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GSU View

University Newsletters

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GSU View, 2015-09-14

Office of Marketing and Communications

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



September 14, 2015

Vol. 21, Issue 3

News

President Maimon Speaks to Civic Awareness Group



President Elaine Maimon

[Know Your Chicago](#) is an annual fall lecture and tour series designed to promote civic awareness and participation, and this year's events, sponsored by the University of Chicago Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies, have a decidedly GSU flavor. President Elaine Maimon was the featured speaker at last week's symposium and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will be featured on two of the day-long tours, [September 15 and 16](#).

[Read More on page 12](#)

GSU Named to Best Online Colleges List



Affordable Colleges Online has named GSU to its [Best Online Colleges in Illinois](#) list. The organization analyzes data from hundreds of colleges across the nation with online degrees at the bachelor's level to determine those that have the most notable balances of academic rigor, student support, and affordability for online learning.

The general criteria and scoring metrics include: Must be not-for-profit institution; Number of online bachelor's degrees available; Student-faculty ratio; Loan default rate; Job placement and career counseling for graduates; Online tuition rate, and 6-year graduation rate. Affordable Colleges Online has distinguished its ranking scale by the use of Peer-Based Value, which compares the cost of each program to the cost of similar programs with the same qualitative score.

GSU Remembers September 11



Despite the cool, drizzly conditions, the GSU community came out to pay its respects during the university's National Day of Service and Remembrance on Friday September 11. Sponsored by the Veterans Resource Center and the Office of Civic Engagement, the day began with a 30-minute Remembrance Ceremony outside the main entrance. VRC Director Kevin Smith presided over the ceremony, which included the raising of the American Flag, playing of the National Anthem, and as "Taps" was played, a moment of silence for the victims of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

[Read More on page 14](#)

Nominations Sought for Honorary Degree Candidates

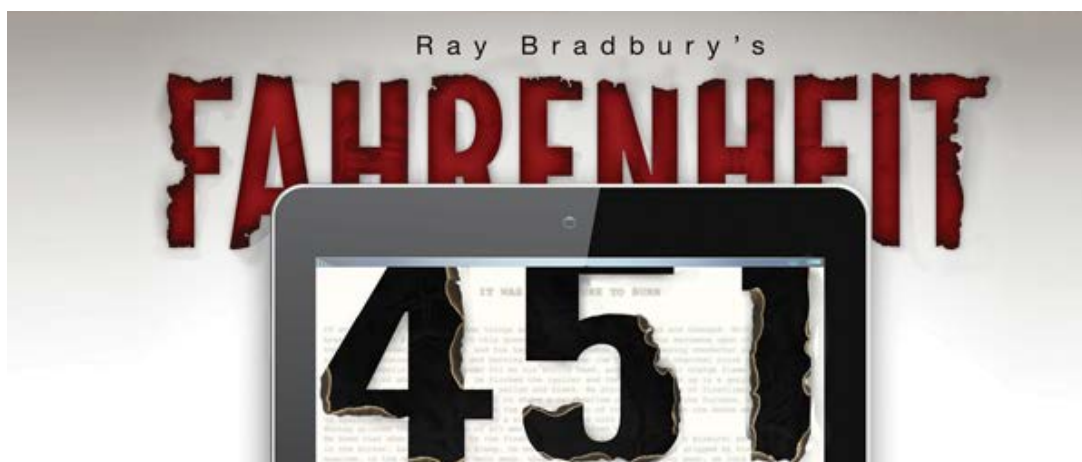
Faculty and staff are invited to submit nominations for inclusion on the roster of candidates for an

Honorary Doctoral Degree, the highest award conferred by Governors State University. An honorary degree may be awarded for exemplary and extraordinary contributions to the scholarly or professional world, to public service, or to GSU's achievements and the ideals of its missions of teaching, research, service and economic development.

The nomination process is simple - just forward a name with an accompanying recommendation statement and justification for the nomination to [Myisha Meeks](#) or [Will Davis](#). Please include a brief biographical statement and suggestions for contacting the nominee.

