needs of the new students. Licensure required extensive review by the state. The FDC facility and staff will be able to serve 48 children in six classrooms.

The FDC also offers full and half day pre-kindergarten three or five days a week, childcare for three to five year olds, and before and after school childcare for five to 12 year olds.

Grants may be available to assist eligible families with infant toddler childcare costs. Discounts are also offered for GSU students and staff.

For more information or to register your child, call 708.235.7300.

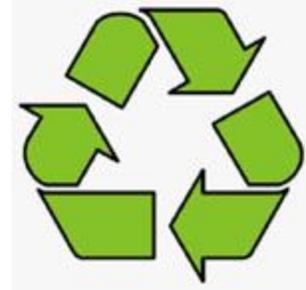
Sintic to Coordinate CJUS

The Criminal Justice program faculty recently elected Christina Sintic as the new program coordinator. Sintic has been a member of the CJUS faculty since 2008 during which time she has taught, coordinated courses and advising in off campus locations, spearheaded the development of new CJUS online courses, and served on a number of faculty and project committees.

RecycleMania Hits GSU

Once again, GSU is competing in *RecycleMania* – a challenge for colleges and universities to increase awareness of waste reduction and recycling initiatives. The contest runs from January 24 through April 2.

In the past competitions, GSU has scored well in the recycling and waste minimization categories. It is time again for the GSU community to pitch in and be sure to toss waste in the proper receptacles. Paper, plastic, and aluminum recycling containers can be found all over campus. Everyone is reminded to recycle, reuse, and use e-copies instead of printed ones whenever possible.



Sculpture Park Docent Orientation

Looking for a good way to expand your horizons, meet people, and serve as an ambassador at one of the Chicago Southland's premier cultural institutions?



Orientation sessions begin February 3 for the 2011 Docent Class at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, located at GSU. Docents lead weekend tours of the park, host programs and receptions, and act as park ambassadors.

Seven docent orientation sessions will take place over a 12-week period. Sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on February 3 and 17; March 3, 17, and 31; and April 14 and 27. All sessions are on Thursdays except for the final meeting, which will take place on Wednesday. On May 7, the docent class will be treated to a continental breakfast before taking a tour of the sculpture park.

Orientation session topics include park history, an introduction to the history of sculpture, presentations on each piece in the collection, and pointers on how to conduct tours of the sculpture park. Light refreshments will be provided at orientation sessions.

Advance registration and a \$35 fee are required. For more information, visit the [park's website](#), e-mail the [sculpture park](#), or call ext. 4486.

Prep for Basic Skills Test

COE is offering a one credit hour course in Basic Skills Test preparation for students enrolled in teacher prep programs and other professional education unit programs leading to certification that requires passing the Basic Skills exam. Coursework focuses on both the math and language arts portions of the exam.

For more information, contact [Renee Zdych](#) at 798.534.6979.

