

3-7-2012

Alumni E-Connections, 2012-03-07

Alumni Relations

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Recommended Citation

Alumni Relations, "Alumni E-Connections, 2012-03-07" (2012). *Alumni E-Connections*. Paper 20.
http://opus.govst.edu/alumni_econnections/20

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Monthly Announcement - March 7, 2012

Dear alumni,

We've been very busy here on campus and so many exciting things are happening:

- GSU will begin admitting freshmen to campus starting in Fall 2014.
- The renovation of E and F wings and science labs has begun. Entrance to the F wing is closed during the renovation.
- Our first Dual Degree Program (DDP) students will be arriving on campus in the Fall.
- Plans are under way to add on-campus housing for students.
- And so much more.

I encourage you to join one or more of our Alumni Clubs and become active through their activities. There is something for everyone. Visit www.govst.edu/alumni for club information. Stay connected with your alma mater and get involved.

For more information, call the Alumni Relations Office at 708.534.4128. Feel free to visit the [alumni website](#) to view past editions of the *e-connections* newsletter and our annual print newsletter, *Alumni Connections* and to get up-to-the-minute details.

Sincerely,

Cheri Garey
Interim Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Clubs

As a GSU alum, you may join as many of our Alumni Clubs as you like, free of charge. Sign up for Alumni Clubs by visiting www.govst.edu/alumni (click on *Clubs* side bar) or call the Alumni Relations Office at 708.534.4128 for more information.

New Alumni Health Administration Club - Reception March 20

Join the Alumni Health Administration Club at a networking reception for Health Administration alumni taking place at the ACHE Congress for Healthcare Professionals at the Chicago Hyatt Regency on Tuesday, March 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. If

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you know someone interested in GSU's Health Administration programs, bring them along. RSVP by March 13 at 708.534.4128. (You do not need to attend the conference to attend the reception.)

Addiction Studies Alumni Club Reception - March 28

The Addiction Studies Alumni Club is hosting a networking reception for Addictions Studies alumni and students. This reception takes place during the IAODAPCA Spring Conference at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel on Wednesday, March 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. RSVP by March 9 at 708.534.4128. (You do not need to attend the conference to attend the reception.)

Alumni Artforum Club Alumni Art Show - April 26 - May 29

The Alumni Artforum Club is hosting a GSU Alumni Art Show from April 26 through May 29, with a reception taking place on Thursday, May 3. A call for submissions has been posted on the Alumni website at www.govst.edu/alumni (click "Activities" sidebar) or email alumnirelations2@govst.edu. Entry deadline is April 16. Join in on the fun! This event is free.

Alumni Book Club Reviews "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" - March 22

Join other book enthusiasts in a lively discussion on the current book. The Alumni Book Club meets the fourth Thursday of every month.

Book Club Schedule:

March 22 ***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*** by Stieg Larsson
April 26 ***The Good Earth*** by Pearl S. Buck

Books to be reviewed are chosen by the Alumni Book Club members. Call the Alumni Relations Office at 708.534.4128 to join or e-mail alumnirelations2@govst.edu and say "sign me up for the Book Club." Meeting reminders will be sent via e-mail. Visit the website at www.govst.edu/alumni for details and book descriptions.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks events

Free Lecture - The College of Health and Human Services is hosting two events in March regarding the Book Club's February book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Sonny Lacks will address his mother's legacy in a lecture for the community, "The U. S. Healthcare System: Reflected in the Lives of Henrietta Lacks and Her Family," on **Tuesday, March 27, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University. David Lacks will be accompanied by one of his adult children.

Former GSU
Administrator

Family
Development
Center

One-on-One
Language
Training for
your Child at
GSU

Student Film
Screened in
London

Women's
History
Month

E and F Wing
Science
Remodel Has
Begun

Library Hours
During Spring
Break

This free event is sponsored by the Governors State University Intellectual Life Committee, the GSU College of Health and Human Services, and the GSU College of Education. Though the event is free, seating is limited and online registration is required by March 20, at www.govst.edu/Henrietta_Lacks.

Reception and Book-Signing - You are also invited to a reception and book-signing featuring David "Sonny" Lacks on **Monday, March 26, from 5 to 7 p.m.** in the Center for Performing Arts lobby. Though the reception is free, online registration is required by March 16 at www.govst.edu/Sonny_Lacks_Reception.

Criminal Justice Job and Internship Fair - March 22

The Office of Career Services is hosting a Criminal Justice Job and Internship Fair on Thursday, March 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. at GSU. For more information, call Career Services at 708.235.3974.

Job Search Assistance at GSU

Helping people in the community find employment is the mission of the Mobile Workforce Center. The mobile unit is at GSU every Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m. It is parked near the university front entrance.

Center services include resume development, access to online job boards and websites, instruction in how to conduct an online job search and improve keyboarding skills, and assistance of staff. It has 11 computer stations equipped with Internet access, printer and copy machines, and wheelchair accessibility.

The center, housed in a large bus, travels to various Will County locations offering free services. Job search assistance is available to everyone and is not limited to Will County residents. For more information, contact the Workforce Services Division of Will County at 815.727.4980.