Please consider how the individual you nominate either has reflected the mission and values of GSU in his or her work, or how their connection to GSU might further the mission and values of the university. Please submit your nominations by Friday, September 18.

Cast Announced for Fahrenheit 451



The cast for the T.A.P.S. production of Fahrenheit 451 been announced. The play will be held at the Center for Performing Arts Saturday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 8 at 2 p.m. Congratulations to the cast, which includes nine GSU students, a faculty member, and a staff member:

- Montag—Bradford Simmons student
- Beatty—Sammy Burnett Community member
- Mildred—Stephanie A. Franklin student
- Clarisse—Therese Caldwell student
- Faber—Tony Labriola faculty
- Black—Lorri Searcy student
- Holden—Nick Hyer staff
- Henley—Arthur Capps student
- Mrs. Hudson—Karen McGee community member
- Ensemble—Jade Al-Angary community member/high school student, Holly Britton student, Arthur Capps student, Grace Eldridge student, Nick Hyer staff, Kevin Kohn community member, Karen McGee community member, Lorri Searcy student, Bob Szczepanski community member.

Event Planners will thrive with 25Live

Planning an event at GSU involves many moving parts. From avoiding scheduling conflicts to selecting the right tables and AV equipment, event planning is full of possible pitfalls. The new University Events Office (UEO), under the direction of Karen Caesar-Smith, is overseeing some changes that will help campus event planners do their jobs more efficiently and with less stress.

GSU's web-based event request, scheduling, calendaring, and publishing environment, "[25Live](#)" is now being run through the UEO. The system helps planners with scheduling, event creation and publishing

online calendars, among other things.

[Read More on page 16](#)

Latino Heritage Month Celebrated Through September

September is Latino Heritage Month and the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs has a full lineup of events designed to celebrate the occasion. Programs on race and cultural divides, a guest speaker, a service day, and a movie and discussion on Latino Americans are planned. There will also be an Independence Celebration.

[Read More on page 18](#)

Feature

GSU Faculty Profile: Sang Hoon Lee



Professor Sang Hoon Lee

Film & Digital Imaging Associate Professor Sang Hoon Lee keeps a 16 mm film projector on a shelf in his office.

"I really love the film, the texture, the presentation, the color." He lets the sentence stop there and smiles, his genuine excitement for all-things-film apparent.

[Read More on page 21](#)

BUZZ

Women: Share Your Empowerment Stories

"She Speaks" is a forum that provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, and student women to share their stories of victory to empower the community. Their story can be one that highlights overcoming challenges and achieving successes throughout their personal and/or professional journey(s). After sharing their story, participants will serve on a panel to provide attendees an opportunity to gain greater insight on who you are and how they are interconnected through various dimensions of diversity.

We are also looking for those interested in creating programming around women's history, contributions, and experiences. [Sign up](#) today to serve as a speaker or become part of the planning committee. The next "She Speaks" forum is Wednesday, September 23 at 12:30 p.m. Additional

forums are held throughout the school year. Please email diversity@govst.edu or call 708.534.4551 for more information.

Student Events Mark Constitution Day



Constitution Day in the U.S. commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. On Tuesday, September 15, [Student Life](#) and the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) are sponsoring two student-led events in the cafeteria annex.

From 12:30–1:45 p.m., [Community Service Council](#) Leaders and U.S. History I students will present "1818 IL Constitution Delegates in Characters." Students will perform a reenactment of the original Constitutional delegation, dressed as the original participants. From 7:30-8:45 p.m., GSU Community Service Council leaders and Economic History students will present a discussion on Voter ID Requirement Laws.

Both events are free and open to the public. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served. All in attendance will receive a free copy of the U.S. Constitution in booklet form. For more information, contact [Dr. Elizabeth Johnson](#).

Check out the New Marketing and Communications Webpage



The [Office of Marketing and Communications](#) has debuted a brand new web presence designed to help you with all your communications needs. The site includes a full listing of the department's services—from ad creation and media relations, to photography and video production services. You will also find [contact information](#) for the marketing and communications staff, a link to the [GSU Visual Style Guide](#) and downloadable images, and a section on [Marketing Consultation and Strategic Planning](#). Also featured on the site is a directory of all the [GSU social media](#) pages and apps. The directory lists all social media accounts related to GSU departments, organizations, clubs and colleges in one online site.

