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Alumni E-Connections, 2009-06

Alumni Relations

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Dear Alumni,

Summer is upon us and many exciting things are happening here on campus:

Illinois Budget Update

Thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement and commitment as we continue to move GSU forward in challenging times. All of us have felt the impact of a faltering economy in our personal and professional lives, in so many ways. But there are some positive signs that we may be on the brink of a slow, but steady recovery.

A state budget bill for higher education passed the Illinois House and Senate on May 31st. GSU's state allocation, if the budget becomes final, will include an increase of approximately 1%. Federal stimulus dollars provided the cushion for higher education's budget this year, and we must thank and acknowledge our state legislators who demonstrated their commitment to higher education by passing this bill.

In addition, a capital bill that is currently on the governor's desk includes funding for renovation of our E and F science wings. These new science labs and classrooms will transform the way we educate our students in the 21st century. This project has been shovel ready for the last 8 years. Unfortunately, funding that was approved annually by the legislature has never been released. We will continue to monitor the status of this bill and our E and F wings project in particular and will keep you informed on its progress.

As the budget process moves forward in Springfield, we are also keeping a close eye on how changes in state support may affect our students. As of today, there are serious concerns about a potential reduction in financial aid for students that come through the Illinois Monetary Award Program ("MAP program"). For many students, funding from MAP means the difference between continuing their education or leaving college.

We know and understand that tough times call for tough decisions; we just want to ensure that our students remain a top priority in the state of Illinois.

Thank you for your continued advocacy. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

Summer Construction



The first of three phases of summer construction work began on June 1, and include reconfiguration and construction of the D-Main entry walkway, the adjacent circular round-about road, and the connecting roads on the east and west sides of the bell tower carillon.

These roads will be closed until approximately mid-August. D-Main entry will also be closed with anticipated completion of the walkways by mid-July. Alternate entries to the building and traffic flow directions will be designated with signage. Subsequent phases of work will be announced throughout the summer.

Also, Pace Bus pick-up and drop off will be temporarily relocated to the F-wing entry. The GSU Shuttle pick-up and drop off will be temporarily relocated to the north end B Parking Lot.

Additional summer construction projects roadway lighting, landscaping, site amenities, and a new parking lot for the Family Development Center. For more information, call 708.534.4515.

GSU 40th Anniversary

We're celebrating GSU's 40th anniversary through a yearlong series of events. Each month our e-blast will keep you up to date on events and programs being held on campus. Here's what's coming up:

40th Anniversary Celebration – November 7

Join us as we celebrate GSU's 40th Anniversary at this special evening event on Saturday, November 7. The evening begins with a reception consisting of light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by a special *Tribute to the Motown Greats* concert at The Center for Performing Arts. The evening will culminate with an exciting after party featuring a cast meet and greet, dancing, and camaraderie. Tickets are \$50 per person. Order your tickets today by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 708.534.4128.

Alumni Association News

Summer Hours

Beginning June 8 through August 7, the university will be on a summer schedule. Many departments throughout campus will be closed on Fridays. Classes will, of course, be conducted as scheduled. But if you're planning on visiting campus on Fridays for other reasons, you might want to check that department's schedule first.

Alumni Office Summer Hours:

Monday through Wednesday – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday – 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday – Closed
Phone: 708.534.4128

Normal Monday through Friday hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on August 10.

Alumni Club Activities

Alumni Addictions Studies Club

The Addictions Studies Club met on June 10 and discussed the latest in LCPC licensing. Their next meeting will be in September. Date to be determined.

Alumni Artforum Club met on June 15 and set its schedule for the next few months. On Saturday, July 18th, the group will visit the Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival. The group will meet here on campus and will car pool to the event. Visit www.govst.edu/alumni for more details to come. The group's next meeting will be Monday, September 21st, where club members are invited to bring a piece of their own art for peer review. Want to become a member? Call the Alumni Relations Office at 708.534.4128 for details.

