Secretary of State Jesse White presents President Maimon with a commemorative GSU license plate during Welcome Days festivities.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White helped usher in a new year—and a new semester—at GSU Tuesday by presenting President Elaine P. Maimon with a special license plate that, she said, reflects all the positive developments on the horizon in 2012.

Appearing at Welcome Days, White honored the university with a framed “GSU – 2012” license plate. The Secretary of State’s Mobile Unit is a popular fixture at the beginning of each semester, and White lauded the success of the program at GSU.

The Secretary of State, who founded the renowned Jesse White Tumblers, described the functions of his office, which oversees motor vehicle programs in Illinois and also provides funds to libraries across the state. He concluded with his personal credo: “Do something nice for someone every day.”

Dr. Maimon thanked White for providing important services to GSU students and staff and briefly recounted all the exciting developments taking place at the university this year.

Welcome Back GSU

GSU Staffer Keith Briggs

WVON traffic and news reporter, Bryant Monteilh, hosted for the second year by MFA student and

MLK GSUMLK GSSU celebration gets better every year

By Danyale Lucado
Editor-in-Chief

The Center for Performing Arts was filled with laughter, hugging, dancing, and singing as GSU hosted one of its best MLK celebrations yet.

The event, held on Jan. 23, featured inspirational music selections from university staffer Keith Briggs, Cynthia Jackson, the new GSU choir, and the Rich East marching band.

Hosted by the second year by MFA student and

GSU Staffer Keith Briggs

WVON traffic and news reporter, Bryant Monteilh, the celebration honors the life and legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Continued on pg. 6

Student production to hold auditions

Do you want to be involved in a live theatrical production? Well here’s the opportunity you’ve been waiting for. The play Stop Kiss by Diana Son will be produced and performed by GSU students on April 11, 12, and 13. Students have three opportunities to audition for roles in this student production.

Auditions will be held on Monday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m., in room E2522; Tuesday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m., in room E1550; and Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m., in room E2522. Students should prepare a one minute modern monologue and attend one day of auditions.

Continued on pg. 6

Two of the characters in Stop Kiss as portrayed by the Hovey Players, a Massachusetts-based theater group.
The GSU Choir performed during the MLK Day celebrations held on Jan. 23.

MLK Continued from pg. 1

Dr. King was instrumental in bringing the racial tensions of the south to the attention of mainstream media, sparking a major movement for equal rights and the desegregation of schools and other public facilities.

Every year hundreds of elementary school students gather at the Center to be reminded of Dr. King's commitment to non-violence and equality for all American citizens.

GSU President Elaine Maimon, took the stage advising students to take the hardest classes offered at their schools to prepare for college.

Encouraging them to keep college attendance at the forefront of their academic goals, the president urged students to commit to being "100% college bound". A message the university shares with students every year at the celebration by handing out t-shirts with the words printed on the front.

Local teachers attending the celebration said it was even better than last year's. "Each year it keeps getting better and better," said Cecilia Carlton, a teacher from the Neil Armstrong school in Richton Park. "The music, the dancers, everything was wonderful."

This year's special guest speaker, Cheryl Pearson-McNeil, Senior Vice President of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs for the Nielsen Company, shared statistical information with the students regarding their media consumption and how to leverage their buying power into a voice for change.

"It's okay to listen to Rihanna," she told the crowd. "It's okay to listen to Flo Rida, but you must also prepare to pass the baton of success, just as it has been passed to you."

Pearson-McNeil says it's important to continue these kinds of events so that children have a chance to reflect historically and know how to move forward progressively.

"If you don't know where you come from," she said, "you can't appreciate what you have or strive for the better."

"If you know where you come from," she quoted. "Exceed the expectations others have of you and you can't help but to succeed."

The program concluded with what is becoming an annual tradition, the singing of Stevie Wonder's version of "Happy Birthday" led by the Rich East marching band, with a bit of a hip-hop remix by Keith Briggs.

A ceremony officially dedicating the new national monument honoring Dr. King's legacy was dedicated this past fall. Among those in attendance were the King children, Stevie Wonder, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and President Barack Obama.

In his remarks President Obama reminded the crowd that because of Dr. King's moral imagination we see an America today that is "more fair, more free, and more just."
Freshmen admission still a topic of campus debate

By Tolu Afolabi
Contributing Writer

The forensics team, students and faculty members gathered at the Hall of Governors recently to debate and discuss changing GSU, which is presently an upper division college, into a four-year institution.

GSU plans on admitting 270 freshmen students by August 2014. GSU provost Terry Allison said GSU is working hard to make the new set of freshmen comfortable when they arrive.

The students who participated on the debate team were Etta Oben, Daniel Christiansen who were both on the affirmative side, and Favian Apata and Josh Reinhardt on the opposing team.