Have you Downloaded the MyGSU App?



The [MyGSU app](#), available through iTunes and [Google Play](#) is your one-stop mobile app for all things GSU. The app includes sections on grades, courses, an event calendar, and important phone numbers. It also has links to admissions, the GSU library, bookstore, campus maps, and GSU athletics. GSU social media on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are represented, along with a news section for on-the-go reading of the GSU View and viewing of [This Week at GSU](#).

Student Leadership Workshops



The 2nd Annual Certified Executive Leadership (CEO) Certificate Program workshops will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 23-October 30. The program, sponsored by [Student Life](#), is designed to provide student leaders of clubs and organizations effective and essential leadership skills. Students will have the opportunity to develop and enhance a personal philosophy of leadership that includes comprehension of leadership theory and application.

The CEO program helps develop leadership potential and self-efficacy in preparing today's students to lead. Students will also explore leadership trends to foster learning and personal development through exploration of theories and practices.

The program is specifically structured to create a learning environment with an emphasis on student development. There are specific competencies that that will be covered in the course of the program to enhance students' level of knowledge. The deliverable will be done via standard workshop format, online workshops, and discussions through the CEO-Up Close & Personal series.

[Registration](#) is open until September 14. Contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) for more information.

Women's Leadership Symposium Seeks Presenters



Coordinators of the S.H.E.R.O. Women's Leadership Symposium (*Sharing Her story of Empowerment Resilience & Opportunity*) are looking for people who are interested in facilitating a small program during the event on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

The goal of this year's S.H.E.R.O. Women's Leadership Symposium, which has the theme "**E3: Empower, Enrich, Engage**," will be to empower, enrich, and engage women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. The program will provide perspectives in the areas of: workforce dynamics, social justice and civic engagement, health and sexuality, identity formation and professional branding, mentorship, relationship building, and negotiation. The conference format will include a featured keynote and breakout discussions, and is inclusive to all genders looking to support women in leadership.

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting a program, please email the following to [Kyrie-Eleison Kirkland](#) or [Jessica Specht](#): program title & abstract (~100-150 words); names of presenter(s); length of program (up to one hour); requests for equipment or special accommodations (A/V and a computer will be available in all presentation rooms). Proposals are due by September 30 for full consideration.

Model U.N. Looking for a Few Good Students

In preparation for the upcoming American Model United Nations Conference in November in Chicago, the GSU Model United Nations Team will hold its first meeting Thursday, September 17 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Conference Room E2579.

The Model U.N. Team provides a great opportunity to learn about different cultures and countries, and also learn efficient research techniques, coalition building and networking, the art of compromise, and public speaking. It's also a great opportunity to spend time with students from GSU and other universities.

Interested students should be registered for at least one credit hour and in good standing for Fall 2015. Contact [Luke Helm](#) for more information.

EVENTS

Let's Talk about Race Conversation



The [Academic Resource Center](#) is sponsoring a conversation, "Let's Talk about Race—how does race shape your identity," Tuesday, September 15, from 11 a.m.-noon in Room D 3400, and from 6-7 p.m. in Room D 34005. Contact [Emily Petkus](#) for more information.

Stepshow Announcement



The 2015 Step Show will be held Friday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. This inaugural event is one of the many highlights of our annual [Family & Friends Weekend](#). We are currently seeking step teams from Greek lettered organizations to perform. There is a \$1000 prize for the best fraternity and best sorority. The registration fee for teams is \$100 and the deadline is September 18. Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSUSstepshow to register.

We are also looking for Greek lettered organizations to host an informational table that will be featured

in the lobby of the Center of Performing Arts during the step show. If you know of vendors that sell Greek products or an agency who would like to be a sponsor we welcome their participation as well.

For more information, please call 708.235.4362 or email slco@govst.edu.

