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GSU View

University Newsletters

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News and Events

Convocation Today

Members of the GSU community – students, faculty, and staff – are invited to Convocation 2011, today, at 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

President Elaine P. Maimon will deliver the State of the University Address. The event will also feature the naming of this year's three Excellence Award winners.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Information for Fall 2011

Financial Aid Refund Checks

Fall 2011 financial aid refund checks were mailed on Tuesday, August 16 and Wednesday, August 17. The Financial Aid Office has completed the implementation of the upgraded financial aid data system and is now positioned to better serve students.

Students may access their online accounts for additional information as follows:

- Log in to the myGSU portal at <http://mygovst.govst.edu>
- Under Financial Information, click on Account Summary
- At the bottom of the Account Summary screen there are five blue tabs - click on Account Summary by Term

Classroom Assignments

Classroom assignments for Fall courses are currently being completed and will be available by Monday, August 22. Students can access the classroom assignments in two locations:

- GSU class schedule at <http://classes.govst.edu>
- [myGSU](#) - click on Online Services, then Academic Profile, then My Schedule

Bookstore Purchases

Students are not yet able to purchase books directly through the new registration system. All students are encouraged to avoid possible bookstore lines by purchasing or renting their books online through eFollett at www.govst.edu/bookstore.

Important Phone Numbers

Bookstore: 708.534.4558
Financial Aid: 708.534.4480
Registrar: 708.534.4500

Welcome Fall 2011 Students

Welcome Days activities have been retooled and expanded this year. Activities are scheduled for four days during the week of August 22. Students are encouraged to participate in a full range of exciting events to kick

off the 2011-2012 academic year.

The traditional Welcome Days take place Monday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 23 from noon to 6 p.m. Welcome Days have been relocated outside to the patio and lake area. Activities include music, trivia for students, giveaways, ID validation, and an abundance of information.

In addition, This Week at GSU (TWAG) will participate with an open studio for students to audition to become a TWAG host. The Illinois Secretary of State's office will join us on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. to provide a number of services.

To round out the week, the Clubs and Organizations Engagement Fair takes center stage on Wednesday, August 24. Members of student clubs will share information with their fellow students. Each club will decorate its own table and a prize will be awarded to the club with the best table decorations.

At the Student Community Resource Fair, on Thursday, August 25, vendors from the community are invited to share their resources with students.

In case of rain, Welcome Week activities will relocate to the Hall of Governors.

For further information, contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 4552.

Faculty and Staff Outlook Distribution List Renamed

Beginning August 19, the naming convention for the Outlook distribution lists found under "Departments Distribution List" will change. The changes reflect the naming in the new Datatel Colleague system and were changed to provide clearer identification.

A number of new distribution lists have also been added. For example, there are now lists for each department within the colleges. A complete comparison of the former and new names can be found online at www.govst.edu/distributionlists. If you feel there are discrepancies with membership to any of these lists, please contact [Human Resources](#).

Systems Upgrade – August 21

All GSU Jenzabar products, including CX (Cars), MyGSU, Student View, and Faculty View, will be unavailable Friday, August 19, from 5 p.m. through approximately noon on Sunday, August 21 for system maintenance and required upgrade.

If you have any questions, please contact the GSU Helpdesk at 708.534.H-E-L-P.

Seasonal Delights at Our Front Door

It's August, and that means the best in farm-fresh fruits and vegetables are headed to the GSU Farmers Market. Enjoy fresh-picked tomatoes, corn, peaches, and other seasonal delights when you visit the Farmers Market on Thursdays, from 1 to 6 p.m., outside the main entrance.

The outdoor market brings locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, freshly baked bread, delicious honey, and other healthy products to GSU every week through September.

DPT/t-DPT Information Session

The GSU Department of Physical Therapy will host an Information Session/Open House for its entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT) degree programs on Wednesday, September 14, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., in Room D-34000.

