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News and Events

Director of University Honors and Undergraduate Research Appointed

Provost Terry L. Allison is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. David M. Rhea, Assistant Professor of Communication, as Director of Honors and Undergraduate Research. During 2013-2014, Dr. Rhea will transition into his new role by undertaking the coordination of the honors program, working with the faculty advisory council to continue planning for a full four-year honor's program.



Dr. David Rhea

Also in 2013-2014, Dr. Shailendra (Shelly) Kumar, Professor of Organic Chemistry, will continue his coordination of GSU's student research conference and supporting GSU undergraduate and graduate students to attend regional and national research conferences. Dr. Kumar also chairs the University Research Grant Committee this year.

"GSU owes many thanks to Dr. Larry Levinson, Associate Professor of Political Science, for starting GSU's honors program and continuing to build it over the past 15 years," said Provost Allison. "Professor Levinson has mentored many honors students and organized a series of timely seminars that have benefited students as well as the communities we serve." Dr. Levinson will serve for a year in an advisory capacity to Dr. Rhea and the faculty honor's advisory council.

Dr. Rhea said he is looking forward to extending his involvement with honors and undergraduate research at GSU. "I am honored to serve GSU as the incoming director. I look forward to continuing the commitment to excellence Dr. Levinson has established in the GSU Honors Program and to working with him and Honors Advisory Board members to help the program evolve and serve the needs of traditional and non-traditional students," he said. "I am also excited to work with faculty and undergraduate students alike to connect those with similar scholarly interests and enhance our students' interest in doing scholarly research."

Dr. Rhea is a nationally respected scholar in the area of mass media research focusing on election campaigns and entertainment media. In his

4½ years at GSU, Dr. Rhea has been a prolific author with 15 scholarship essays that have either been published in major peer-reviewed journals in communication or presented at national and international conferences. He is the Co-Chair of the GSU Institutional Review Board with Dr. Dale Schuit and Lead Program Planner for the 1,300-plus member Mass Communication Division of the National Communication Association for its 2013 Annual Convention.

Dr. Rhea earned his Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Missouri, M.A. in Communication from the University of Arizona, and dual B.A. degrees (Speech Communication and Political Science) from Pepperdine University. He was a member and officer of the Golden Key International Honour Society while attending Pepperdine.

Historic Prairie Place Groundbreaking on Friday



Be a part of history as GSU takes a giant step toward building Prairie Place, the university's first on campus housing. You can attend the groundbreaking ceremony for Prairie Place on Friday, April 5. This once-in-a-lifetime event is open to all members of the campus community.

The afternoon's activities begin at 3:30 p.m. in GSU's Hall of Governors, where light refreshments will be served. At 4 p.m., President Elaine P. Maimon and special guests will speak about the significance of GSU's first student housing. Guests will then be escorted to the construction site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

RSVP for the Prairie Place groundbreaking at 708.534.6364 or ppperdue@govst.edu.

Prairie Place will be ready for occupancy in Summer, 2014.

2013 Student General Election—Official Results



The winners of the recent election for Student Senate and other student representatives have been announced.

Newly-elected student officials are:

Kayla Randolph-Clark, CBPA: Board of Trustees Representative

Regina Haynes, CBPA: Illinois Board of Higher Education Representative

CAS Senators: Amanda Ziaja, Christopher Otten, Shaniqua Jones, Codjo Padonou

CBPA Senators: Shawnta Young, Valencia Brown, Darren Heldt, James Brown

CHHS Senators: Michael Alexander, Crystal Locke

COE Senator: Lisa Wallace

Senator at Large: Betty Campbell, Alumni

Student Leadership Awards Banquet – April 26

The Governors State University Student Senate and Student Life Office will host the Clubs and Organizations Student Leadership Awards Banquet on Friday, April 26, in E-Lounge. Nominators and nominees are invited to attend the Student Leadership Awards Banquet recognizing the contribution and excellence of the various members of the GSU community.

The categories and the nominees are:

Outstanding Graduating Student

Maria Ramirez, William Schranz, Nicole Roy, Stephanie Snow, Daniel Ellington, Erin Fletcher, Shaniqua Anderson (Jones), Brittani Barnett, and David Laxton.

