News

Long-Awaited Traffic Light Comes to Life

After much anticipation, the new traffic signal is a go at the intersection of University Drive and University Parkway, the western leg of Stuenkel Road.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said, "The installation of this signal is the culmination of a hard-fought, successful battle, not only for the traffic light, but for the reconstruction and widening of Stuenkel Road—the Gateway to GSU. In a show of true support for the only public university in Will County, South Suburban Mayors and Managers, led then by Ed Paesel, and the Will County Board, led by County Executive Larry Walsh, worked together to find the funding for creating this safe passageway to our university. GSU Trustee Bruce Friefeld was also instrumental in making this improvement happen. For all of their work and dedication, we are extremely thankful."

The signal became active on June 27, and students, faculty, and staff are all relieved. Over the course of construction, the intersection has sometimes proven difficult to navigate, particularly during the morning and afternoon rushes and other periods of high traffic. The installation of the signal alleviates those traffic snags—even at rush hour—making the commute to and from GSU safer for everyone.
An announcement from Facilities Development and Management (FDM) urged drivers to "please exercise care while driving during these changes"—an advisory to be taken to heart.

FDM Interim Associate Vice President Jim Zumerchik said, "We’re pleased that this project is completed at GSU, and we expect to see the flow of traffic greatly improved by the new signal."

**In Honor of Independence Day**

GSU hopes you had a safe and joyous Fourth of July! Although campus was quiet, our community continues to commemorate the holiday.

The Library is holding a Fourth of July Sale. Pre-owned books are available for only twenty-five cents on the library balcony through July 13. Place money in the coin box marked “Sale” mounted on the wall next to the bookshelf.

In addition, market research textbooks and journals are also available on the library balcony for free! Email the Library with any questions.

For a history of one of July 4’s most beloved meals—the hot dog—read this story from the GSU Newsroom.

**Announcements and Events**

**Call for Mission and Vision Statements**

Does your college have a mission statement? Has your office crafted its own vision? Then we want to include it in the refreshed GSU Editorial Guidelines! Deadline for inclusion is Friday, July 7. Please direct submissions and questions to Angela Denk in the Office of Marketing and Communications.

**The Center for Performing Arts Announces 17–18 Season**

Get ready for a stimulating year of cultural engagement with the Center for Performing Arts. Upcoming shows and events include Sarah Saltwick’s theatrical adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, a dynamic Stomping Grounds Dance Festival, and a production of Ntozake Shange’s award-winning play, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. The CPA also celebrates the holiday season with Salt Creek Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* and recognizes the upcoming 50th anniversary of GSU with *50 Years of Wonder: A Tribute to Stevie Wonder* by America’s Got Talent finalists, Sons of Serendip.
Season tickets will be available to the public **July 17**, but patrons who wish to purchase tickets for three or more shows may do so beginning **July 10**.

Find out more about the Center’s upcoming programs at [CenterTickets.net](http://CenterTickets.net), visit the Box Office for student, staff and faculty discounts, or call for information at 708.235.2222. Tickets are $10 for students and $25 for faculty and staff. Groups of 10 or more and purchases of 3+ shows are eligible for a 15% discount.

**GSU Days at Great America!**

Ready for some summer thrills? Get in gear for GSU Days at Great America! Tickets are available for **July 21 & 22** and **August 12 & 13** and may be purchased from the Cashier’s Office for $30. For more information, contact [Student Life](#).

**Don Your GSU Gear for Transfer / Graduate Orientation**

GSU welcomes new Jaguars to campus next week during Transfer/Graduate Orientation. On **Thursday, July 6** from 12–5 p.m., incoming transfer and graduate students will learn more about GSU and the great resources that our campus offers. We appreciate your help in making new students and their guests feel welcome to the GSU family. The check-in table (between the Registrar Office and the D1 staircase) will remain staffed during the whole event. You can refer guests with questions to the table.

Share photos, memories, and stories of Orientation using the hashtag #new2gsu to connect everyone to the GSU social media scene.

For questions, email [New Student Programs](mailto:NewStudentPrograms@gsu.edu) or call 708.235.6819.

**Summer Film Festival**

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the Summer Film Festival, hosted by GSU’s School of Extended Learning and Intellectual Life Committee. The next screening, Michael Caplan’s *Algren: The Movie*, will take place on **Wednesday, July 19** at 4:30 p.m. in F1622.

Reserve your seat [here](#).
GSU Student studies abroad in Seoul, South Korea on Gilman Scholarship

GSU student Dana Solatka is currently in Seoul, South Korea spending six weeks this summer studying abroad at Korea University through International Studies Abroad (ISA). Dana was named a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and was awarded $3,000 to help fund her study abroad experience. Read her story and more about the Gilman Scholarship [here](#).

To read all about Dana’s adventures in Seoul, follow her [blog](#). For more information about the Gilman Scholarship, click [here](#) or contact Study Abroad Coordinator Amy Schoenberg.

Accounting Student Chosen as CPA Ambassador

The Illinois CPA Society selected Robert Navarro as its Student Ambassador at Governors State University for the 2017–18 academic year. The Illinois CPA Society Student Ambassador Program, funded by the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois, offers $2,000 tuition scholarships to accounting students in exchange for their efforts to build communities of future CPAs on their college campuses. This elite position provides select students with opportunities to create meaningful relationships, develop important professional skills, and enhance their resumes.

