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News and Events

New Associate Provost Arrives at GSU

Provost Terry Allison this week welcomed Dr. Angela J. Latham to GSU:



Governors State University is happy to welcome Dr. Angela J. Latham, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Latham comes to GSU from Triton College, where she was Vice President of Academic Affairs and former faculty member and Chair of the Department of Visual, Performing, and Communication Arts.

Dr. Latham holds a Ph.D. in Theatre History from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In addition to journal articles and many presentations, she has published *Posing a Threat: Flappers, Chorus Girls, and other Brazen Performers of the American 1920s*. She also has a career as author, adapter, and actor in solo work performances while directing college, community, and other theatrical productions.

As Associate Provost, Dr. Latham will work with both personnel and curricular initiatives. Dr. Peggy Woodard, retired Associate Provost and continuing Interim Dean of Students, has kindly agreed to continue at GSU through the first months of Dr. Latham's service and until GSU completes the search for our new Dean of Students.

Please join me in welcoming Angela Latham to our campus and to the faculty of GSU.

S & P Boosts GSU's Financial Outlook

GSU has received a favorable fiscal outlook from one of the nation's premier financial services companies. Standard and Poor's last month revised the outlook on GSU's A-minus to stable from negative.

According to The Bond Buyer, a national trade newspaper covering the municipal bond industry, the revised outlook, in part, was due to GSU's demonstrated ability to manage cash flow and operations and make timely debt service payments, despite chronic delays in state aid.

The review came ahead of a new bond issue to finance an on-campus student housing complex that will also include a community room, classroom, convenience store, lounges, and study rooms.

In February, GSU's Board of Trustees authorized the sale of revenue bonds to finance the 300-bed residential complex. Bonds in an aggregate original principal amount for the project are not to exceed \$21 million. The student housing complex is expected to be open by Fall, 2014, when GSU's first freshman class will arrive on campus.

"Further supporting the rating is our view of the university's growing undergraduate enrollment and its history of positive financial operations on a full-accrual basis," said analyst Jessica Lukas.

"We are all grateful to Karen Kissel, Vice President for Administration and Finance, for putting together a stellar report and presentation to Standard and Poor's" said President Maimon. "Many thanks to all for your continuing fiscal prudence. As deans and budget heads plan PBAC presentations for FY '13, it is clear that we must continue and strengthen our precautions. S & P has affirmed that we are a strong sailing craft, even though they are very familiar with the troubled waters on which we sail."

Glenn M. Mazade, Senior Vice President of RBS Citizens, specializing in commercial and not for profit banking, congratulated Dr. Maimon and Executive Vice President Gebeyehu Ejigu on the favorable fiscal outlook.

"I know you have been working hard for a number of years on improving the fiscal condition of the school, and your hard work is paying off," he said. "Improvements in the outlook by S & P don't come very easily these days."

Alcohol Information Session

Learn the facts and dispel the myths at an Alcohol Awareness information session today, from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

This event is free and open to everyone. It is sponsored by the Academic Resource Center in conjunction with National Alcohol Awareness Week.

Statewide Research Conference

GSU hosts the 23rd annual statewide Student Research Conference on Friday, April 6. Students from Illinois state universities will present their research in podium and poster presentations, have the opportunity to learn from each other, and share their knowledge.

Podium presentations take place in Sherman Hall from 11 a.m. to 5:50 p.m. Poster presentations are in E-Lounge from 8:40 to 10 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about exciting student research taking place in Illinois.

SOTA Planning Future Events

GSU's Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) will meet on Tuesday, April 10, at noon in Room G127.

The meeting will include a discussion of the upcoming OT Awareness Event planned for April 16, OT apparel, and summer social and fundraising activities. Pizza will be served. Undergraduates are welcome.

GSU Student Research Conference Deadline

GSU's annual Student Research Conference will be held on Thursday, April 19. The abstract submission and registration deadline is Monday, April 9. Students are encouraged to participate in this valuable opportunity to present their work before an audience. It also provides a forum to highlight research accomplishments at GSU.

More information is available at the conference [website](#).

Student Production Debuts Next Week



Stop Kiss, by Diana Son, will be presented as an all-student production on April 11, 12, and 13. The one-act play will be presented at 8 p.m., on Wednesday and Thursday; and 7 p.m., on Friday. All performances are taking place free of charge in Engbretson Hall.

Stop Kiss cast members include Shawnta Young, Niki Kimmel, Joe Butler, Chris Zuales, Dabney Buchanan, Adriene Farmer, and Carla S. Roberson. Other production personnel include filming by Matt Sass and White; film editing by Sass; and publicity and house management by Keyana Marshall.