Rising Star Award

Terry Banies, William Schranz, Carrie Parks, Bianca Mangabhai, Raymond Vazquez, Samantha Claysen, Katrina Love, and Shawnta Young.

New or Most Improved Student Club/Organization of the Year

Bowling Club, Art Forum, Wellness Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Human Resource Management Club, Psychology Club, Student Healthcare Management Association, and Computer Science Club.

Unsung Hero-Student

Latoya Tanniehill, Rieko Miyakuni, Nneka Howell, Snehal Chavda, William Schranz, Julie Bryar, Terry Banies, Kayla Randolph-Clark, Natasha Dillard, Adriene Farmer, and David Laxton.

Program of the Year

Inaugural Trip to Washington, D.C., Bowling Club - Friday Bowling Program, Physical Therapy Program.

Outstanding Club/Organization Advisor of the Year

Ann Marie Manning-Nagel, Jim Howley, TJ Wang, Aida Martinez, Sheree Sanderson, Tina Hughes-Burke, Susan Gaffney, and Carren Rossow.

Outstanding Support Staff of the Year

Johnsie McAuley-Davis, Margaret Brady, Latonia Richmond, Lisa Carra, Alishia Flowers, Brenda Moore, Christopher Cook, and Nancy Rios.

Outstanding Student Club/ Organization of the Year

Social Work Student Club, Bowling Club, Physical Therapy Student Association (PTSA), Black Student Union, Criminal Justice Student Society, Gay Straight Alliance, Association of Latin American Studies (ALAS), and Masters of Public Administration Club (MPAC).

HLC Forums Conclude Next Week

Open forums on the upcoming Higher Learning Commission Focused Visit are scheduled this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to the sessions.

HLC granted Governors State University full accreditation in 2009. With that accreditation came a prescriptive recommendation for a 2013 HLC Focused Visit in the areas of "assessment and institutional effectiveness, including attention to general education and comparative outcomes for students in online programs." In preparation for the Focused Visit, GSU provided the HLC site team with a Focused Visit Report as evidence of the remarkable work that has taken place on campus in response to the 2009 Self-Study.

Additionally, this visit includes the final step in the approval process for our plan to welcome lower division students in fall 2014. As a part of the final step in the approval process, a Substantive Change Report was submitted to describe GSU's planned change in student body composition. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to read the posted reports at their earliest convenience.

HLC questions can be directed to the Provost's Office.

HLC forums will be held:

- Tuesday, April 9, 2:30 p.m., Cafeteria Annex
- Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 a.m., Hall of Honors
- Wednesday, April 10, 2:30 p.m., Hall of Honors

Regionally Organizing for Sustainability

GSU was represented at the 2013 Sustainable Schools Symposium on

Tuesday. The daylong conference was hosted by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, Loyola University Chicago, and USGBC-Illinois Chapter. It took place Loyola's Lake Shore Campus.

Genny Boesen, Executive Director of the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC), Kevin Barto, GSU's Assistant Director in Facilities, and Alessandra Cairo, Sustainability Coordinator at Prairie State College, presented an afternoon breakout session. Their presentation, *Regionally Organizing for Sustainability*, addressed what SMHEC institutions have done since 2009 as a result of their participation in the regional Sustainability Task Force. The task force was assembled in 2009 at the request of the university presidents who saw sustainability as an important common theme to advance at their institutions.

Governor Pat Quinn appeared at the conference and expressed his continuing support for growth of sustainability at all levels and institutions of education.

Fight Back Against Cancer



GSU is teaming up with the American Cancer Society to Fight Back in 2013. GSU's Cancer Crusaders team is participating in the community Relay for Life of Chicago Heights, taking place on May 17 and 18, at Marian Catholic High School.

Join the GSU Cancer Crusaders on Thursday, April 11 from noon to 2 p.m. in honoring those affected by cancer. Make a donation by decorating a Luminaria bag to remember those who have lost their lives to cancer, as well as those who have survived. Help light up the Hall of Governors in tribute. Information on participating in the Relay for Life will also be available. This event is sponsored by Student Life and is open to everyone.

