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GSU View

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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News and Events

[If You're Locked Out...](#)

Students or staff who failed to change their computer password prior to the February 29 deadline may not have access to their office computers.

If you are locked out of your computer, contact the ITS Help Desk at 708.534.4357.

According to a state mandate, students and staff are required to periodically change their passwords. GSU staff must change their passwords every 60 days; students need a new password every 120 days.

[Answering Pension Questions](#)

Whether you are recent hire or one nearing retirement, pension reform is an important issue. GSU is sponsoring an important forum to help employees understand the complex issues surrounding pension reform.

Steve Cunningham, Vice President of Human Resources and Compliance at Northern Illinois University, will discuss pensions on Tuesday, March 6, at 1 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Cunningham has conducted extensive research into pensions.

All GSU employees are encouraged to attend.

[Preparing for Graduation](#)

Graduation preparation is under way with Salute to Grads on Wednesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Graduates are able to order announcements, class rings, cap and gown, take graduation photos, and receive commencement information. Be diligent, make sure that you attend the event, and get a good start to your graduation ceremony.

[Looking Good](#)



The E & F Renovation Project is picking up speed. Demolition in the "t phase 1 area" is well under way and will continue for the next three to four weeks. Students, faculty, and staff can expect to see frequent traffic as debris is taken out of the building to construction dumpsters filling. This traffic is generally restricted to the east entry drive.

Once debris is removed, it is taken to a sorting facility where recyclable materials are removed. The goal is to divert as much material as

possible from the landfill. This is one of the steps being taken to make the building as sustainable as possible.

ITS and FDM have joined forces to establish a webpage for project updates. Check on the progress of the [E & F Renovation Project](#).

Rapid Research Event

Present your research – or hear what your colleagues are working on – at the faculty “rapid research” event on Friday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The event is sponsored by GSU’s Scholarship and Teaching Center.

All research is welcome, whether it’s past or present, dissertation research, or ideas you may be developing. Under the presentation format, faculty members will be given three to five minutes to deliver a snapshot of their research. Presentations will be compiled according to discipline and department after the event, and distributed to the greater GSU community for further collaboration and mentorship opportunities.

Presentations will take place from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m.

If you are interested in presenting or have more questions, please respond to [Raven James](#) with the topic of your research, and to confirm your attendance at the event.

Successful Grant Writing

Mark your calendar for “Writing Successful Grants,” taking place Monday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The workshop is sponsored by GSU’s Office of the Provost and the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research.

For those who are new to the grant game, this introductory workshop covers basic principles of good grant writing — starting with the phrasing of a compelling research theme to the actual construction of the proposal itself. Major differences between traditional “academic prose” and persuasive grant writing are highlighted.

Common pitfalls that can lead to early rejection of good ideas are reviewed, matched with practical strategies for better writing. Special attention will be paid to the perspectives of grant reviewers and how to write in ways that will meet their expectations.

The workshop focuses on:

- Killer mistakes in grant writing and how to avoid them
- Two critical steps that will double your chances for success
- How to win over the grant reviewer
- Simple keys to a more powerful writing style
- Visualization: using illustrations to “sell” your project

Dr. Robert Porter is workshop leader. Dr. Porter has presented grant writing workshops at leading universities and medical schools across the country. Currently Director of Research Development at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Porter has 30 years’ experience as a tenured professor, private consultant, and research administrator.

Participants must RSVP by Friday, March 9. Contact [Jennifer Morehead](#) at 708.235.2846.

Real-IT-Y

Learn what you need to know to compete in the IT job market at a special panel discussion on Wednesday, March 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in E-Lounge. IT professionals and directors will discuss the traits and training demanded by the IT market in the future. They will also discuss the education gaps exhibited by new entrants into the IT workforce and how job seekers can develop the skills they will need.

This event is sponsored by the GSU Computer Science Club. For more information, contact [Dr. Steve Shih](#) at 708.534.4547.

Holistic Health Conference

Learn about holistic health at a daylong conference on March 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., The conference includes presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits of holistic and healthful products and services. Vendors and exhibitors will fill the Hall of Governors with information, products, and services related to holistic health.

Presenters include Dr. Wendy Westbrooks, Bi Nah Davis, Kim Simmons, and Tom Masbaum and Linda Nyberg.