GSU Table Tennis Team Serves Up Victory

GSU table tennis team triumphed at the NCTTA Midwest Regional Tournament held on campus last weekend. The GSU team won second place behind Lindenwood University in the competition for the regional title.

GSU will now advance to the NCTTA national competition, to be held this April in Plano, Texas.

Alcohol Anonymous At GSU

GSU is now offering closed meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) on Thursdays, from 6 to 7:15 p.m., in Room A2150.

For more information, contact [Johnsie McAuley-Davis](#) in

Student Life at 708.235.7653 or 773.331.3760.

GSU Library Book Drive

Friends of the Governors State University Library are sponsoring a book and media drive during the entire month of March. It's GSU's very own version of March Madness.

Bring in any books or DVDs that are collecting dust in a corner or taking up room on your bookcase. Drop off your used books or DVDs at the Library and fill out a simple donation form for tax purposes. It's a win-win situation that helps the Friends continue their support of the GSU Library.

National Medal of Arts Awarded to Sculpture Park Artist

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park artist Martin Puryear was awarded the National Medal of Arts in a February 13 White House ceremony.

President Barack Obama presented the award to Puryear whose "Bodark Arc," at Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP), combines structural elements with trees and landforms to produce an artistic masterpiece.

It was the second straight year that an NMSP artist has received the National Medal of Art, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States Government. In 2011, President Obama awarded the medal to Mark di Suvero, whose towering "Yes! For Lady Day" at the NMSP is recognized as a landmark of contemporary sculpture.

The National Medal of Arts is a White House initiative managed by the National Endowment for the Arts. Each year, the NEA organizes and oversees the medal nomination process and notifies artists of their selection to receive a medal.

"Martin Puryear transforms mundane and utilitarian materials – wood, stone, and metal – into evocative talismans that quietly and powerfully explore issues of history, culture, and identity," the NEA citation states. "His unwavering commitment to manual skill and traditional building materials offer a seductive alternative to our increasingly digital world."

Puryear is one of seven recipients of this year's award; other honorees include painter and printmaker Will Barnett, poet and author Rita Dove, actor Al Pacino, arts patron and philanthropist Emily Rauh Pulitzer, singer and songwriter Mel Tillis, classical pianist Andre Watts, and the United Service Organizations (USO).

Bodark Arc was commissioned by NMSP and the GSU Foundation, and installed in 1982. Puryear used a number of materials to create the artwork, including earth, wood, Osage orange trees, asphalt, stone, and cast bronze. Bodark Arc is an example of Land Art, so large that it can be fully appreciated only by viewing it from the air. In Bodark Arc, Puryear

orchestrates landscape and scale along with personal and cultural references, offering a site for quiet reflection that reveals itself piece by piece.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is located at Governors State University's main campus in University Park. The park is free of charge and open from dawn to dusk 365 days a year. For more information about the sculpture park, visit www.govst.edu/sculpture or call 708.534.4486.

Prairie Restoration Project Honors Former GSU Administrator

Monumental artwork at Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP) will get a new backdrop as the surrounding prairie landscape is restored to its native condition over the next few years.

The move to restore the native prairie, headed by more than a dozen Chicago Southland community leaders, will honor the memory of William H. Dodd, a longtime administrator at Governors State University and an important figure in the formation of the sculpture park.

Funds from the Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund will be used to reclaim GSU's sculpture park landscape as a "pre-settlement" prairie. Geoffrey Bates, director and curator of Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, said invasive plants will be replaced with native flowers, trees, and shrubs. As the restoration proceeds, the sculpture park landscape will be transformed into the same type of prairie settlers might have found in the early 1800s.

"We've already begun a program of controlled burns in some parts of the park, and are taking other measures to eradicate invasive plants," Bates said. "We are planting seeds for native plants. But this is a large area and the restoration is an enormous job."

Since forming last year, the Restoration Fund committee has collected more than \$13,000 from about 50 donors. Committee members said restoration of the prairie is a fitting memorial to Dodd, who came to GSU in the early 1970s, shortly after the university opened.

GSU has always been the site of monumental sculpture – Mark DiSuvero's *Yes! For Lady Day* was completed on the grounds before the university was built – and Dodd supervised early commissions of artwork. He held several positions at GSU, most prominently as Vice President for Development.

"The sculpture park was Bill's baby," said David Curtis, who served as an administrator at GSU with Dodd for many years. "He was the first executive director of the park and he worked closely with donors and the artists. It wasn't a job for him. It was an act of love."

Jean Bernstein, a leading educator in the south suburbs for decades, said Dodd followed his vision that the sculpture park would become one of the nation's most prominent collections of

monumental artwork. "He wanted it to be a place of artistic beauty and quality, but also a place where people could enjoy themselves," Bernstein said.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is now home to 27 monumental pieces by some of the world's most distinguished modern artists. NMSP is named after Nathan Manilow, who donated much of the land for GSU's campus. His son, Lewis Manilow, contributed several works of art to the sculpture park and was instrumental in its establishment.