[Click here for the event flyer](#)

SafeZone Training September 22

SafeZone is a training program open to ALL students, staff, faculty, and community members. This training will take place Tuesday, September 22 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. The goal of this program is to raise awareness about the dynamics of gender and sexual orientation while exploring different ways to embody inclusive allyship for people of all orientations, genders, sexualities, identities, and levels of being out. This program is limited to 25 participants only. [Register](#) at by Friday, September 18. For more information email diversity@govst.edu or call 708.524.4551.

SAVE THE DATE

Men's Leadership Summit

A leadership summit especially designed for men, "Redefining Manhood: Finding Your Story" will be held Saturday, September 26 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. The Keynote Speaker will be [Tremayne Robertson](#), M.S., M.Ed., the Violence Prevention Health Educator at Virginia Commonwealth University's Wellness Resource Center and an industry leader in bringing males into the circle of discussion, prevention, and solutions for violence on campus.

The summit is free, but you must register by September 18 at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MensSummit to attend. A Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

[Click here for more information in their flyer.](#)

Suicide Prevention Symposium



The [Counseling Center](#) is co-hosting a symposium on suicide prevention. "The Unconscious Veil of Suicide: Recognizing the Signs and Characteristics of the Potential for Suicide" will be held Wednesday, September 23 at 6 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex. A reception will follow. For more information, contact [Suzette Shepherd](#).

Family & Friends Weekend

Family & Friends Weekend

Governors State University
October 8-10, 2015



Online registration is now open for [Family and Friends Weekend](#) October 8–10. For many students, this special event provides the first opportunity to visit with family and friends since the beginning of the semester. This exciting October weekend presents an important opportunity for families and friends to share firsthand in their student's GSU experience.

There are lots of exciting events are planned, including the Jaguar Jamboree on Friday, and a Step Show featuring Power 92 "The Hot Boys," a Student Variety Show hosted by Comedian "Just Nesh," and Jazz Brunch with the President on Saturday,

Also, this year the colleges have joined together to create the "Generation Meet and Greet: All College Alumni Social" on Friday night. Be sure to contact all your classmates and tell them to meet you there! Share this information with family, friends, constituents, retirees and alumni, and visit www.govst.edu/weekend for a complete schedule of events.

Registration is free for parents, family members, alumni, and friends of GSU. Participants will also be able to register on site. Space is limited for some events, and there is a minimal cost for some activities.

Facebook Posts of the Week



Response to our post on GSU is participating in the Know Your Chicago event with tours of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park:

Elizabeth Bennett I attended Governors State University and graduated this year. I'm glad they're having tours starting from Chicago because it's a beautiful campus surrounded by nature and fine art and more people should know about it.



Response to our post about The GSU Addictions Studies Alumni Club's fourth annual Walk for Recovery:

Jamelia Toya Hand We had a great time!!! Hoping that you'll join us next year



Response to our post about GSU now being a 4-year college with its first sophomore class and making history:

Dawn Stawick I went to governors for my teaching degree. Wonderful university. This alum is very happy to hear they have become 4 years. When I went to school they strive for excellence and in turn make there students as well.

Darvel Ahmad Stinson For some reason, my HS Sophomore daughter is stuck on attending GSU. Her Jr. High assistant principal was a graduate student there & she's been highly impressed...now I know why! #GSU

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



Governors State University

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Read More content from the GSU website follows.

President Maimon Speaks to Civic Awareness Group

September 14, 2015



President Elaine Maimon

[Know Your Chicago](#) is an annual fall lecture and tour series designed to promote civic awareness and participation, and this year's events, sponsored by the University of Chicago Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies, have a decidedly GSU flavor. President Elaine Maimon was the featured speaker at last week's symposium and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will be featured on two of the day-long tours, [September 15 and 16](#).

President Maimon spoke on "Sculpture and Scholarship: A University that Lives in the Midst of Art." "Art is not an afterthought at GSU. Art is essential to the identity of the campus," she said.

