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GSU View

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News and Events

Student Leadership Programs Off to a Good Start

More than 60 GSU students this week participated in the nationally recognized Leadership Practices Inventory. On Tuesday, the Student Affairs team launched the inaugural Leadership Institute. The Graduate Leadership Scholars

program had its kickoff event on Wednesday.

In the next month, participants will choose from among 10 workshops, with topics such as Leading Change, Ethics and Integrity, Vision and Goal Setting, and Multicultural Issues in Leadership. Participants will also meet with their leadership mentors; 45 faculty and staff have volunteered to guide students through this leadership journey.



Leadership Institute students

This distinctive co-curricular certificate program is designed for students seeking leadership development opportunities that will contribute to their personal development and help achieve their leadership potential. For more information, visit www.govst.edu/sli. You can [follow their experience](#) on Twitter.

2nd District Congressional 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.

Mike Flannery The Second District Congressional seat was held for 17 years by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Chicago Democrat. He resigned November 22, citing health reasons. 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.

Crossroads of Freedom

This year's Black History Month marks two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States: the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Join the GSU community in the celebration of African American history, culture, arts, and cuisine. To see a list of events, [check here](#).

State University Employees Must Comply with New Child Abuse Law

Gail M. Bradshaw, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity, has directed that all employees, including all full and part-time, extra-help, temporary, graduate assistants and student workers, receive notification about the new Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA).

To verify notification has been made, employees will receive an e-mail from HR shortly, containing information and instructions about this law, with a link to the DCFS [Acknowledgement Form](#), which each employee must complete, print off, sign, and date.

Please keep a copy for your records, and send the original DCFS form to the GSU Human Resources Department by March 1. You can drop it in the night mailbox next to the HR Department entry door, or place it in the university mail addressed to the HR Department, or place it in the U.S. Mail addressed to: Governors State University, Attn: Human Resources Department, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484.

Assassins Comes to CPA This Weekend

Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* brings some of the most reviled figures in American history to Governors State University Center for Performing Arts for two unforgettable performances.



Assassins, a bold, thought-provoking musical about nine people who killed, or attempted to kill, the President of the United States, will be presented by the Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) on Friday, February 1, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, February 2, at 8 p.m.

Assassins has been acclaimed as a monumental theater work since it was first presented in London in 1992. The show finally came to Broadway in 2004 and was rewarded with Tony Awards for Best Revival, Best Actor in a Musical, Best Orchestration, Best Lighting Design, and Best Director.

At GSU Center, audience members will be seated on-stage with the actors, providing an up-close experience that intensifies the show's spectacular action and score.

Tickets for *Assassins* are \$27. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at 708.235.2222.

A Night at the Operetta – February 3

Take a journey back to the streets of Old Vienna as you join the artists on stage at *A Night at the Operetta*, on Sunday, February 3 at 4 p.m., in GSU's Center for Performing Arts.

This intimate performance includes arias and ensembles from operettas like *The Land of Smiles*, *Arizona Lady*, *Giuditta*, *Sissi*, *The Girl in the Train*, *The Cousin from Nowhere* and *The Circus Princess*. From the unique vantage point of your table on the stage, you'll be looking out into the theater. Chicago Folks Operetta, a company devoted to "the nurturing of live operetta through articulate and dynamic productions," brings its wealth of talent and artistry to GSU Center's stage.

Tickets for *A Night at the Operetta* are \$35. For tickets, contact the GSU Center box office at 708.235.2222.

National African American Read-In Returns Monday

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 Engbretson 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.

Colleague Users Group Meeting – February 6

The next meeting of the Colleague Users Group (CUG) is Wednesday, February 6, at 2 p.m. in the Hall of Honors.

CUG provides a monthly forum for GSU community members to share and discuss their experiences using the system. Membership in CUG is open to all faculty and staff.

The forum will include presentations on *Using Colleague Communications Management* by Sylvia Ponce DeLeon, Financial Aid Interim Director; *What's New in the Portal?* by Hugo Solano, ITS Associate Director of Applications Development; and *Waitlisting – How Did it Work for Your College?* by Colleen Rock, Provost's Office Director, Academic and Tech Support Services, and Bonnie Simpson, Assistant to the Registrar.

Contact the [Colleague Project Office](#) with any questions about the meeting.

How to Write Winning Essays – February 6

Learn to write winning scholarship and graduation admission essays at a workshop presenting strategies on how to convince your audience that you are among the best and brightest. The workshop takes place at 3 p.m., February 6, in D1496.

English Department faculty and the Writing Center staff will offer assistance about how to begin your essay, choose your approach, shape your writing, provide meaningful examples, and produce an error free piece. Previous scholarship winners and scholarship reviewers will provide valuable insight into the selection process.

Just bring yourself, your questions, and any instructions you may have been given about your essay. You're sure to get specific, hands-on help with your application and a new understanding of the essay-writing process.