Dr. Westbrooks is a clinical physician, health and wellness coach, entrepreneur, and radio talk show host. Dr. Westbrooks will present on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and identifying potentially unhealthy conditions in our lives and our communities.

Bi Nah Davis will present a seminar on metaphysical bio-energy and mind-body communication focusing on the colors in one's energy field and how the intensity and strength of the colors reflect the health and wellness of the individual.

Kim Simmons will present a stress release workshop focusing on the transformative power of exercise and nutrition.

Tom Masbaum and Linda Nyberg will present on the use of Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) in the treatment of emotional and physical problems.

This event is free and open to the public. Continuing Education Units are available for attendees of specific seminars. Exhibitor/vendor spaces are still available. The Holistic Health Conference is sponsored by Student Life and the GSU Wellness Club.

For more information, contact [Vanessa Newby](#) at 708.534.4551.

CBPA Professor Published in Finance Journal

Dr. Yonghong Jia, Assistant Professor of Accounting, recently published "Cross Country Analysis of Secular Cash Trends" in the Journal of Banking and Finance.

CBPA Dean Ellen Foster Curtis asks her GSU colleagues to congratulate Dr. Jia on her publishing success. "This is a top 10 journal in the finance field and represents a

great accomplishment, especially for someone so early in her academic career," Dr. Foster Curtis said.

CenterPoint International Trade Center Director Receives Certification



Mary Ma, Director of the CenterPoint's Illinois International Trade Center at GSU, has earned the designation of Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) by the National Association of Small Business International Trade Educators (NASBITE). The CGBP designation certifies that Ma is competent in the areas of global business management, global marketing, supply chain management, and trade financing. Only two other International Trade Centers in Illinois acquired the certification last year.

Under Ma's leadership, the Illinois International Trade Center at CenterPoint has worked closely with regionally based Illinois companies involved in more than \$800 million in exports. Export products include agricultural products, recycled plastics, thermal insulation products, used automobile parts, and a wide variety of medical and surgical instruments.

Since the trade center was launched at GSU last April, seven companies have added 17 new jobs, retained 100 positions, and last year invested over \$700,000 in expanding their businesses. Last year, an agricultural exporting client of the center was honored when it received the 2011 Export Excellence Award from Governor Pat Quinn.

Media's Message to Women

The media's message to women is often interpreted as a call to be skinnier, sexier, and more attractive. Join a special discussion of the media's message to women, the reasons for it, and its effects on women, men, and society on Tuesday, March 27, from 5 to 7 p.m., in E-Lounge.

Panelists include Dr. Debbie James, Assistant Professor of Media Communication; Vera Barkus, Co-Chair Communications Department, Kennedy King College; and Bryant Monteilh, GSU alum and WVON Radio Personality.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Cafeteria vouchers will be awarded to the first 20 attendees who complete an optional online survey.

This event is the project of GSU student Carla Roberson and is sponsored by a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee.

University Research Grants 2012

The University Research Grant (URG) is sponsored by the Provost's Office to fund faculty, staff, or student research. Proposals, submitted with the grant application, are screened by a committee of faculty members and recommendations are submitted to the Provost for funding. The maximum seed grant is \$3,500.

URG applications are due by 5 p.m. on April 2.

View the [application](#).

Revised Spring Break Library Hours

During Spring Break, the University Library hours will be as follows:

Saturday, March 11 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 11 - closed

Monday to Thursday, March 12 to 15 - 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, March 16 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 - closed

Sunday, March 18 - closed

Counseling Students Experience Politics

GSU School Counseling graduate students Lisa Bogart, Jackie Gass, Zofia Guiney, Yolanda Richardson, and Sarah Sexton, and Dr. Julia Yang, university professor, participated in the Day on the Hill initiative in Springfield, on February 29. The GSU students joined 74 volunteers at the annual Advocacy Day sponsored by the Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organization (CICO). The participants advocated for their profession with Illinois Senators and Representatives.

GSU students met with Representative Lisa Dugan and Representative Sidney H. Mathias and discussed the importance of supporting the funding of K-12 education and voting for House Bill 5290, which includes a bullying prevention program. They also talked about school counselors' expertise in social and emotional development, which helps students overcome barriers to learning.

Dr. Yang also represented the Illinois Counseling Association by presenting the ICA's annual legislator's award to Senator Heather Stein.