TRiO Alumni Club meets the second Thursday of every month, from 4 to 5 p.m., in the Student Commons lounge.

Alumni Dancers Club and Alumni Book Club – both clubs are in the works and will become active soon. Make sure you're on the mailing list to receive invitations to these events. E-mail alumnirelations2@govst.edu to be placed on the mailing list.

Call the Alumni Office at 708.534.4128 to RSVP or for more information on any club activities. Alumni Association members may join any (or all) of the alumni clubs at no additional cost.

Are you a member of the Alumni Association?

If you are, you know the many benefits! If not, why not join today? There are many benefits associated with being a member of the Alumni Association. Visit www.govst.edu/alumni or call the Alumni Relations office, for more information.

Career Services

Did you know that as a GSU alum, you are free to utilize the services of the Office of Career Services? Career Services offers the following services:

Individual Advising Appointments: Students and alumni can receive assistance with developing a job search strategy, reviews of their resumes and cover letters, advice on networking and developing job leads, and ideas about transforming their skills into a career path. To schedule an appointment, please call 708.235.3974.

Workshops and Programs: Career Services provides students and alumni with hands-on learning experiences such as developing resume job search correspondence, identifying skills; embarking on a job search, interviewing and negotiating, and researching employers.

Job Postings: The office maintains job postings from local employers who are seeking GSU graduates for their workplaces. Hard copy and electronic postings are available via **e-Recruiting**.

Career Fairs: Career Services hosts several career fairs during the academic year. The fairs are designed to target specific disciplines such as the business, Finance and Accounting, Education, Health and Human Services, and Law Enforcement/Public Safety.

For more information visit the Career Services website at www.govst.edu/careerservices.

Upcoming Campus Events

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Walking Tours - Spend a Sunday afternoon walking among and learning about the many sculptures located in our own Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Tours will be conducted on the first and third Sunday of the month throughout the summer and last 1 ½ to 2 hours. The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is **free and open daily** from dawn to dusk. It is located on the campus of Governors State University.

For more information about the sculpture park to view their latest newsletter, visit www.govst.edu/sculpture.

Alternative Teacher Certification Information Session

Learn how to earn elementary teacher certification while receiving a salary and securing a teaching position through Governors State University's Alternative Certification Program. An information session will be held on Monday, July 6, at 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors, at Governors State University.

Since the Alternative Teacher Certification program at Governors State University began ten years ago, more than 220 participants have changed careers to become some of the most well-trained, supported, and effective educators in the south suburbs and Chicago.

This program is open to college graduates with five years work experience after receiving a bachelor's degree. The application deadline for the Alternative Certification program, beginning Spring 2010, is December 15, 2009.

For more information, call 708.534.4399 or visit www.govst.edu/altcert.

Self Defense Workshop at Governors State University

Governors State University's Recreation and Fitness Center is sponsoring *Inner Strength Solutions, A Comprehensive Education in Self-Defense*, a special two-hour workshop on June 23, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

This interactive program will teach participants various ways of facing and defending themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Instructor Mary Beth Toussaint is trained in martial arts and self-defense and has experience in teaching students of all ages and genders.

This workshop is sponsored by the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center and is open to the public. The registration fee for current GSU students is only \$5. The fee for alumni and other non-GSU students is \$10. Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois. For more information or to register, call 708.534.4556.

CenterPoint at GSU

CenterPoint Small Business Development Center was designed around the needs of business owners so you can use it as your primary resource for business success, with the area's best business services under one roof, provided to you free of charge.

CenterPoint helps businesses at all different stages of growth and development - pre-start; early stage; rapid growth; growth; maturity; and exit. CenterPoint helps to find financing, develop plans, create strategy, expand markets internationally, and expand sales. They provide: FREE expert consulting and business assistance; FREE help in obtaining small business financing; FREE access to valuable information and market research data; RELEVANT free or low-cost seminars and training programs on hot topics presented by experts in the field.