She thanked Lew and Susan Manilow for carrying forward the legacy of Lew's father, Nathan, namesake of the park. Nathan Manilow was the visionary who helped to create Park Forest South—now called University Park—that he envisioned as "a place where great art and a great university were just at the

end of a Metra line.”

“Dr. Maimon spoke eloquently about the 'Big Art and Big Ideas' that reside here at Governors State. She shared how the [Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park](#) plays an important role in GSU history and is the backdrop of living and learning amidst art,” said Angela Mehalek, GSU Corporate Relations Officer.

Calling GSU “A Big Idea on the Prairie,” President Maimon painted a picture of the university as a place where we all live in the midst of art every day; the integration of public art with the university symbolically defining the University as Public Square.

After explaining to the downtown audience where GSU is located, she proceeded to tell them who we are. Emphasizing that GSU is a public university, she explained that the university was founded on innovation, that continues to this day, and its commitment to Chicagoland students whose family income is low but whose high school achievement is high.

Denise Gardner, a Know Your Chicago Committee member, praised President Maimon’s presentation, saying her talk was “remarkable.” She said the presentation had “vision, insights, and passion” that “resonated with the audience and revealed to them the jewel that is Governors State. All I can say is 'Wow!' We can't begin to thank you enough. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with you and spotlight your work and your university. You are an inspiration and the region is fortunate to have you here.”

Mehalek said even though the audience was largely unfamiliar with GSU, President Maimon’s presentation shined a positive light on the university to an important group. “The audience learned about the transformative and award winning academic plan; and when Dr. Maimon mentioned that first year courses are taught by full time faculty the audience broke out in applause. Know Your Chicago is a very distinguished and influential group of individuals who are shaping communities, politics, businesses, culture, and education throughout Illinois. We are excited and humbled that they have recognized GSU and the NMSP as a place to visit. We look forward to hosting approximately 200 of their members over the next couple of days,” she said.

Linda Uzureau, GSU Assistant to Executive Administration said many in the audience had never heard of GSU before the president’s presentation. “President Maimon ‘hit it out of the ballpark,’” she said. “The response to her speech was incredible. Most of the audience came from the city or north suburbs. Several people told me they'd never heard of GSU. But they know about us now!”

Judy Block, who also serves on the organization’s committee, was effusive in her praise, continuing with the baseball theme. “I want to thank you for the wonderful presentation you gave today at our KYC Symposium. As they say, you ‘knocked it out of the park!’ If anyone didn't know of Governors State or their mission, they certainly do now and are more than sensitized to the great job the university and you are doing to impact the lives of a unique and underserved population.”

Block, noting the enthusiasm in the audience, said the tours of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park were sure to open some eyes to the great things happening at GSU. “I am sure that you have energized people about your mission and we will have many more subscribers by the time we arrive at your doorstep next week. We are all looking forward to seeing you and all those who have been so helpful in planning these two days at Governors State,” she said.

GSU Remembers September 11

September 14, 2015



Despite the cool, drizzly conditions, the GSU community came out to pay its respects during the university's National Day of Service and Remembrance on Friday September 11. Sponsored by the Veterans Resource Center and the Office of Civic Engagement, the day began with a 30-minute Remembrance Ceremony outside the main entrance. VRC Director Kevin Smith presided over the ceremony, which included the raising of the American Flag, playing of the National Anthem, and as "Taps" was played, a moment of silence for the victims of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Members of the University Park Fire Department, who came with a fire truck and ambulance, were called away as the ceremony began, as if to remind those in attendance of the dangers first responders face on a daily basis.



After the outdoor ceremony, the Day of Service continued in the Hall of Governors as students, staff, faculty, and community members made paracord bracelets for members of the U.S. Military and First Responders.

Event Planners will thrive with 25Live

September 14, 2015

Planning an event at GSU involves many moving parts. From avoiding scheduling conflicts to selecting the right tables and AV equipment, event planning is full of possible pitfalls. The new University Events Office (UEO), under the direction of Karen Caesar-Smith, is overseeing some changes that will help campus event planners do their jobs more efficiently and with less stress.

