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GSU View

University Newsletters

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3-11-2013

## GSU View, 2013-03-11

Office of Marketing and Communications

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### Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2013, March 11). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/> 628

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## News and Events

### [Search for a New Provost Begins](#)

President Elaine P. Maimon last week appointed 17 faculty and administrative staff members to the Provost Search Committee. The committee conducted its first meeting last Thursday.

Applications for the post of GSU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs are due April 1. [Applications will be accepted online.](#)

Dr. Maimon said the committee's goal is to bring finalists to campus in May. GSU plans to have the new provost in place by the beginning of the new academic year.

"Many thanks to Dean Beth Cada, the committee chair, and all search committee members for agreeing to serve," Dr. Maimon aid. "The committee is already working efficiently to develop a pool of first-rate candidates, who will undoubtedly be attracted by the positive momentum of the campus."

Provost Terry Allison last week was named Chancellor of Indiana University South Bend. He assumes that post this summer.

More information on the provost search is available at the [Chronicle of Higher Education ad](#) on the position.

Members of the Provost Seach Committee are: Elizabeth Cada, Dean, CHHS, Chair; Javier Chavira, Associate Professor, CAS; Larry Cross, Associate Professor, COE; Shannon Dermer, Division Chair, Psychology, COE; Gebeyehu Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Susan Gaffney, Associate Professor, CBPA; Linda Geller, Associate Professor, University Library; Sandra Mayfield, Associate Provost; Brian McKenna, Associate Professor, CBPA; Rashidah Muhammad, President, Faculty Senate; Laura Owens, President, Civil Service Senate; Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students; Ann Vendrely, Full Professor, CHHS; Lisa Wallace, President, Student Senate; John Yunger, Full Professor, CAS; Kristina Houston, Human Resources Representative; and Joan Johns Maloney, Administrative Support.

## [Dr. Roberta Ness Offers Tools for Innovation](#)

Dr. Roberta Ness' two-day visit to GSU laid the groundwork for innovative practices that will be part of the university's curriculum and practices for years to come.



Roberta Ness

Innovative thinking can be taught, Dr. Ness said, and she encouraged GSU to include it as part of the university's learning programs. She said only a handful of universities offer innovative thinking classes. Dr. Ness, the author of *Innovation Generation*, teaches one such course at the University of Texas in Houston, where she is dean of the School of Public Health.

On Thursday night, in the Center for Performing Arts, she gave a public lecture, *So You Think You Know Innovation?* On Friday, she was keynote speaker at GSU's third symposium on the university's First Year experience. More than 100 faculty and staff were on hand as she described steps that can be taken to jump-start creative and innovative thinking.

In introducing Dr. Ness on Thursday, President Elaine P. Maimon said GSU was founded in the spirit of innovation. "We are committed to getting innovative research into our classrooms," Dr. Maimon said. "Dr. Ness is helping us prepare the most innovative freshman program in the nation."

A recent study found that United States risks the loss of its "creative ecosystem," Dr. Ness said. Although American IQ scores continue to go up, tests that measure creative thinking show an overall decline. Dr. Ness said it is important to foster creative thinking. "Creative training programs work," she said. "People who go through these programs go back to their workplace with a greater ability to solve problems."

Dr. Ness said it is necessary to think outside of conventional "frames" – those places where we are most comfortable in our assumptions and expectations – and offered a number of tools to transform our thinking. For starters, we have to know how to ask the right questions. Good observations are all-important. So is adopting the proper point of view. Brainstorming sessions are a proven way to break away from the frames that dominate our everyday thinking.

"I am delighted that GSU is going to imbed this type of thinking into its curriculum," Dr. Ness said.

## **Regional Accreditation Reports now Available Online**

Under the direction of Provost Terry Allison, GSU has prepared two reports for the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The *Focused Visit Report* and the *Substantive Change Request* are now posted on the university's HLC website..

"From these two reports it's clear that GSU has a strong record of using a research- and evidence-based approach to decision-making and that the university is preparing well to serve lower division students with a well-conceived, state-of-the-art general education program," Dr. Allison said.

The [\*Focused Visit Report\*](#) provides a follow-up to the 2009-2010 HLC self-study and 10-year reaccreditation process. While GSU received full reaccreditation for the next decade, HLC also prescribed a visit "focused on assessment and institutional effectiveness including attention to general education and to comparative outcomes for students in online programs." The *Focused Visit Report* constitutes GSU's response to HLC's request for more information and demonstration of effectiveness in these areas.