FRANCHISING BASICS -- FREE SEMINAR

CenterPoint Small Business Development Center and FranNet have joined forces to promote the truth and dispel the myths about franchising. This free seminar will help you decide if franchising is the right entrepreneurial choice for you. After attending, you will be able to schedule a one-to-one consultation with a FranNet consultant. Topics covered in this session include: Defining your entrepreneurial dream; Franchising today: Old myths and new realities; Where franchising works; Why franchising works; Franchise regulations: Federal and state
Research: How to investigate before investing.

The seminar will take place at GSU in room C3300, June 24, 2009 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is no cost for this seminar but **pre-enrollment is required**. To register, call 708.534.4949 or visit CenterPoint on-line at www.centerpointgsu.com

Reading Tutoring Available at GSU

Governors State University's Graduate Program in Reading is sponsoring The Literacy Zone, a reading tutorial program for students in grades two through five, from July 8 through July 28. This one-to-one program brings students experiencing reading problems together with teachers who have the skills to help them.

Enrollment is limited and based on the number of tutors. Students will be accepted in the order in which the completed application and registration fee are received. There is a \$100 registration fee. However, \$30 is refunded to the parents/guardians of those students who complete the program with good attendance and return all Literacy Zone materials.

Students meet on the GSU campus with certified, experienced teachers enrolled in the Master of Arts Reading Program at GSU. Sessions are held on Mondays through Thursdays, from 9 to 11 a.m. Transportation is not provided. For more information, call 708.534.4129 or email m-hession@govst.edu.

Just for Kicks

The GSU Soccer Club is currently playing weekly games and is looking for new members. Men and women are welcome to join, regardless of skill.

Weekly games take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 4:45 p.m. The club also participates in soccer tournaments and trips to Chicago Fire and international games.

Members of the Soccer Club enjoy camaraderie and a unique chance to interact with individuals from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. Plus, playing soccer is a great cardiovascular workout. Alumni are

invited to join the GSU Soccer Club. There is no cost to join. For more information, contact Jose Reyes at 708.534.4494.

Cinderella at The Center at Governors State University

The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University is offering a magical, exciting summertime theater experience for young and old alike. For one performance only, The Center will host a unique adaptation of *Cinderella* on Thursday, July 23, at 11 a.m.

This version, however, adds some twists to the often-told fable. Everyone is attending the Royal Sweetheart Ball except for Cinderella whose feet are such an unusual size there are no shoes to fit them. With the help of a fairy godmother, a little sword fighting, and some sensible footwear, a happy ending is in sight. This adaptation appeals to both boys and girls and is full of audience interaction.

Summer camp groups, families, and individuals are welcome. This performance provides an ideal field trip experience. Tickets are only \$7 each for groups of 20 or more and \$9 each for individuals.

The Center is located on the campus of Governors State University. For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Center box office at 708.235.2222 or visit www.centertickets.net.

Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) – Into the Woods

The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) will present *Into the Woods* -- Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's amazing musical about magical enchantment blends the stories of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, Cinderella - and more - into an exciting, intertwining show for all ages!

Performances will be held at Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale June 15, 2009 (\$21/\$18 Adults and \$19/\$16 Students). For ticket information, call the box office at 708.235.2222, Monday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New Scholarship Established

There are so many ways to donate to your alma mater. Recently, Anthony Fontana, a GSU professor, honored his late wife and alumna, Lorraine Fontana, with an endowed scholarship in her name. This wonderful gesture will live on in Lorraine's name for years to come. Scholarships are just one of the ways the GSU Foundation helps the university in its mission. If you are interested in establishing an endowed scholarship, please contact Rosemary Hulett at 708.534.7892 or email r-hulett@govst.edu.

Donations to the GSU Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Go to www.govst.edu/foundation/DonateIntro.asp, if you are interested in making a donation.

Many more events are being planned. I'll send you updates from time to time to keep you up to date. But feel free to visit our website at www.govst.edu/alumni for up to the minute details.

Sincerely,

Rosemary D. Hulett

Associate Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations