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News and Events

Meet the Accounts Receivable and Cash Receipts Team

The Accounts Receivable and Cash Receipts Team is one of three IRiS Project teams preparing for the Colleague student live simulation on March 1 and 2. AR/CR is working with the Records and Registration Team, the Financial Aid Team, and the Accounts Receivable/Cash Receipts Team so that the live simulation goes smoothly.

The live simulation requires a great deal of data preparation. Existing student demographics and payment options must be in the system when students register. The anticipated Student Registration “go live” date is April 18.



Led by Jane Siefker, Coordinator of Student Accounts in the Financial Services office, the AR/CR Team has completed four two-day training sessions – two in the fall, and two since January 1. The team’s last onsite consulting session was scheduled at the beginning of February, on days that the memorable Groundhog’s Day Blizzard hit the region. Team members worked remotely with their consultant during the weather onslaught. Their final sessions are scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

The AR/CR Team is also working on creating tuition tables in the Colleague system, cash receipting, and accounts receivable, including sponsorships. They are identifying, listing, and testing all the receivable and receipts processes. With only two weeks left to prepare for the live simulation, team members are meeting many times a week to ensure a smooth transition from our legacy system to the Colleague system.

Team members are team leader Jane Siefker, Barry Ryan, Donna Finn, Andrea Gaz, Dale Hobbs, Monique Doyle, Sharon Janssen, Lisa Kundla, Cathy Casson, David Weinberger, Janet Haan, Emma Ziems, and Heidi Yousef.

Leadership Change in Sponsored Programs and Research

At the beginning of Spring Semester 2011, Dean Linda Samson, College of Health and Human Services, completed her double duty as Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies. In thanking her for fulfilling multiple roles, President Maimon noted that “Dean Samson oversaw a phenomenal growth in federal funding and put into place a framework on which to build a sustained campus effort to continue to increase grant funding.”



Provost Allison added, “I appreciate Dean Samson’s tremendous contributions and find it amazing what she was able to achieve in OSPR while managing exceptional growth in her college and contributing nationally to her profession.”



Provost Allison has named Professor James “Chip” Coldren as Acting Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. Using existing funding, Coldren will build a small office of staff and student workers. OSPR will be responsible for pre and post-award grants management and, within its resource limitations, will provide increased assistance to faculty and the university to develop, apply for, and manage grants. Coldren will turn his attention immediately to time and effort accounting of grant-funded faculty and staff, and meeting the growing reporting requirements to federal agencies.

During this transition, Acting Director Coldren, as well as Penny Havlicek, Director of Administration and Operations, Center for the Care and Study of Vulnerable Populations, will be available to assist in grant development, submission, and post-award management. Dr. Becky Nugent, who also assisted in the establishment of OSPR, has resumed full-time responsibility for the Writing Center. Dean Samson’s portfolio still includes leadership of GSU’s Graduate Council.

Finally, part of Dr. Coldren’s charge as Acting Director includes examination of different models of offices of sponsored programs and research. Working with campus constituents, he will develop a set of recommendations about future organization and staffing as GSU seeks to continue to increase its research and sponsored programs.

Weight Watchers at GSU

GSU’s Department of Human Resources and the *Let’s Get Fit* program are sponsoring a special Weight Watchers open house on Tuesday, February 15. The free information session is open to all GSU faculty and staff and will take place at 12:30 p.m., in Room F1603.

Current participants in the university’s Weight Watchers program have collectively lost more than 90 pounds. Contact [Ayita Woods](#) at ext. 7470 for details.

I know What You’ll Do This Summer

With the change to the new academic calendar, students are reminded that summer session registration begins on March 21. This year GSU will again offer coursework at convenient times for both current and new students.

Summer classes begin on May 23 and end by August 7. Classes offered in this session are ideal for current GSU students, college students who are home for the summer, and those wishing to learn more and add to their qualifications. The courses offered during the summer vary in subject and content, providing educational opportunities for everyone.

Summer session courses can be taken on a non-degree seeking basis. Prerequisites are dependent on the course. Students who are currently suspended from GSU and/or who have an unpaid balance on their tuition will not be allowed to enroll.

For more information, visit www.govst.edu/register.

Community College Artists Compete

GSU is hosting the 2011 Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, through February 26, in the Visual Arts Gallery.

This exhibition celebrates the creative work of young artists. The exhibiting includes artwork from 99 students representing 16 Illinois community colleges including College of DuPage, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Prairie State College, South Suburban College, and the City Colleges of Chicago.

Selected works will include painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, and ceramics.

Doug Stapleton, Associate Curator of Art at the Illinois State Museum Gallery in Chicago and adjunct faculty member at Columbia College, Chicago, will serve as juror of the exhibition. He will select award winners at the exhibition based on artistic merit.

A closing reception to celebrate the show and the artists and present merit awards will be held on Saturday, February 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., in E-Lounge.

The GSU Art Department will also host an open house and portfolio review at that time. The open house will showcase university programs in film, digital imaging, photography, printmaking, painting, ceramics, and art history and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

Portfolio reviews will be available for any interested student. Students do not have to be exhibiting for a review. Appointments are not necessary.

The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The Visual Arts Gallery is open Monday and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, from noon to 9 p.m. or by appointment. For more information or to schedule a portfolio review, call (708) 534-4021.

Babies Need Diapers

GSU students in the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) are sponsoring *Share the Love*, collecting diapers for families in need through February 24.

Disposable diaper donations can be made to designated boxes on the campus of GSU in University Park and at the First Church of the Nazarene in Gilman. Diapers will be given to the South Suburban Family Shelter in Homewood and Women of Power in Chicago.

For more information, call 815.549.6450.

SURS Rep On Campus

SURS representative Lee Bridges will be available for counseling sessions by appointment on March 16 and 17. He will meet with scheduled employees in the CenterPoint conference room, C3300. These sessions are specifically for employees within four years of retirement who have not had a retirement estimate prepared by SURS within the last 12 months.

To set up an appointment, follow the [attached directions](#).

There will also be an opportunity to learn more about SURS during a retirement seminar conducted by a SURS representative on Thursday, March 17, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., in room D34170. Contributors to SURS are welcome.



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