The [\*Substantive Change Request\*](#) report was submitted to HLC as a final stage in the approval process for GSU's plans to add a lower division program for 2014-2015. GSU requested that the same team of visitors who will come for the focused visit also address the university's request to serve a new population of students, the first year and sophomore students in the university's new lower division program.

Dr. Elizabeth Stevens of Kansas State University and Dr. Sally Digman of West Virginia University will be here on April 15 and 16 to review the two reports with GSU faculty, administrators, staff, and students.

A diverse group of faculty and staff who serve on the Institutional Effectiveness Committee prepared the focused visit report while a smaller group adapted GSU's presentation to the Board of Trustees and Illinois Board of Higher Education to the format requested by HLC for the substantive change request.

Please take the time to read through the two documents. In the week prior to the focused visit, GSU will hold open meetings on the reports. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students are encouraged to attend at least one of the open meetings to discuss the content of the reports. HLC visiting teams usually approach faculty, staff, and students to engage in informal discussion of aspects of the reports.

## **Helen Whitney Presents Her PBS Film Wednesday**

Award-winning filmmaker Helen Whitney will present a 90-minute segment of her 2011 PBS documentary *Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate* at 6 p.m. in the GSU Center for Performing Arts.



Helen Whitney

Whitney will speak and answer questions on the film, which focuses on why the process and discussion of forgiveness seem to dominate our culture, and its power, limitations, and in some instances, its dangers.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Whitney is appearing at GSU this week as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. During her Fellowship Week, Ms. Whitney will meet with students, faculty, staff, and other members of the GSU community.

A master storyteller, Helen Whitney has worked as a producer, director, and writer for documentaries and feature films since 1971. Her documentary work has appeared on ABC's *Closeup* and PBS's *American Masters* and *Frontline*. Her documentaries have ranged over a wide variety of subjects, among them: youth gangs, presidential candidates, the "American Inquisition" during the McCarthy era, the mentally ill, the class structure of Great Britain, homosexuals, and the photographer Richard Avedon.

*Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero*, arguably Whitney's best-known film, was PBS' two-hour special exploring the spiritual aftershocks of the September 11 attacks. Her film *The Mormons* was a four-hour PBS series, and the first collaboration between American Experience and *Frontline*.

Whitney has received numerous accolades, including an Oscar nomination, two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, a George Foster Peabody Award, and an Edward R. Murrow Award for distinguished journalism.

## **One Book, One University Focuses on Forgiveness**

The University's next One Book, One University book is *Forgiveness*, written by documentary filmmaker Helen Whitney. The book discussion will take place after the film showing of the same name on Wednesday, March 13, at approximately 7:30 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts.

The event will be facilitated by Dr. Patricia A. Robey, Associate Professor, Division of Psychology and Counseling. This event is sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee.

There is a limited number of books available for free distribution. If you would like to participate in the book discussion and would like a copy of the book, please send an email to [lruetten@govst.edu](mailto:lruetten@govst.edu).

For more information about the event, contact Morrow Ruetten at 708.534.4110 or her e-mail address.

### **Hope after Incarceration Discussion Today**

GSU's Social Work Department is sponsoring an open forum on the challenges and struggles of the formerly incarcerated, as well as their family members. *Generating Hope: Struggles, Challenges, Change ... Facing Life in Spite of Our Past*, takes place today, from 3 to 5:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. The program is free and open to the public.

"We're presenting this forum for several reasons," noted Dr. Lorri Glass, Associate Professor of Social Work at GSU, and Program Coordinator of the BSW Program. "We're trying to increase awareness of the issues of students with criminal backgrounds, as well as the challenges for those who have family members who have been or are incarcerated. This issue can have a significant impact on a student's education, as well as career options."

The forum is made possible by a grant from the GSU Intellectual Life Committee.

### **Bookstore Survey Give You a Chance to Win**

The GSU Bookstore is seeking input from faculty, students, and alumni on how to improve the bookstore. Please take the time to answer questions and leave comments on how to improve the bookstore as Governors State University continues to move forward.

