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GSU View

University Newsletters

2-28-2011

GSU View, 2011-02-28

Office of Public Affairs

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, GSU View (2011, February 28). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/334>

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News and Events

[IRiS Project – myGSU Portal](#)

The IRiS Portal Team has finished the initial setup of GSU's new myGSU portal. The portal go-live date will coincide with student registration for the Fall semester.



myGSU, is your user interface and one-stop shop for conducting day-to-day business at GSU. The easy to use interface brings together your most important daily tasks into a single location. It's the primary online destination for the entire GSU community, and will provide a collaborative environment in which to work and communicate.

The portal will also fully replace the current GSU Intranet site. When fully functional, myGSU will save you time, make your job easier, and help you get things done more efficiently. Not all processes listed below will be available immediately.

The portal will offer access to:

- Your personal Microsoft Outlook calendar and a link to your mailbox via OWA
- University forms (i.e. purchasing, travel, print shop)
- Single sign-on to other frequently used university systems (i.e. WebCT, CMS)
- Real-time news and announcements
- Departmental budget management
- Student grade input
- HR benefit information
- Vacation/sick time status
- IT Helpdesk and tutorials
- Timesheet and hour reporting
- Student services (registration, financial aid, transcripts, grades)
- And more

Expect to hear more in the very near future as the portal team modifies and fine-tunes myGSU.

[Kudos for Dual Degree Program](#)

Leaders in Illinois higher education were recently asked to make presentations on how their institutions are meeting the goals of the *Public Agenda*. GSU's Dual Degree Program won praise from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Chair Carrie J. Hightman following a presentation by President Elaine P. Maimon at a recent IBHE meeting.

“Your enthusiastic and informative review of the Dual Degree Program partnerships was well received by Board members as well as others in attendance,” Hightman wrote Dr. Maimon. “The IBHE staff fielded several positive comments about your presentation and what Governors State University is doing. It was fascinating to learn how this single initiative addresses all four goals of the *Public Agenda*.”

During her presentation, Dr. Maimon described GSU’s Dual Degree partnerships with six area community colleges and how they fit in with ISBE’s *Public Agenda*, a statewide initiative designed to improve education in Illinois, and make opportunities for achieving college degrees accessible to promising students regardless of income or background.

[Download Hightman’s Full Letter](#)

Give Your Feedback

Student feedback is being sought on the amounts stipulated for the FY2012 (2011-2012) Student Activity Fee, Student Center Fee, Career Services and Counseling Fee, Computer Technology Fee, and Parking and Walkways Fee. The current recommendation for all fees with the exception of Parking and Walkways Fee is that they remain at the levels of FY2011 (2010-2011). The student advisory referendum will be submitted to the GSU Board of Trustees.

Student Advisory Referendum ballots will be available on March 1 and 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. All GSU students are encouraged to participate in this quick and easy way to offer an opinion.

[View the Ballot](#)

University Research Grant Applications Due

University Research Grants (URG) are funded by the Provost’s Office to encourage scholarly research within the GSU community. All faculty, staff, and students are eligible to apply. Students must have a faculty mentor. Student applications will be considered once all faculty applications have been reviewed. All URG projects must take place between July 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012.

Applications for 2011-12 are due on March 21. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than April 30. For more information, contact [Margaret H. Neumann](#), chair of URG Committee at ext. 4968.

[USG Application 2011.](#)

Civic Reflection at GSU

Civic reflection helps create an understanding of the importance and value of community service to both the individual who volunteers and the society who benefits. To increase awareness and understanding of civic reflection and to improve related skills, Governors State University is sponsoring a Civic Reflections Workshop. The workshop will be held on March 1, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

Facilitators are members of the GSU Civic Reflection Team. They are Dr. Lorri Glass, assistant professor of Social Work; Dr. Larry Levinson, professor of Political Science; and Sheree Y. Sanderson, Director, Student Engagement and College Relations.

Civic Reflection workshops are held in collaboration with the Illinois Campus Compact, a coalition of college and universities, including GSU, working together to promote the civic development of students and the university as an active member of its community.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To reserve a space, contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 4552.

Creativity in the Classroom

Creativity can live in the classroom even in an era of achievement goals and assessment tests. Dr. John Steers, General Secretary of the National Society for Education in Art and Design in the United Kingdom, will speak about Teaching for Creativity on March 9, at 4:30 p.m., in the E-Lounge. The event is sponsored by the Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education (MILE) and the College of Arts and Sciences and is free and open to the public.

In the face of increased accountability and the demand to produce successful outcomes, many school curricula and individual educators actually inhibit creativity. Dr. Steers will encourage educators to strengthen their focus on creativity and its positive effects on learning outcomes.

For more information, call ext. 4024.

Media March Madness



The Friends of the GSU Library will be sponsoring a book and media drive in March. During the March Madness media drive, the Friends will happily take all books, videos, or DVDs that are currently collecting dust or taking up room on your bookcase.