The students touched on certain issues that might benefit the school once freshmen students are enrolled, such as expanding the undergrad and graduate programs by adding new courses and adding more sports activities so that students can participate.

Oben and Christiansen argued that GSU should move on to the next phase on becoming a better institution since it has been an upper division school for so many years.

They argued that non-traditional students could serve as mentors for the freshmen, by advising them on how to network, study, getting settled on campus and so on.

"Freshmen students should be given a chance to get the full university experience at GSU," said Oben.

The opposing team Apata and Reinhardt, argued that GSU shouldn't be made a four year institution because it would take away from the original culture and unique tradition of GSU. They also argued that the new students would not be mature enough to mix with the non-traditional students.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said that courses for freshman will be offered during the day and they will cohort together, by making certain classes only available for freshmen students.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved GSU's request to become a four-year institution in December, but no doubt the discussion about the change will continue.

The forensics team is looking for new members. Anyone interested in participating can contact faculty advisor Arness Krause at skrause@govst.edu.

Digital Learning: New horizons for education

By David Lipowski
Associate Editor

Online learning is becoming an increasingly prevalent part of college education. GSU has introduced three new programs this year that signify digital growth.

The integration of online and digital learning is taking place more frequently these days. Whether it be a course taught entirely online, the option of submitting an assignment through email, content available through the web, or a textbook enhanced by multimedia, the archetypal image of a college student has shifted from that of a learner immersed in a book to that of someone typing away in the glow of one's laptop screen.

This change has occurred for two primary reasons.

First, digital learning helps students and educators do their jobs better, faster, and (ideally) with less hassle. Online courses allow those who have transportation or scheduling challenges to get an education. Online content assists students with different learning styles to encounter ideas in an assortment of ways.

Secondly, as technology becomes increasingly integrated with society, the digital divide is a constant threat. Those unfamiliar with the latest technology suffer in the professional world. Using and updating systems as the world shifts permits educators to supplement work in their field with computer skills students will need to survive when getting a job.

This semester, Governors State University launched two new programs that will expand the school's efforts to use new technology in academic settings. The new programs are Blackboard 9.1, which has replaced WebCT as the platform for online classes, and Papercut, a new system that allows students to print documents from any public printer on campus with their school account. These new programs follow the school's introduction of the GSU Portal earlier this year as the school adapts to new ways to use technology for education.

All online courses—as well as those with online content—will now use the new Blackboard 9.1 system. For those having trouble using the program, the Student Orientation Course available through Blackboard can be a great resource for learning about how to use features of the program. The different sections break down all of the important functions into straightforward step-by-step instructions that computer users of all levels will find easy to understand.

The new Papercut system allows students to access the school's public printers through their school account.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Gary Lyon, an admired member of the GSU chemistry faculty, on Monday, January 9.

Dr. Lyon is remembered for his genuine warmth and compassion. He was dedicated to GSU and committed to helping his students achieve in the classroom and their careers.

Dr. Lyon enjoyed a 35 year career in higher education as a researcher and undergraduate and graduate instructor. He earned his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1997 and joined the chemistry department at GSU in 2001. He earned a Faculty Excellence Award in 2006 and was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in 2007. Dr. Lyon also served as President of the Faculty Senate and chaired the University Safety Committee.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Dr. Lyon's memory to the Leukemia Research Foundation, 3520 Lake Avenue, Suite 202, Wilmette, IL 60091.

Friends and colleagues in the GSU community offer Dr. Lyon's family, friends, and colleagues our support and sympathy in this difficult time.
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Bonjour!
Students urged to study abroad
By Tohu Afobahi
Contributing Writer

As part of the GSU’s recent International Student Week Celebration, GSU’s Director of International Services, Vreni Mendoza lead a panel discussion on the benefits of exploring studies outside of the United States.

The discussion recently held in the Hall of Honors, featured distinguished panelists Melanie Ellexson, Dan Nearing, Caron Jacobson, Shannon Dermer, and GSU students, and was attended by Provost Terry Allison, among others.

The panel discussed short term international study opportunities and provided tips on how GSU students can apply for study abroad programs.

"There is so much to consider while planning to study abroad," Mendoza said. "Start by realistically accessing your academic and personal preparation and objective. Think about the knowledge, experience and skills that you may have, such as intercultural experience, language ability or cultural. Your experience impacts how you will approach future situations."

"Think about going for a job interview, employers want to know what you have done as much as what you can do," said Mendoza.

She also advised students to plan a year ahead, and think about their personal reasons on why they want to study abroad.

"Your experience abroad is definitely worth a few trials and transformation to starting something new," said Mendoza. "Think of studying abroad as an extension of your studies at your home institution."

Although studying abroad is recommended, Mendoza says students can begin to explore the world right here on campus.

