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News and Events

Welcome 2012

President Elaine P. Maimon welcomes new and returning students to campus with a special message.

Download Dr. Maimon's [Message](#)

Play Portrays Truth, Warmth



Unflinching truth is met with genuine warmth when *Tad in 5th City* comes to the Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, January 21, at 8 p.m.

Tad in 5th City, a production of MPAACT, is the second performance in the "One More Night" series, which is bringing the best in Chicago theater to GSU for one final performance. "One More Night" is made possible by a generous grant from the Chicago Community Trust.

Based on the works of poet Orron Kenyatta, *Tad in 5th City* depicts life through the eyes of 10-year-old Tad Brown, an impoverished 10-year-old growing up on Chicago's west side in the 1970s. The play chronicles Tad's journey as he navigates through a city torn by gang violence, poverty, and addiction.

Adult tickets range in price from \$30 to \$39. Special \$15 tickets are available for students from any educational institution. Tickets are available by calling 708.235.2222 or online.

Read the NWI Times [preview](#) of *Tad in 5th City*.

'Tad' Discussion Slated Jan. 19

Carla Stillwell, director of *Tad in 5th City*, and poet Orron Kenyatta will discuss the play on Thursday, January 19, at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. *Tad*

in 5th City is based on Kenyatta's works.

The conversation is free and open to the public.

Weather Emergency Procedures

The GSU community is reminded that emergency campus closures due to inclement weather will be communicated via:

- GSU website homepage
- GSU website emergency info page
- Campus wide e-mail sent to faculty/staff e-mail and student e-mail addresses
- School Messenger alert system – per your personal contact preferences
- WGN Emergency Closing Center website (www.emergencyclosingcenter.com), WGN TV news, WGN 720 AM radio

Students, faculty, and staff are asked to check these sources to determine if there is a campus closure and should NOT contact the Department of Public Safety with basic closure inquiries.

Curtain Up on SLATE Production

Enjoy a rollicking good time at the Center for Performing Arts this weekend with *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits*. This production will have you laughing out loud as you watch send-ups and parodies of 25 Broadway shows and 18 Broadway legends performed by members of an all-star cast from the Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE).

Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits comes to the CPA on January 13 and 14 at 8 p.m., and January 15 at 4 p.m. Seating is limited as the show will be performed cabaret style. The audience will be seated on the stage with the performers. Tickets are only \$25.

Visit or call the CPA box office at 708.235.2222 or visit www.centertickets.net.

Welcome Spring Semester Students

Welcome Days at GSU give students the chance to learn about student service related resources available to them at the university.

Visit the many tables and displays on January 17 and 18, from noon to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Refreshments will also be served.

Secretary of State On Campus January 17

Cyberdrive, the Secretary of State's Mobile Service Unit, will be on campus on Tuesday, January 17, from 1:30 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Services available at the mobile service unit include driver's license renewal, replacement, and corrections; State ID card renewal, replacement, and corrections; vehicle sticker sales; passenger and b-truck license plates; vehicle title and registration; parking placards for persons with disabilities; and organ/tissue donor information. In addition, vision tests and the written driver's license exam can be taken. No driving tests will be given.

The services provided are available to all qualified Illinois residents. State law allows driver's license renewal up to one year in advance. Proper identification is required for new and duplicate driver's licenses and state ID cards. Acceptable forms of payment include personal checks, cash, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit and debit cards.

For information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Financial Aid Refunds – 2012

Because the university is advancing financial aid refunds prior to the beginning of the semester, GSU will no longer issue book cards.

Depending on the option that students choose, Spring 2012 financial aid award will arrive in one of two ways:

- If students did not enroll in a direct deposit plan, the financial aid check will arrive by mail. Checks are scheduled to be mailed the week of January 9.
- If students signed up for direct deposit, the direct deposit will be transmitted directly to their bank account the week of January 9.

For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

W2 and You

As tax season approaches, you can streamline your personal tax process by signing up for an electronic W-2 form. Financial Services is offering GSU employees the option to update their employee profile through GSU's online portal to consent to receiving an electronic W-2. This service is part of the transition to the Datatel Colleague system. Signing up for the service allows all employees to access, view, and print their W-2 forms.

Sign up today for an electronic W-2 by following the steps in this [memo](#).

PaperCut Print System Arrives

Printing documents at GSU just got easier with the PaperCut print system. Students can now print from on campus computers or from any Internet connected device.

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

Computer Login 2012

Students must enter their GSU Username and Password to use on campus computers located in the ACS Lab, library, Cybercafé, Student Commons, and classrooms. Students are reminded that it is important to log off of the computer when they are finished using it to protect their privacy.

Computer workstations will log off automatically after 15 minutes of inactivity, clearing files and passwords. Work should be saved often to an external device or through e-mail.



Recyclemania Three-peat!

Recyclemania is back and GSU is ready. This national contest challenges universities and colleges from across the state and the country to increase awareness of and participation in waste reduction and recycling initiatives. The contest, now in its fourth year, ranks schools according to their success. GSU has ranked first out of all participating Illinois schools for the past two years in the Waste Minimization category.

Everyone can help GSU win a three-peat this year. Put all your paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and cans in blue recycling containers located throughout the campus.

The competition starts on February 5 and runs for eight weeks, but training starts today. Whenever possible, recycle, reuse, reduce and use e-copies.

If you don't have a recycling container in your area or office, please contact [Peggy Schiesher](#) at ext. 6361.

Youth Swim Lessons at GSU

It is time to get the kids off the couch, away from the Xbox, and into the pool. Winter is the perfect time for children to learn how to swim, master an important skill, have fun in the water, and use up some energy.

The GSU Recreation and Fitness Center Youth Swim Program is open to children 5 to 17 years of age. Participants receive 12 weeks of swim instruction. Classes begin on Saturday, January 21, from 11 to 11:40 a.m. Parental presence poolside during swim times and a waiver signed by a parent or guardian are required. The fee is \$20 for the children of GSU students, \$25 for the children of Recreation and Fitness Center members, and \$50 for non-members.

This program encourages family involvement.

Limited space is available. Contact the Recreation and Fitness Center today at 708.534.4556.

On Duty in Afghanistan

Major Susumu Uchiyama, a GSU analytical chemistry graduate, is helping restore peace to war-torn Afghanistan. Major Uchiyama, of the U.S. Air Force Security Force, has been deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan since last July.



Major Uchiyama, of Joliet, received his Master of Science in analytical chemistry from GSU in 2004.

In Afghanistan, Major Uchiyama has led training efforts for Afghan police, as well as military police units from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force, and their counterparts from Poland, the Czech Republic, Jordan, Portugal, and Romania.

Major Uchiyama said he has overseen 11 police training sites in nine Afghan provinces.

"I went to those training sites once per week and assessed their training, operations, engineering, and logistic support and reported to the higher echelons and Ministry of Interior," Major Uchiyama said. He traveled to the training sites by air or ground.

"When I went by ground, typically in a convoy of MRAPs (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles), we were harassed by the insurgents," he said.

Major Uchiyama, who was born and raised in Japan, praised his educational experience at GSU. He said he was taught by “three great professors” – Dr. Joseph Addison, Dr. Karen D’Arcy, and the late Dr. Joyce Mohberg. “I was very fortunate to have such great professors,” he said.

“I was extremely impressed by GSU, because of the flexible hours for the graduate students, very caring and professional professors, and the diversity of GSU students and professors,” he said. Members of the U.S. military know that diversity is the key to strength, Major Uchiyama said, and GSU helped him to confirm the value of diversity.

Major Uchiyama expects to return home to the United States early this year.



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