Stop Kiss contains adult themes and explicit language.

Stop Kiss is made possible by an Intellectual Life Committee Grant and the support of Dr. Jason Zingsheim, faculty advisor.

Faculty Spotlight - Michel Nguessan

Dr. Michel Nguessan recently achieved his second Ph.D. from the University of Sherbrooke, in Quebec. The title of his dissertation in computer science, which he successfully



defended, was *ERP Project Management in Higher Education*.

Nguessan came to GSU in 2005 and is an associate professor of library and information science. This Ph.D. is the continuation of a master's degree in software engineering that he obtained at the University of Quebec in Montreal in 2000. He obtained his first Ph.D. in French linguistics in 1995 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Colliding Worlds Investigated

The GSU Honors Program is hosting a lecture series, *Navigating Our Colliding Worlds*.

The series begins with a presentation by author Alex Kotlowitz, *Making Sense of the Madness: Reflections from Twenty Years of Reporting on Urban Violence*, on April 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

Kotlowitz is best known for his bestselling book, "There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America," selected by the New York Public Library as one of the 150 most important books of the century. Most recently, he co-produced the film *The Interrupters*, a documentary on urban violence. Kotlowitz also contributes to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and public radio's "This American Life."

The lecture series continues with *Urban School Reform: the State of the Debate*, a lecture by Dr. Charles Payne, on Wednesday, April 18, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

The series concludes with *Riding the Cultural Revolution: Lessons From Chicago's Southland*. Anna Carvalho will discuss the unexpected observations and benefits found in embracing differences in on Wednesday, April 25, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

The Honors Program lectures are free and open to the public.

Gender Matters Keynote Address

Richard T. Rodriguez will present the keynote address at next week's Gender Matters conference. The lecture, *Gentrify My Love: On the Borders of Neighborly Desires*, takes place Friday, April 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. It is free and open to the public.

According to Rodriguez, the keynote address "examines the politics of gay gentrification bound up for representations of queer Latino masculinity by closely reading Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland's film *Quinceanera* (2006)."

Rodriguez is Associate Professor of English and Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he is also affiliated with the Department of Gender and Women's Studies and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretative Theory.

The keynote address is supported by GSU's Intellectual Life Committee.

Pre-K Screening and Registration

The Family Development Center is opening its doors for tours, information, and pre-enrollment screening. Parents and their three to five year old children are invited to visit the FDC on June 6, 7, 12, and 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to learn about the full and half day prekindergarten programs offered at the state-of-the-art facility at GSU.

The prekindergarten program boasts of a low student to teacher ratio and qualified educators following an enriching curriculum in a nurturing environment. Before and after school childcare is available and reduced fees are available to eligible families.

For more information and to register call 708.235.7300.

Making a Case at Advocacy Day

GSU sent the state's largest contingent of social work students to last week's Advocacy Day at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. Ninety-one undergraduate and graduate social work students attended the yearly event.

Advocacy Day gives social work students an opportunity to meet with state legislators and other officials, and to lobby on behalf of Illinois's most vulnerable residents. More than 20 Illinois colleges and universities took part in this year's Advocacy Day.

Dr. Geri Outlaw, Social Work Department Chair, congratulated GSU's Social Work Student Organization (SWSO), and its president, Darwin Gordon, and officers, for planning and organizing participation by BSW and MSW students. She also thanked Dr. Phyllis West, faculty liaison to SWSO; and Dr. Lorri Glass, Dr. Asabi Yakini, and Dr. Judy Berglund, who escorted GSU's students to the state capitol.

On Your Mark, Get Set

Registration is under way for the second annual Run 4 Rehab, sponsored by GSU's Physical Therapy Student Association (PTSA). The event, featuring a 5k (3.1 mile) run and two-mile walk, takes place on GSU's campus on May 5 at 8 a.m.

Proceeds will go toward the PTSA and the Miami-Marquette Challenge, a national competition that raises money for physical therapy research.

You can [register online](#) for the event.

Intercultural Communication Workshop

Psychology graduate and undergraduate students are invited to attend *Building an Inclusive Community: Leadership and Social Change*, on April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to develop intercultural communication skills, knowledge, and competence.

The workshop is free. Seating is limited. Registration is necessary. Contact [Dr. Crystal Blount](#).

Scholarship Spotlight - Kendall Coleman



Kendall Coleman of Chicago received the Donald and Helen Morrison Endowed Scholarship in Business. Kendall is a graduate student in the College of Business and Public Administration.

Kendall has a BS in electrical engineering. After he receives his MBA, Kendall plans to lead a renewable energy engineering firm.