"He cared a great deal about the environment," said Beverly Sokol, of Olympia Fields. "Now we are going to make sure that the sculpture park is surrounded by plants that truly belong here, and will be able to survive on their own in our Midwest environment." Sokol, a founder of Healing Racism in the Chicago Southland, said she worked with Dodd on efforts to promote diversity throughout south suburban communities.

All donations to the Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund will be processed through the GSU Foundation. To contribute to the Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund, or for more information, contact Geoffrey Bates at gbates@govst.edu or 708.534.4486.

Family Development Center

GSU's Family Development Center (FDC) is now accepting applications for its infant and toddler childcare services, prekindergarten programs, and after school childcare.

Childcare for infants, toddlers, and two year olds takes place in fully-equipped classrooms of eight children, each staffed with two teachers. The infant and toddler childcare center is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The FDC also offers full and half day pre-kindergarten, three or five days a week and extended day childcare for three to five year olds.

Before and after school childcare is also available for five to 12 year olds.

Several special grants may be available to assist eligible families. Discounts are also offered for GSU students and staff.

For more information or to register your child, call 708.235.7300.

One-on-One Language Training for your Child at GSU

Free, one-on-one language instruction for qualified middle school children is being provided by at GSU as part of a research study. All instruction is conducted by a certified, trained speech-language pathologist.

The summer language intervention program provides one or

two hours of instruction per week for nine weeks. Instruction focuses on building knowledge of advance sentences that are important for reading comprehension, writing, following verbal instructions, and verbal expression in middle school and beyond.

Participation is based on eligibility screening, which takes place in March and April. Students must have a documented language or learning disability, be between 10 and 14 years old, have normal hearing, and meet certain reading and language criteria.

The Summer Language Program is part of a language treatment study supported by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. The study is designed to train speech pathologists in effective language development techniques and to examine their effectiveness on student learning.

Transportation to and from the university is not provided.

For more information, and to register your child for evaluation, contact [Dr. Catherine Balthazar](#) at 708.534.4592.

Student Film Screened in London

Students from GSU shared an exciting learning experience recently when they watched the film they created, "Careless," screened at the First Annual Student International Film Festival in London, England.

"Careless," was among more than 80 films screened at the festival. It was selected from a pool of more than 350 submissions. Blake Labriola of Park Forest developed the concept for the suspense thriller in a class. It was filmed and edited with the assistance of fellow students Leah Shortell-Chapman of Steger and Josh Young of Park Forest.

Labriola and Shortell-Chapman are currently students in the Master of Fine Arts program and Young recently graduated from GSU with his Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a concentration in Filmmaking & Multimedia. Keisha Dyson, adjunct professor and program developer for the GSU cable station, accompanied the student filmmakers.

"It has been one of the most enriching cultural and film experiences that I've been able to take part in," said Labriola. "Showing my film to students from around the world was an exciting event for me."

The students were also able to watch dozens of short films, meet student filmmakers from around the globe, visit the largest archive of world-renowned film director Stanley Kubrick's production material, and tour the BBC.

"This trip was amazing! I was impressed with the quality of student work and very proud to be among such an elite group," added Shortell-Chapman.

"It was a pretty bold move to enter an international film festival.

We are very proud of Blake," said Dyson. "Experiences like this--particularly for aspiring storytellers -- can deepen their knowledge of culture and history. It adds perspective and creates balance, which are key elements to great storytelling."

Women's History Month

GSU celebrates Women's History Month in March with discussions, a film series, and a special performance.

The film series begins on Monday March 19, at 5, in the Cafeteria Annex, with *Breaking Our Silence: Gloucester Men Speak Out Against Domestic Abuse*. This 11 minute documentary focuses on the activist efforts of men in Gloucester, Massachusetts, who take a stand against domestic abuse and bullying. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

War Zone will be shown on Tuesday, March 20, at 5 p.m. The location will be announced. This documentary is 45 minutes long and focuses on first-hand, direct confrontations with men sexually harassing women. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

The film series concludes with *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* on Thursday, March 22, at 5 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. This 38 minute film examines the developmental challenges facing teenage girls in today's world and provides a medium to discuss how females can empower themselves while dealing with historical stereotypes, toxic influences, and pressures of pop culture. A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served.

Singer Marcy McReynolds will perform and a discussion will follow on Wednesday, March 21, at 5 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex.

Women's History Month activities are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The activities are sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Student Life, ARC, and a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee.

E and F Wing Science Remodel Has Begun

The E/F renovation project has finally begun. Preliminary work by the contractors is well underway.

The F entrance (at the east end of the building complex) is closed and, beginning next week, additional barriers will be in place to restrict the university community from construction areas and activities. Please watch for signs directing you to alternative entrances.

Most importantly, there will be NO ACCESS to F building from either the F building entryway located on the east side of the university or E wing. This inconvenience is necessary to protect the safety of the university community. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Library Hours During Spring Break

During Spring Break, the University Library hours will be as follows:

Saturday, March 11 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, March 11 - closed
Monday to Thursday, March 12 to 15 - 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday, March 16 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 17 - closed
Sunday, March 18 - closed