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News and Events

Former GSU President Leo Goodman-Malamuth Dies

Dr. Leo Goodman-Malamuth II, second president of Governors State University, died Sunday, January 20, at his home in LaQuinta, California. He was 88. Dr. Goodman-Malamuth served as GSU's president between October, 1977 and July, 1992.



Dr. Goodman-Malamuth

During his 15 years as GSU president, Dr. Goodman-Malamuth was instrumental in revising its curriculum, redesigning its colleges, and developing a new student grading system. Dr. Goodman-Malamuth reorganized the university's administration, establishing the first office of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

"Dr. Goodman-Malamuth strengthened GSU's role as a Public Square," said President Elaine P. Maimon. "He sustained GSU's founding principle of innovation, while imposing necessary constraints and developing sound educational practices."

Dr. Goodman-Malamuth was an early supporter of GSU's Center for Performing Arts, a cultural jewel in the Chicago Southland. He commissioned several works of art for the nationally-renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. He helped establish the GSU Foundation, the university's fund-raising arm. Dr. Goodman-Malamuth expanded GSU's use of communications technology, especially through the use of telecourses that were transmitted all around the United States.

"He was the president who took the most steps to move GSU into the mainstream of higher education," said Dr. David Curtis, former university provost, who worked as an administrator with Dr. Goodman-Malamuth for many years. "When he arrived on campus, he saw that changes were needed." It took a few years until all the changes were in effect, Curtis said, but Dr. Goodman-Malamuth was a "constant presence," who made sure GSU was headed in the right direction.

"I felt that here was a place that had a tremendously bright future," Dr. Goodman-Malamuth said about GSU in 1991. "I decided to come here to see if I couldn't in some way help move (GSU) along with the faculty and staff ... to help the university attain some of its aspirations."

In 2009, Dr. Goodman-Malamuth returned to GSU for the university's 40th anniversary celebration, taking part in a panel discussion on the university's past and future.

Students Witness History During Inauguration Trip

GSU students experienced an unforgettable lesson in civic engagement during their three-day trip to President Barack Obama's second inauguration in Washington, D.C. Thirty-eight GSU students were accompanied by four faculty and staff members on an epic journey to a historic event.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Erin Fletcher, student trustee on the GSU Board. "So many things came together on this trip – the inauguration, MLK Day, and the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation."

Students agreed that there were numerous challenges on the road to the inauguration. The bus trip to the Washington area took more than 12 hours. On Monday, Inauguration Day, the delegation received a 4:30 a.m. wake-up call in order to get to the day's events on time. In the end, however, it was all worthwhile.



2013 Inaugural Delegation

"Being in Washington, D.C., for such a historical moment was very uplifting, historical, rewarding, and profound for me on so many levels," said Student Senate President Lisa Wallace. "As an advocate for change and the president of Student Senate, this was powerful and life-changing. I was able to witness and experience what my forefathers marched and fought for."

Wallace signed up as a volunteer for Inauguration Day, and was rewarded for her efforts by a front-row view of the day's events. At President Obama's swearing-in ceremony, she acted as an escort for celebrities on the main stage. Wallace brought music superstars Jay-Z and Beyonce to their seats, an accomplishment that will be long remembered by members of GSU's entourage.

In the evening, Wallace volunteered at the Commander in Chief Ball, where she checked tickets but also was seated close to President Obama. "I got to see the president up close and personal," she said. Wallace showed pictures from her cell phone – the president and Mrs. Obama dancing, Jennifer Hudson singing, and more once-in-a-lifetime images.

On Monday, Fletcher and her group were further down Pennsylvania Avenue, where they were positioned in the first row for the Inaugural Parade. "We waited there for about five hours," she said. After the long wait, they ultimately got to see the president and first lady walk by.

Student Chris Cook said GSU's delegation worked as a team to get the most out of the experience.

"I had a wonderful time," Cook said. "This trip was not only fun. It was very educational and historical. For me, this trip allowed the students to become closer. By the end of the trip, students knew each other by their first name. Students made sure that everyone had something to eat; they took care of each other. When we have activities that are geared toward student engagement and building the morale of the student population, students will begin to take pride in their institution."

