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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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News and Events

[Class of 2012 Gift](#)



Members of the graduating class of 2012 are leaving a legacy of their achievement and success at GSU and honoring the people in their lives who helped them to achieve.

Each 2012 graduate has been asked to give \$20.12 to the class gift, which will help support the GSU Promise. Graduates may honor someone special who contributed to their success by making an additional \$20 gift per honoree. All graduate contributors and honorees will be included in a special tribute at Commencement.

To help graduates save the amount, free piggy banks are available in the Development Office, room D34200.

Banks filled with the \$20.12 contribution should be returned to the Development Office by April 26. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For more information, call 708.235.2188.

[Innovation and Creativity at GSU](#)

Faculty and staff are invited to *Innovation and Creativity in General Education*, a March 27 workshop that focuses on GSU's General Education planning. The workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Center for Performing Arts stage, and will include lunch.



Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities is the featured speaker. She will discuss the national framework and best national practices of General Education.

The purpose of the event is to provide members of the university's General Education Working Group with input so they can create the general education (GE) outcomes statements and recommend the structure for lower division General Education courses, as well as any upper division courses that may fall in that category.

Participants also will discuss a GE Working Group timeline and a possible first-year kickoff event in the week before freshmen start classes in Fall, 2014. Before the workshop, participants will be asked to do some pre-work on exercise sheets dealing with General education outcomes, themes, and high impact learning.

RSVPs are essential for the workshop. Participants will be assigned seats at onstage tables and lunch will be served. Interested persons should RSVP to [Penny Perdue](#) at 708.534.4130 by March 23.

Rakstang Named State 'Champion of the Year'

Bob Rakstang, director of the GSU CenterPoint's Illinois Small Business Development Center, has been selected as the Small Business Administration's Illinois 2012 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year.



Rakstang was honored as an advocate for veteran-owned businesses and for creating GSU's Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp program, which has offered training in entrepreneurial skills to more than 500 veterans in the last four years. During boot camps, business professionals from a wide range of backgrounds volunteer their expertise and support toward veteran business development, and help veterans understand the resources that are available for veteran-owned businesses. Rakstang connects with government agencies at local, state and federal levels to build expertise, resources and support for veteran outreach efforts.

CenterPoint Director Hilary Burkinshaw said Rakstang "is quietly dedicated to improving the business environment for veterans and is a deserving recipient of the SBA Veterans Small Business Champion of the Year Award."

Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camps were recognized by the Illinois Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth Association in 2008 and 2009 for their "outstanding, innovative, and best practices in the programs and services offered by member Illinois centers and the impact the program has had on the community, region, and state."

IT Job Prospects

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.

Women's History Month 2012

GSU celebrates Women's History Month in March with discussions, a film series, and a special performance.

The film series begins on Monday March 19, at 5 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex, with *Breaking Our Silence: Gloucester Men Speak Out Against Domestic Abuse*. This 11 minute documentary focuses on the activist efforts of men in Gloucester, Massachusetts, who take a stand against domestic abuse and bullying. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

War Zone will be shown on Tuesday, March 20, at 5 p.m. The location will be announced. This documentary is 45 minutes long and focuses on first-hand, direct confrontations with men sexually harassing women. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

The film series concludes with *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* on Thursday, March 22, at 5 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. This 38 minute film examines the developmental challenges facing teenage girls in today's world and provides a medium to discuss how females can empower themselves while dealing with historical stereotypes, toxic influences, and pressures of pop culture. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

Singer Marcy McReynolds will perform and a discussion will follow on Wednesday, March 21, at 5 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

Women's History Month activities are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The activities are sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Student Life, ARC, and a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee.

Grants for an Intellectual Life

The Intellectual Life Committee is again offering Intellectual Life Grants. The mission of the Intellectual Life Committee is:

- To expand the intellectual opportunities available to the GSU community
- To contribute to the enhancement of intellectual pursuits
- To increase the growth of and participation in intellectual endeavors.

The Intellectual Life Grants will be awarded for up to \$500 for events taking place between August 20, 2012 and December 1, 2012 that promote and increase awareness of the arts, humanities and other intellectual topics of universal interest. Possible events might include lecture series, faculty research salons, workshops, panel discussions, exhibits, presentations in local communities and field trips.

The primary audience for these events is GSU students, although the events should be open to all members of the GSU community and the region.

GSU staff and faculty, as well as enrolled GSU students with a faculty collaborator, are invited to apply using the Intellectual Life Grant Application. Events must be promoted as sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee in addition to any other sponsors.

Selection Criteria include:

- Comparative analysis between grant projects presented,
- Value to the GSU community in terms of intellectual life,
- Strategies for promoting the event,
- Completion of the event within Fall 2012 Semester,
- Feasibility of the project based on the support of this grant plus any other sources of funding, and
- Grant funding may not be used to compensate GSU employees or purchase hardware or software.

Submissions are due April 6. Please fill out the accompanying form in Microsoft Word and e-mail it to [Lydia Morrow Ruetten](#). Award winners will be notified by April 20, 2012. Interested persons can contact for more information.

Author, Author

The University Library will host the Faculty Authors Reception on March 29 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on the Library balcony. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Erin Engelbrecht at ext. 7515 or Lynn DiMaggio at ext. 8398.

Factory Physics

Edward Pound will present a lecture on *Factory Physics* on Tuesday, March 20, at 6 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex. The lecture is sponsored by CBPA APICS-Chicago.

Factory Physics is the title of both an award-winning book and company name. Formed in 2001 by author Dr. Mark L. Spearman, Factory Physics Inc. is a management consulting company that provides a scientific framework, software support tools, and training to optimize performance of manufacturing supply chains.

Edward Pound is Chief Operations Officer at Factory Physics Inc. He has more than 20 years of experience in manufacturing, having worked in general management, operations, purchasing, and product development.

Factory Physics applies scientific principles to manufacturing and service operations, and the lecture should be of interest to anyone who manages resources. Anyone from Governors State University may attend free of charge, but space is limited to the first 30 who register. Interested persons should register with [John Simon](#) by Monday, March 19.

Scholarship Spotlight - Valencia Brown



Valencia Brown of Park Forest received the Donald Dolan Endowed Business Scholarship. She is an undergraduate student in the College of Business and Public Administration. She plans on continuing her education to receive her master's in business degree.

Valencia's short term goal is to become an administrator for a south suburban business. She would like to open a non-profit organization to assist underprivileged individual to get their lives

back on track.



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