GSU's web-based event request, scheduling, calendaring, and publishing environment, "25Live" is now being run through the UEO. The system helps planners with scheduling, event creation and publishing online calendars, among other things.

Implementing the system represents a big change in the way things will be done, Caesar-Smith said. The people who will be actively using 25Live are schedulers for their departments, and most have already been trained in the system. Caesar-Smith emphasized that not everyone can be a scheduler and that routing requests through the designated people in their department will help expedite the event planning process.

Caesar-Smith, who will act as project manager for the 25Live system, said that as with any new process, there will be trial and error. "We are looking for people to embrace it, but also to be patient as we roll it out," she said.

In the immediate future, UEO will be scheduling meetings with the various departments and colleges to discuss and determine the crucial, yet necessary security levels that will be set for each area. The realities of security level settings are that it requires global implementation; it is complex to some degree, and there is a potential for conflict within the security layers. This process will require adequate planning, coordination, cooperation and training on the user's part.

In early 2016, UEO will work to add RSVP and E-Commerce functions for the evolving system. Those areas, Caesar-Smith said, will assist with events where registering for an event, purchasing tickets, ordering online merchandise or submitting RSVPs would make sense. "25Live has so many capabilities; we're trying to get to the next level of what those will be for GSU. We plan to meet with the business office to coordinate E-commerce planning, set up and implementation. We will conduct additional training sessions as these features are tested and implemented." she said.

The UEO has two new phone numbers and email addresses. The main office phone is 708.235.7650 and the email is universityevents@govst.edu. For those with questions or concerns regarding event scheduling, please contact either Nicole Harrison for non-academic events, Bonnie Simpson for academic events, or Maureen Bendoratis for computer lab events at 708.235.7656. The email is eventscheduling@govst.edu.

Latino Heritage Month Celebrated Through September

September 14, 2015

September is Latino Heritage Month and the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs has a full lineup of events designed to celebrate the occasion. Programs on race and cultural divides, a guest speaker, a service day, and a movie and discussion on Latino Americans are planned. There will also be an Independence Celebration.

2015 LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

September 15th – October 15th

LATINO HISTORY LITERARY WORKS & RESOURCES

GSU Library

Are you seeking historical information regarding Latino history makers? GSU Library has a collection of books, DVD's and eBooks dedicated to Latino Heritage. Visit www.govst.edu/library and select the Library Catalog located under Library Resources. Type in Latino Heritage Month for your keyword and you will find a listing of items that are currently available in the GSU Library. Visit the library or contact us at library@govst.edu.

September 21st – September 25th

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES EXHIBIT

Hall of Governors

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15th

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE

11am & 6pm, D3400

How does race shape your identity?

Wednesday, September 16th

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

7pm, Cafeteria Annex

Come learn about the independence of Latin American countries and the importance of Latino Heritage Month through cultural expressions and cuisine.

Wednesday, September 23rd

AN EVENING WITH DR. JESUS "CHUY" NEGRETE

4:30pm, Engbretson Hall

Dr. Negrete, founder of the Mexican Cultural Institute, has performed and lectured at various universities across the nation and is considered one of the nation's foremost musicologists and interpreters of Mexican and Chicano music Through song and storytelling, Dr. Negrete, a Smithsonian and Bannerman Fellow, presents a multi-media "History of Mexican Labor in Illinois" from 4:30-5:30. After that, he will conduct a workshop on the Mexican "corrido," a type of popular ballad that tells stories about love, revolution, politics, and everyday life. This is co-sponsored by the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library and GSU Latina/o Studies, with the support of a National Endowment of the Humanities-American Library Association grant.

Thursday, September 24th

OPEN MIC

6pm, Cafeteria Annex

Come join us as we celebrate Latino Heritage Month through spoken word, song and other performing arts

Tuesday, September 29th

ALAS SERVICE DAY

2pm, Cafeteria Annex

Join ALAS as they partner with the Family Development Center to teach children how to make piñatas and learn about Latino culture.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

6pm, Engbretson Hall

YWCA Advocate Sonia Ayala discusses her experience on the border and working with Latino victims of sexual violence in DuPage County. Undocumented immigrants face many unknowns and challenges when immigrating to the United States. Despite the possibility of sexual assault and/or death before they reach the U.S., many continue to come. Many are willing to take the risk in hope for a better life. Hope is what keeps them coming and hope is what helps them make the journey. It is estimated that 12 million people have entered the U.S. from Mexico over the last four decades.