Cook said his greatest moment during the trip was seeing President Obama and the first lady. "That's when it hit me that all things are achievable in every field of human endeavor," he said.

Suzette Shepherd, an IDSS student, was with Dr. Phyllis West and a group of students when she spotted Cheryl Burton, a reporter for ABC-Channel 7 in Chicago. She waved to her and Burton came over with a camera crew, and interviewed Shepherd and Dr. West. "I talked to her about the significance of this event to me, and why it was so meaningful," Shepherd said. [Watch the interview](#) with Shepherd and Dr. West.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon thanked Dr. West, Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Special Events Coordinator Karen Caesar-Smith, and Assistant Dean of Students Sheree Sanderson, who accompanied the students; and Dean of Students Aurelio Valente, who made arrangements for students to meet with the mayor of Hagerstown, Maryland, David Gyberts.

"Your work is a prime example of infusing civic engagement and principles of democracy into the curriculum and into student life," Dr. Maimon said. "Your interaction with students greatly enriched the experience for them."

Fletcher said the trip gave participants an entirely new concept of civic engagement. "I am already involved on campus," she said. "After this trip, I feel motivated to do even more."

Students who traveled to Washington will chronicle the trip during the Civic Engagement in Action presentation on Thursday, February 21, at 6 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Facts for the 2013 Flu Season

Fight the flu! Dr. Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students, encourages students and all members to review these [flu facts](#) so you can better cope with this winter's particularly pesky virus.

Benefit Leave Information Online

On January 31, you can view all of your leave plans and your up-to-date leave balances on line. In order to view this information, you should go the Portal and click on "Employee Profile." Then click on "Leave Plan Summary." On that page you will find the following information:

1. The first date that you may use all or part of the benefit leave you have accrued
2. The types of benefit leave you have
3. How your benefit leave accrues each pay period (in hours)
4. Your accrual limits (in hours)
5. If applicable, your maximum carryover from one fiscal year to the next (in hours)
6. Your current leave balances (in hours)

Please note the following: for non-exempt employees, the Leave Plan Summary will be updated every pay period; for exempt employees, it will be updated at the end of each month. In addition, leave accruals and balances are now in hours, not days. So that your leave summary is always up-to-date, you must submit your time sheet timely – on the last day of the pay period for non-exempt employees and on the last day of the month for exempt employees. The accuracy of this information is up to you.

Braid Tales Lecture Tonight

Hip Hop music, poetry, and dance – and how they can be used as an educational tool – will be discussed during a special pre-performance lecture event tonight at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Braid Tales - the ZigZags and Twists of Urban Classroom Pedagogy will explore the relationship between youth development work, Hip Hop performance, and educational efforts at Kuumba Lynx, a Chicago-based arts and education organization.

Kuumba Lynx's touring production, *Braid Tales*, will be presented at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, at the Center for Performing Arts.

Panel members at tonight's lecture include moderator Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, Professor of English and Secondary Education; Jacinda Bullie, co-founder of Kuumba Lynx; Jaquanda Villegas, co-executive director of Kuumba Lynx; Keith Redmond, a member of Kuumba Lynx Adult Ensemble; and Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor, Division of Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dynamic Braid Tales Comes to CPA – January 26

Braid Tales brings the language and stories of the streets to life in a multi-dimensional production. The Kuumba Lynx Peace Poets and FootworkINGz, a top finalist on America's Best Dance crew, weave real life stories through Hip Hop theater, spoken word, and graffiti art. The amazing South Shore Drill team, fresh from its performance at Monday's Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C., will also perform.

Braid Tales is at the Center for Performing Arts for one show only, at 8 p.m., on Saturday, January 26.

Braid Tales is part of GSU Center's 2012-2013 One More Night series, which brings the finest in Chicago-area theatre, dance, and music to local audiences. One More Night is made possible by a generous grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

Watch this [*Braid Tales*](#) preview.

Tickets for *Braid Tales* are \$30, \$10 for college students, and \$5 for high school students. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center [box office](#) at 708.235.2222. Student discounts are only available by phone or in person and require a valid school ID.

Dealing with Stress

Learn how to handle the stress at a special workshop geared toward university students. *Dealing with College Anxiety* will be held on Tuesday, January 29, from noon to 1 p.m.; and Wednesday, January 30, from 5 to 6 p.m. Both workshops will be held in the ARC Testing Room, B1216.