Cancer Crusaders team meetings will be held from 3 to 4 p.m., on April 17 and May 15.

For more information, please visit www.relayforlife.org/chicagoheightsil.

What is Wellness? - April 10

Explore the connection between optimal well being and the seven major wellness components – physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, and occupational.

What is Wellness? will be presented by Professor David Opon, of Joliet Junior College, on Wednesday, April 10, from 5 to 6 p.m., in A2134. The

session is sponsored by the Recreation and Fitness Center and the Wellness Club. Posted by Thomas at 4/4/2013 11:55 AM

Picasso and His World Lecture – April 10



Anne Morse

The University Honors Community Lecture Series is sponsoring Anne Morse's presentation on *Picasso and His World: Challenging Structures and Changing Paradigms* on Wednesday, April 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

Anne Morse is Senior Lecturer in Museum Education and liaison to the academic community for the Art Institute of Chicago. She coordinates the annual Graduate Student Seminar and a Chicago-based artist lecture series, Artists Connect. She is also an independent curator who has worked with the Contemporary Arts Council, Columbia College Chicago, and the Hyde Park Art Center.

Her presentation is on the current *Picasso and Chicago* exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago, with special reference to the changing conditions, both personal and social, in which Picasso created his artworks.

Holistic Health Symposium - April 13

You can discover the power of holistic healing and non-traditional health remedies at the Holistic Health Symposium 2013 on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Recreation and Fitness Center Gymnasium.

Learn about holistic health lifestyle options at this daylong event, which includes presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits. This event is free and open to the public.

The Holistic Health Symposium is sponsored by Recreation and Fitness Center, the College of Health and Human Services, and the Wellness Club.

For information, visit www.govst.edu/wellnessprograms.

Gun Debate Discussion Tonight



The GSU Forensics Team will host a panel discussion, *Communicating Possibilities: Reframing the Gun Debate and Finding Common Ground*, tonight at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The discussion is part of *Enough is Enough*, a college

campaign against violence in our society. It is free and open to the public.

Arness Krause, Forensics Team Coach and Adjunct Professor in the Division of Communication, Visual, and Performing Arts, said the discussion will attempt to reframe the debate over guns in our society. Panel members will address issues surrounding the current debate over guns from their areas of expertise – politics, history, language, and mass media.

Panel members include Dr. David Rhea, Assistant Professor of Communications Studies; Dr. Donald Culverson, Associate Professor of Political Justice Studies; Dr. David Golland, Assistant Professor of History; Krause; and Etta Oben, Forensics Team Graduate Assistant Coach.

Register for Substitute Teacher Academy

GSU is sponsoring a daylong Substitute Teacher Academy with Resources on April 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Many school districts are in need of qualified substitute teachers. This workshop will help experienced and new substitutes increase their knowledge and skills.

The academy will teach substitute teachers what to expect in the classroom, what to do in an emergency, how to maintain classroom control, and how to follow the teacher's lesson plans. It will also provide ideas and activities for both new and experienced substitutes that can be adapted and used in any school and any grade.

Participants must have a bachelor's degree. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch and all materials. Seating is limited to 40 registrants. Advance registration is required. Call 708.534.4536. Registration deadline is April 8.

Deadline Nears for Sustainability Conference Sign-Up

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](#) through Friday, April 5. The conference 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.

Mini Biathlon Starts April 7

GSU will host an Indoor Mini Biathlon April 7 through 12, in the Recreation and Fitness Center. Participants can compete at their own convenience by completing a 3-mile bike ride and 2-mile run.

The competition is open to all GSU students and members of the Recreation and Fitness Center. Prizes will be awarded for best category time and best combined time. All participants will receive a gift. There will be competition in two divisions: 10 to 50 years of age, and 50 years of age and above.

Runs must be completed on the Recreation and Fitness Center Stex treadmill and biking must be complete on the center's recumbent bike. Times must be verified by a center staff member.

Register in Room A1106 or by calling 708.534.4945.

Proceeds of the event benefit the Illinois Special Olympics.