Just drop off your unwanted items at the Library. Donation forms for tax purposes will be available. Everyone wins! You gain more space and a potential tax deduction and the Friends gain a useful fundraising commodity.

Alumni Spotlight - Chuck Ignarski

Chuck Ignarski found his focus through the lens of a camera. After returning from a year of military service in Iraq, he sought a new career beginning with an associate degree from the College of Lake County and an Interdisciplinary Studies degree from GSU.

In the course of earning his degree with a specialization in photography, Ignarski took many photos. With the encouragement of his professors, he entered his landscape images of peak foliage in the Upper Peninsula in the 31st annual College Photography Contest. The contest, sponsored by Photographer Forum Magazine, drew more than 14,000 submissions.



Recently, Ignarski learned that one of his images had been chosen to be in the finalist selection group. As a member of this select group, his image will be included in the Photographer's Forum Best of College Photography 2011, a hardbound book published to celebrate young photographers' successful artistry.

"I am very happy and a little surprised to be chosen for the finalist group," said Ignarski. "This is my first big step in the world of photography."

The GSU University Library plans to add the book to its collection.

Regard - Resist - React

The GSU University Visual Arts Gallery will host *Regard – Resist – React*, a major exhibit of artists' creative reactions to the issues that affect them personally, emotionally, and intellectually. The exhibit runs from March 4 through 25 with an opening reception on Saturday, March 5, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Artists contributing work to this exhibit are some of the most prominent developing voices in the artistic world. Most of the artists are based in Chicago but draw from international roots and influences. Chief among the exhibitors is Wafaa Bilal, Iraqi born artist noted for his unique forms of expression. His video *4th of July* will be shown at the exhibit.

Bilal is assistant arts professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He has a camera mounted in the back of his head, capturing images of where he has been. Bilal uses the images in his art to illustrate what has passed him by. He also has an intricate tattoo on his back honoring the U.S. and Iraqi war dead.

Additional exhibitors include Jane Fulton Alt, Nick Azzaro, Lynn Basa, Holly Cahill, Alexander Bruehl, Cleveland Dean, Frederick Holland, Riley Henderson, Salvador Jimnez, Sioban Lombardi, Jessica Munguia, Yva Neal, Roland Oria, Jennifer Traff, and Monica Wulfers.

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, visit gsuvisualartsgallery.blogspot.com or call ext. 4021.



Slam Dunk

The GSU Student Senate and Student Life are giving away tickets to the Chicago Bulls vs. Memphis Grizzlies game on Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Transportation to and from the game from the university is also included.

Only current GSU students are eligible to enter the drawing for two free tickets. To enter, visit the Student Advisory Referendum table on March 1 and 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Students need not participate in the Advisory Referendum to enter the drawing. Only one entry per student.

IDSS Portfolio Seminar

Students can assess their prior learning and how it can be applied to a college portfolio at a seminar hosted by the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences. The Prior Learning Portfolio Seminar takes place Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon, in Room D1497.

The seminar will help students:

- Identify learning that may be equivalent to college-level work
- Link this learning to comparable college courses
- Document their learning
- Compile their materials in the proper format to submit a portfolio to GSU

To register, e-mail idss@govst.edu or contact [Tiffini Malvin](#) at 708.534.4092. There is a \$50 registration fee for the seminar, which covers the cost of materials and refreshments.

Thanks for a Memorable Commencement

Karen Caesar-Smith, GSU's Director of Special Events and Commencement Coordinator, recently thanked everyone who helped make the February 5 Commencement a success.

“We had a few challenges due to the blizzard and the construction of the Tinley Park Convention Center, but through the dedication and perseverance of our commencement planning committee, our Emergency Response Team, our Facilities, Development and Management department, our Department of Public Safety, our faculty, staff, students, alumni, volunteers and the convention center staff, we were able to pull through and present an exceptional commencement experience for our students and their guests,” wrote Caesar-Smith.

[Download Caesar-Smith's Full Message](#)

Book Lovers Wanted

If you're looking for a lively discussion on the works of great writers, consider joining the new book club at GSU.

Student Julie Pope is initiating the book club, which will be sponsored by the Friends of the GSU Library. The club is open to students, staff, faculty, and community members. It will focus on general interest books. The time and date of book club meetings will be decided by prospective members and a location will be determined by the availability of space.

Interested persons can contact [Julie Pope](#).

First Battle of the Penny Wars

The first week of GSU's Penny Wars was marked by enthusiastic competition between the departments. The CAS is currently in the lead with 1,221 penny points and Student Life is lagging far behind with minus 159 penny points.

3rd Floor	482
CenterPoint	29
CHHS	93
CAS	1,221
CBPA	88
COE	309
Financial Services	-10
Human Resources	55
Institutional Advancement	494
Library	937
Student Life	-159



There are still three weeks to go, so keep depositing your pocket change. All penny deposits are counted as additions to the total while all silver coin and paper money deposits act as negatives.

And remember, all money raised benefits the Civil Service Scholarship and Student Life.