Tuesday, October 6th

UNLEARN, RELEARN, LEARN

6pm, Engbretson Hall

The purpose of this program is to contribute to the bridging cultural divides in the campus community. Participants will be exposed to current cultural issues as well as challenge the GSU community to realize the benefits of living in a multicultural world.

Thursday, October 8th

MOVIE & DISCUSSION: "FOREIGNERS IN THEIR OWN LAND"

7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., F 1622

Dr. Andrae Marak will lead a viewing, discussion, and workshop on "Foreigners in their Own Land," the

first episode of the Latino Americans PBS documentary. It will focus on the ways in which language, ethnicity, and race served as tools to undermine the claims to United States citizenship that Californio, Tejano, and Nuevo Mejicano residents made after the U.S.-Mexican War. This is co-sponsored by the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library and GSU Latina/o Studies, with the support of a National Endowment of the Humanities-American Library Association grant.

Monday, October 12th

BLAXICANS

6pm, Engbretson Hall

The history of race in the United States is often told in terms of black and white, a binary that leaves many out of the equation. Blaxicans provides insight on what it means to be dual minoritized representing two of the largest ethnic groups and the ways we think about the intersectionality of race, ethnicity and identity in the Latino community, history and countries.

GSU Faculty Profile: Sang Hoon Lee

September 14, 2015



Professor Sang Hoon Lee

Film & Digital Imaging Associate Professor Sang Hoon Lee keeps a 16 mm film projector on a shelf in his office.

"I really love the film, the texture, the presentation, the color." He lets the sentence stop there and smiles, his genuine excitement for all-things-film apparent.

When he graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago's film school in 2002, he never planned to teach or to stay in the United States. His intention, he said, had always been to return to Korea with his degree and start making films there.

"My friends said, 'Stay and get more experience here,' and so I applied for a one year visa," Sang Hoon said. "I was extremely poor. I didn't have any money left. I had to either make a good film and make a good break, or I could work as a production assistant."

He stayed, and he worked. Then he started making connections and building a network. One friend took a job teaching; another raised nearly \$100,000 to make a film. Observing his peers, Sang Hoon

saw different avenues into film in Chicago (he raised \$100,000 for his first feature film, 2007's *Second Moon*), and if he has looked back on those paths it has only been to appreciate all that he has accomplished, both behind the camera and in the classroom.

In 2009, Sang Hoon collaborated as the producer and the director of photography with GSU colleague Film & Digital Imaging Program Professor Dan Nearing and MFA students on *Chicago Heights*, and again in 2014 on *Hogtown*. *Chicago Heights* was named as one of best art films in 2010 by Roger Ebert and screened many films festivals over the world.

Sang Hoon teaches digital and short film production, advance editing, and film history. With experience as a producer and cinematographer, he carries hands-on expertise and a genuine joy in and love of film into his classroom.

"I'm not a big theory guy. I love film theory, but my experience as a filmmaker is the best thing I can deliver to my students," he said.

Much of that experience has been in documentary filmmaking. Working with his wife, he was involved with *Today We Saw the Face of God*, a piece on medical volunteers in Haiti who witnessed the 2010 earthquake that devastated the island nation. The film was a selection at multiple international festivals in 2012, and it won the award for Best Documentary Feature at the Illinois International Film Festival. He also produced *Breakfast at Ina's*, a study of the last month of a renowned Chicago restaurateur and her beloved city diner. GSU alumnae [Mercedes Kane](#) is the director.

The film will premiere at the Chicago International Film Festival in October.

Sang Hoon is now on sabbatical filming his screenplay, *Banana Season*. Departing from documentary filming, *Banana Season* tells the story of a cage fighter who is too kind to win and a little person who wants to fly like the birds.