Bean Bag Tournament – February 7

The SHRM Club is sponsoring a Welcome Back Bean Bag Tournament on Thursday, February 7, from noon to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. There is a \$10 entrance fee for singles participants, and \$15 for teams.

The tournament winner will receive 30 percent of the prize money in the pot. The runner up will receive 15 percent and third place will get 5 percent.

Only GSU students, faculty, and staff can participate in the tournament. For more information or to register, contact crowe@govst.edu.

GSU-Produced Reflections on Fatherhood Debuts on WTTW **February 10**

Compelling stories about fathers and families are at the heart of a televised documentary between two award winning journalists, created by GSU faculty and students and making its broadcast debut on WTTW Channel 11.



Reflections on Fatherhood will premiere on Sunday, February 10 at 4 p.m. and will be re-broadcast on Monday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m. The show was inspired by *Dear Dad: Reflections on Fatherhood*, by John W. Fountain, a nationally renowned journalist, professor, and author. Veteran television journalist Robert Jordan, of WGN-TV, hosts the program.

John W. Fountain “This is one of those stories that resonates universally, regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status,” said Keisha Dyson, producer of *Reflections on Fatherhood* and an adjunct professor in GSU’s Division of Digital Learning and Media Design (DLMD).

Reflections on Fatherhood takes the form of an intimate conversation between Fountain and

Jordan. In recorded vignettes, four members of the GSU community – students, staff, and family members – tell stories about their fathers that are interspersed throughout the conversation.

Dyson said she decided to develop *Reflections on Fatherhood* after a chance meeting with Fountain, who gave her copy of his book. She secured \$500 in seed money through a grant from GSU’s Intellectual Life Committee. Jordan and Fountain agreed to appear on the program and more than 30 members of the campus community responded to an item in *GSU View*, agreeing to tell personal stories about their fathers. The conversation between Fountain and Jordan was recorded last April before a live audience in a GSU TV studio.



Robert Jordan

Students were an integral part of *Reflections on Fatherhood*. GSU students who participated in the production included director and videographer Blake Labriola, graphic artist Leah Chapman, and video and show editor Joshua Young. The program was produced by the Division of Digital Learning and Media Design. Additional support came from the GSU Office of Institutional Advancement.

Auditions for GSU Production

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.

Order Valentine's Day Flowers

Make Valentine's Day special for someone you care about -- and easy for you. The Civil Service Senate is again sponsoring its annual Valentine's Day carnation sale. Pre-orders are being accepted through Friday, February 8 or while supplies last. All orders must be paid in full by at the cashier's office by Friday, February 8. Carnations will be delivered on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14.

The cost of the carnations is also a great deal. Single blooms are only \$1.25. Six flowers cost \$6 and a dozen is only \$12. The more you order, the more you save so get your order in early.

BOT Meeting – February 15

The GSU Board of Trustees committee meetings scheduled for Friday, February 8 have been canceled.

The full Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, February 15, in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions about the Board of Trustees contact [Penny Perdue](#) or [Joan Johns Maloney](#).

Nominations Open for GSU Black Women Rock Awards

In celebration of Black History Month, the first *GSU Black Women Rock* award ceremony is coming in February.

GSU Black Women Rock is an acknowledgment of black women who are making or have made strides in the following areas:

- Sistah Philanthropist: a person engaged in civic activities
- Literary Expressionist: a writer, poet, etc.

- Passionate Advocate: a political or social advocate
- Creative Soul: film producer, performing artist, script writer, etc.
- Miz Entrepreneur: a sole proprietor or partner in a business endeavor

Finalists will be selected by the Black History Month Committee. All nominees will be invited to the award ceremony, to be held February 28, from 7 to 9 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

Nomination Criteria: Only GSU students are eligible to be nominated. All nominations must be submitted via Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSUBlackWomenRock>.

Nominations must be at least 300 words, describing accomplishments and awards, with an explanation of why nominees deserve the *GSU Black Women Rock* award. Nominations will be accepted from students, faculty, staff, and community members, as well as self-nominations.

The cut-off date for nominations is Monday, February 11.

Deadline Nears for Minority Internship Applications

The Minority Internship Program (MIP) is designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at GSU, Chicago State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University. The program is open to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans (or Pacific Islanders), Native Americans, and Alaskan Natives.

The program provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the practical aspects of public policy making in a variety of off-campus settings. While the emphasis is on local and state government agencies, students may complete their internships in a number of other agencies that may be more relevant to their majors and career aspirations.

Applications for the MIP program are currently being accepted for the fall semester. The application deadline is Tuesday, February 5. Applicant selection is very competitive. [Download an application.](#)

For additional information contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at 708.534.4552.

MOT Information Session - February 21

The Department of Occupational Therapy will sponsor an information session for GSU's Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree program. The session takes place on Thursday, February 21, at 5 p.m. in G127. Attendees are encouraged to bring unofficial copies of transcripts.

For more information, contact [Patricia Kalvelage](#) at 708.534.7294. Additional information may be obtained at www.govst.edu/chhs/dot/mot/.



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