All participants will be given the opportunity to win \$100 gift card for the bookstore. Please complete the [bookstore survey](#). You'll be eligible to win when you enter your e-mail address at the end of the survey.

The survey will be available online through Friday, March 29.

### **SEA Hosts Scholastic Book Fair This Week**

The Student Education Association is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on March 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. It will take place in the Hall of Governors.

Books for children and adults will be on sale, including books in Spanish and English, picture books, chapter books, teen fiction, and non-fiction. Other interesting items will be on sale, including posters, pens, and project kits.

### **Open House on MPA Program – March 12**

GSU's Master of Public Administration program will host an open house on March 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 9-031 of the James R. Thompson Center, Chicago.

During the open house, interested participants can learn all about the GSU MPA degree, and its many benefits.

Interested persons can RSVP at [bpainfo@govst.edu](mailto:bpainfo@govst.edu).

### **Set Your Sights on European Art Tour**

Interested in engaging works of European artworks of theatre, music, dance, architecture, painting, and sculpture? Would you like to travel to Europe while earning course credit?

If so, plan to attend an information meeting on European Arts – Summer 2014 on Wednesday, March 13, at noon, in D2446.

If you can't attend the meeting, or would like further information, contact [Dr. Patrick Santoro](#) at ext 2842.

## **Pi Day Celebrated in Style**



The Civil Service Senate will be sponsoring a Pi Day Bake Sale on March 14 – aka 3-14.

Pi Day will be celebrated with the bake sale from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Have a slice for yourself or, better still, buy a whole “Pi” and share it with your office, division, class, or department.

Pi is a mathematical constant that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, and is approximately equal to 3.14159... In recent years, March 14 has been celebrated around the world through various activities – most not as tasty as the event at GSU.

Donations of pies will be greatly appreciated. Please contact [Andrea Dal Polo](#) at 708.534.4582.

## **SUAA Meeting – March 14**

The next meeting of the GSU Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) will be held on Thursday, March 14, at noon in the Cafeteria.

## **Veterans Writing Groups – March 14**

The first meeting of the new Veterans Writing Group will take place on Thursday, March 14, at 6 p.m., in E1541. Participants will discover the craft of narrative writing in a small, supportive group environment. Veterans will enhance and learn new skills and share camaraderie with other vets in a six-week workshop. Groups are forming now.

There is no charge for participation in the Veterans Writing Group and space is still available. To register, contact [Robin Thompson](#) at 708.534.4581.

## **Undergraduate Instant Admission Day – March 23**

GSU's Office of Admission and Student Recruitment is hosting an Undergraduate Instant Admission Day on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

Representatives from the Offices of Admission, Financial Aid, and Career Services will be on hand to answer questions and guide prospective students through the application process. Academic advisors will be available to answer questions about

fully-accredited, high quality bachelor's degree programs offered in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Administration, Education, and Health and Human Services.

Applications for all undergraduate degree programs, except art and nursing, will be accepted and processed immediately. Attendees are asked to bring official transcripts. The undergraduate application fee is \$25.

Application deadlines apply to some undergraduate programs. Visit [www.govst.edu/degree](http://www.govst.edu/degree) for admission and deadline information about programs of interest.

Campus tours and financial aid information sessions for full and part-time students will also be available at Instant Admission Day.

For more information, call (708) 534-4490 or visit [www.govst.edu/admissionrsvp](http://www.govst.edu/admissionrsvp).

## **2013 Student Sustainability Summit**

The South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium is presenting the 2013 Student Sustainability Summit at Prairie State College on Friday, April 12, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. This event is planned for students and by students. The theme is *Sustainability in Our Communities – What's Your Community?*

In past years, GSU students have made presentations and attended workshops at the annual summit. Participants from Governors State are needed for the 2013 conference.

GSU students can [register for the event](#), which features presentations and workshops demonstrating how area colleges and universities are working to expand sustainable practices on their campuses. The registration deadline is April 5. All registrants will be entered in a drawing for an iPad. Winners must be present when the drawing occurs at the end of the conference.

Chad Pregracke, the conference's keynote speaker, is president and founder of Living Lands & Waters (LL&W), the world's only "industrial strength" not-for-profit river cleanup organization. Over the last 15 years, Pregracke, along with his crew and 70,000 volunteers, have removed 7 million pounds of garbage from our nation's rivers.