Information will be presented about admission criteria and course curricula for both physical therapy programs. GSU offers an on-campus, entry-level doctor of physical therapy degree for those interested in starting a career in physical therapy and an advanced (transitional) doctor of physical therapy for clinicians who are already licensed and have at least one year of clinical experience.

Get your questions answered, meet the faculty, and tour our classroom/laboratory spaces. Advisors will be available for individual consultation. Light refreshments will be provided.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting [Mary Tracy](#) at 708.534.7290.

Student Scholar - Sara Ionescu



Sara Ionescu of Berwyn received the Marie Gray Bertz Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Sara is an undergraduate in the College of Health and Human Services' Communications Disorders program.

She plans to pursue a master's degree and become a speech-language pathologist. Sara likes working with children with Down Syndrome or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Register for Blackboard 9.1 Workshops

Beginning Fall 2011, GSU will begin the process of moving from WebCT (Blackboard CE-8) to Blackboard 9.1 with complete migration to Blackboard 9.1 slated for Spring 2012. Some of the increased functionality that will be realized in the new software includes:

- A much more robust and easy-to-use grade book
- The ability to more easily construct and maintain courses
- Automated "to do" and "past due" notifications
- Automated messaging of notes to students who are falling behind and/or at risk for failure
- An integrated plagiarism detection tool
- An enhanced group manager tool to make the setting up of group projects easier
- Built-in wiki and blog tools
- The ability to create "mash ups" that integrate content from external sources such as Flickr, Slideshare, and YouTube
- Excellent Mobile communication and content delivery capabilities ...and much more

In order to assure a smooth transition to Blackboard 9.1, it is important that faculty attend training workshops, which will provide access to Blackboard tutorials and shells for course development.

Faculty workshops begin the week of August 29. The first workshop is an essential for faculty, as it will introduce the Blackboard interface, familiarize you with the features of the GSU Standard Settings, and help you get started on creating your Spring 2012 web-enhanced, hybrid, or online course.

Two-hour workshops will be offered in both morning and afternoon sessions, Monday through Thursday.

Registration is limited to 15 persons per session. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so [register](#) for your preferred date and time today.

The Center for Online Teaching and Learning is looking forward to working with each of you as we move into this new online environment. For more information, email [Nikki Roseborough](#).

Library Staffer Nominated for Advocacy Award



Sarah Wegley, a senior library specialist in the GSU Library, has been selected as a finalist for an award recognizing individuals who don't let hearing loss limit their ability. Members of the GSU community are encouraged to vote for Wegley in the Advocacy category of the 2011 Oticon Focus on People Awards.

In her award-winning blog, "Speak Up Librarian," Wegley has chronicled her own experiences with late-onset hearing loss and invites others with hearing loss to speak out about their own challenges, adventures, and achievements.

Wegley, who has a moderate hearing loss, has worn hearing devices since 2006. At that time, she knew no one in a similar situation and frankly admits that it was lonely. Writing her blog at first was an outlet, a way for her to talk about how hearing loss had affected her emotionally. She was shocked to find a group of individuals from all walks of life who were happy and grateful to read and share along with her.

Wegley's other advocacy interests include open captioned films, accessible online education and hearing aid insurance coverage and she was recently elected the Social Chair of the Association of Late Deafened Adults Chicago.

Oticon Focus on People Awards honor hearing impaired students, adults and advocacy volunteers who have demonstrated through their accomplishments that hearing loss does not limit a person's ability to make a difference in their families, communities and the world. By spotlighting people with hearing loss and their contributions, Oticon, the world's oldest hearing aid manufacturer, aims to change outdated stereotypes that discourage people from seeking professional help for their hearing loss.

Voting is open through August 29 in four categories – Student, Adult, Advocacy, and Practitioner. First place winners in each category win \$1,000 and a \$1,000 donation from Oticon to the charity of their choice. First place winners in the Student, Adult, and Advocacy also win a pair of Oticon advanced technology hearing instruments.

Read Sarah Wegley's [biography](#). [Cast your vote](#).