School of Extended Learning Hosts Successful Training
GSU’s School of Extended Learning recently provided a Customized Supervision Certificate Program for Advanced Mobility located in University Park.

Client and trainees were impressed with the level of instruction provided by GSU faculty members Richard Manprisio, John Simon, Cecil Wagner, and Jim Murray, according to Felicia Townsend, External Programs Manager for the School of Extended Learning.

Read the full story here.

Summer China Studies Program in Hangzhou, China

Nine GSU individuals are participating in the Summer China Studies Program from July 3–21, hosted by GSU partner school Hangzhou Normal University (HNU). The is the second year that GSU students will learn first-hand about many aspects of Chinese culture such as urbanization development, the Chinese legal system, tourism, and even Kung Fu.

Participants stay on campus and attend field trips to Hangzhou, Shanghai, and the ancient river town of Wuzhen.

All students received scholarships from HNU to cover the cost of their stay, and many received an additional Study Abroad Scholarship from the Office of International Services to assist with their flight costs. For some, this is their first time outside of the U.S., and for everyone it is their first time to China. We look forward to hearing about their journey when they return!

Workshops & Trainings

Check out the next Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag Lunch and WorkZone training opportunities here.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?

Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
University Park, IL, June 29, 2017

Celebrating Independence Day

GSU Newsroom is off this week for the holiday and will return next week, but we wanted to take a moment to share some patriotic thoughts with the community. With students, faculty, and staff enjoying summer adventures, we offer you this: a few words about everyone’s favorite grill food—the hot dog.

According to the NHDSC—the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council (yes, this actually exists)—Americans are expected to consume approximately 150 million hot dogs (http://www.hot-dog.org/media/consumption-stats) on the 4th of July. Let’s write that out in numbers: 150,000,000. Seven zeroes. Also according to NHDSC statistics, that’s enough hot dogs to make a trail of them from Washington, DC to Los Angeles—five times. That’s over 13,000 miles of hot dog road. Apologies to any vegetarians who are reading.

There’s no doubt, Americans love the things. We love them on buns, cut up in beans, charred over a bonfire, and different regions of the country have unique ways of serving them. In Kansas City, they come covered in ’kraut. Coney Island gives them to us with chili, and here in Chicago we have our own particular recipe for enjoyment: one all beef dog on a poppy seed bun, layered with raw onions, tomato slices, green relish, yellow mustard, a pickle spear, and a generous sprinkle of celery salt. Sport peppers, although delicious, are optional.

Stripped of all garnishes, what remains is the humble dog. Debate surrounds its origins, from who actually invented the hot dog to how it got its name. The only point lacking contention is its taste—it’s good.

In the summer of 1776, thirteen colonies—Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island—sent representatives to Philadelphia to address the political landscape of an emerging nation. The colonies had already been at war with England for a year, the Boston Tea Party was nearly three years in the past, and even then, no unanimous decision on what to do could be made. Like cantankerous food historians debating which German town cooked up the first hot dog, the delegates argued amongst themselves. But eventually a consensus was reached, and on July 4, 1776, the Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence.

This is what we celebrate on Independence Day. On that day, we don’t commemorate the birth of a nation or the end of a war; those things took longer to come (the American Revolution would rage on for seven more years after the Declaration’s inception). July 4, 1776 is the day when a group of quarrelsome men with different ideas but common goals stood up and agreed to these words:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

And then they got down to the work of securing them. On this 4th of July, when you sit down to eat your hot dogs, remember the men who stood up.

Happy Independence Day to our entire community from GSU News. May your holiday be safe and filled with fun.
Chicago, IL, July 11, 2017

School of Extended Learning Hosts Successful Training

GSU’s School of Extended Learning recently provided a Customized Supervision Certificate Program for Advanced Mobility located in University Park. Client and trainees were very impressed with the level of instruction provided by GSU faculty members Richard Manprisio, John Simon, Cecil Wagner, and Jim Murray, according to Felicia Townsend, External Programs Manager for the School of Extended Learning.

Advanced Mobility’s director of operations Mike Mestousis said of the training,  “Our front line supervision has always had a significant amount of expertise in the hands-on construction of Mobile Medical trailers. The next step in their development was a real need for formal classroom training in order to assist in the successful execution of a Daily Build Plan. Governors State University was able to tailor my description of those needs into four distinct and very effective training modules held on site at our facility in the month of June. Each instructor engaged our group in specific training topics, which included Managing Daily Workflows, Data Visualization and Problem Solving, Effective Business Communication and Email Management and Navigation.

It was a very fulfilling experience for our supervisors and more importantly gave them new skill sets that have had an immediate impact on their performance. The coordination of this training program by Felicia Townsend at the School of Extended Learning was well done and the outcome has exceeded my expectations. I strongly recommend this process to those organizations that find themselves with a similar need.”

The School of Extended Learning provides trainings to companies in University Park and beyond, in turn advancing the university's goal of enriching the region's economic development.