Workshop participants will have access to written materials and other information on time management, study skills, and test anxiety.

The GSU Academic Resource Center sponsors this free workshop. Refreshments will be served. More information is available at 708.534.4090.

Calling all Performers

Auditions for the GSU production of Ann Sexton's *Transformations* will be held on February 2, from noon to 2 p.m. and February 4, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The audition time slot sign-up sheet is located outside room E1541D.

Transformations is the classic retelling of Grimm's fairy tales through Sexton's deliciously strange, personally intimate, and metaphorically rich poem-stories. The production needs at least four men and four women. Performances will be on April 24 and 25.

For more information, contact director [Dr. Patrick Santoro](#) at 708.235.2842.

Self Defense Courses Offered

The Recreation and Fitness Center is offering Self Defense courses during the spring semester.

Aqua Defense will be held Tuesdays, from noon to 1 p.m. between January 29 and April 16. The course has a \$15 fee. This water based course in self-defense is tailored for those with chronic pain, including fibromyalgia, arthritis, or injuries. This unique self-defense course draws upon principles of taekwondo, yoga, and anatomy.

Personal Self Defense Training days, times, and dates must be scheduled through the Recreation and Fitness Center Sales Office in A1106. The fee is \$100 for six hours of instruction. Protecting yourself is your right. This unique one-on-one self-defense course draws upon principles of taekwondo, yoga, and anatomy.

R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) meets Mondays, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. between February 4 and April 8. There is a \$25 fee. Be prepared! The R.A.D. course includes lecture, discussion and hands-on self-defense techniques suitable for women of all abilities.

Contact the [Recreation and Fitness Center](#) at 708.534.4556.

GSU Receives 29th Consecutive Grant from State

GSU has been awarded a \$185,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to host an Illinois Small Business Development Center and an Illinois International Trade Center for 2013. In 1984, GSU became one of the founding Small Business Development Centers in Illinois and has served the GSU regions existing businesses and business startup clients for nearly 30 years.

"During the last decade, GSU's SBDC and ITC have served 5,000 clients who have added and retained over 8,000 jobs while investing more than \$136 million by expanding or starting 215 businesses as well as aiding in increasing exports by over \$500 million in the GSU region," said Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration. "On behalf of the College of Business and Public Administration, I am extremely pleased to continue supporting regional economic development efforts through the SBDC and ITC at GSU."

The Illinois Small Business Development and International Trade Centers at GSU are funded through a cooperative agreement between the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and GSU.

Sign Up for African American Read-In – February 4

The annual National African American Read-In is again part of Black History Month at GSU. This year's event takes place Monday, February 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Sherman Recital Hall.

Volunteer readers celebrate literacy by reading an excerpt from a book, poem, or essay by an African American author. The program is endorsed by the International Literacy Association, and is sponsored at GSU by the College of Arts and Sciences, the English Department, the Black Caucus of the NCTE, and the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), and Student Life.

The Read-In is free and open to the public. Volunteer readers are encouraged to pick their favorite piece of African American literature and join the celebration. For more information or to register as a volunteer reader, contact [Dr. Rashidah Muhammad](#) at 708.534.6974. All are invited to participate.

2nd District Candidates to Appear at Forum – February 7

GSU will host a forum for candidates seeking the vacant Congressional seat in Illinois' Second District. The forum, in GSU's Center for Performing Arts, takes place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 7.

During the forum, candidates will be asked how they can best serve the residents of the Second District, which includes sections of Chicago's south side and parts of southern Cook County, areas in Will County, and all of Kankakee County. Mike Flannery, Political Editor for WFLD FOX 32, will moderate the forum, which is free and open to the public.

The Second District Congressional seat was held for 17 years by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Chicago Democrat. He resigned November 22, citing reasons of health. Seventeen Democrats and five Republicans have filed to run for the Second District seat. The primary election takes place February 26, with the special election for the seat to follow on April 9.

In presenting the forum, GSU is partnering with League of Women Voters chapters in Homewood-Flossmoor, Dolton-Harvey-Riverdale, and the Park Forest area, and Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that prioritizes the development of civic leadership in underserved Chicago high school youth.