"Read international news," Mendoza said. "You need to have an international understanding of the social, political and economic aspects that affect the world. Enroll in international oriented courses that focus on your field."

Mendoza told students that having three or four international courses in your field looks great on your resume.

"Meet and talk to international students, have coffee or tea with them regularly, and you will get to learn more about their cultural habits," she added.

Students should also network with international experts and find internationally focused people who can open doors of opportunities for you.

"Associate yourself with professors doing international research and participate in international cultural events held on campus. You can also gain international credentials that can be carried forward into a future career," she added.

Mendoza says the number of U.S. students studying abroad for credit or job is just 4 percent. She says students should not hesitate to take a year off to study abroad, outside the school environment, in a culture other than their own.

"There are many programs that provide opportunities to build leadership skills and jobs. Some of them do not pay, but they know that you will get experience and that is the pay you get," said Mendoza.

"Use English as a stepping stone to other international jobs, there are over one billion people wanting to learn English abroad," she said.

"There are many programs looking for people to teach English. For example, an organization in Japan is looking for teachers to teach English. They pay for room and board and they give you some money," Mendoza said.

According to Mendoza, those who are successful at finding international work, have all done something a little extraordinary to land their first job. They have gone out of their way to learn and take risks.

It’s why she continues to urge students to “get out there and enjoy the world.”

Many scholarships are available and offered to both undergrad and graduate students. Students can visit the international office at room C3370 to find out more about job opportunities outside the country. Vreni Mendoza can be reached directly at 708-334-3087 or via email at vmendoza@govst.edu.
Welcome

Continued from pg. 1

Construction of the new E and F wing science labs and classrooms is about to begin. Following approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, GSU is getting ready for its first freshman class in 2014. The university is bolstering its innovative Dual Degree Program with a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation. Plans for on-campus housing are steadily moving ahead.

Will County Executive Larry Walsh and University Park Trustee Larry Brown also attended Tuesday’s appearance by the Secretary of State. 

Courtesy of GSU PR

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Tutoring $25.00 an hour
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2012 Education Career & Internship Fair

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Solutions to crossword from pg. 8 page

PHASE
PLED
ICED
LIBEL
LOBE
SUMO
ELUTE
UPON
OMEN
ATTACHMENT
MINE
TEE
UPEND
LESSON
MERIT
OCUR
PENETRATE
GRAB
LEADS
ILEX
OUTSKIRTS
SCALE
TESTY
EASELS
PAINT
WED
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LIKE
HOOD
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708.235.3974
Table Tennis Team prepares for national tournament

By Marlene Lees  
Contributing Writer

The GSU Table Tennis Team is busy gearing up for the upcoming National Collegiate Table Tennis Association’s Divisional and Regional Tournaments being held Feb. 11 and 12 at the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center Gymnasium. Participating in the tournament with GSU are teams from DePaul University, Northwestern University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Governor State’s Team won first place in both the NCTTA 2010 Fall Regional Tournament and in the NCTTA 2011 Spring Regional Tournament. GSU has a Co-Ed and a Women’s Table Tennis Team. The head coach for both is Dr. T.J. Wang, Associate Professor of Accounting. GSU has the only Women’s Table Tennis team in the Division in the fall tournament. Yuefan “Penn” Lin, considered the team’s top player, says “In the past year we have tried our best to practice every week and with the help of our coach Professor TJ Wang we have improved a lot and we know what team spirit is. This is important in playing the game. TJ has been responsible for building harmony into our team.” Yuefan has a table tennis rating of almost 2400. This is an extremely good score in the table tennis world. Wenjie “Neo” Nie is the team’s second best player with a rating of 2300.

Ratings are based on defeating opponent with a higher rating. If a player wins, he gains a number of points based on the difference in the ratings of the two players. Co-ed team members include Captain Wenjie “Neo” Nie, Yuanfei “Vergil” Cai, Yuefan “Penn” Lin, Lishun “Leeson” Lu, and Larry Webster. Women’s team members are Captain Jie “Jassie” Wang along with Xue Hong “Carmen” Chen, Ruiyi Fong, Jing “Jackie” He, and Ting Li.

Production Auditions

Continued from pg. 1

No monologues should be from the show Stop Kiss. All parts are available and a character breakdown is provided below. No experience is necessary to be involved in this production but an open mind is a must.

There are also nonperforming (behind the scenes) opportunities available. This production is being directed by Lauren White, graduate student in the Communication Program, and faculty adviser on this project is Dr. Jason Zingsheim.

Any questions regarding auditions, how to get involved behind the scenes, or any other questions about the show should be emailed to the director at L.White5@student.gvsu.edu. This production is made possible by a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee.

Stop Kiss Characters: Callie, late 20s to early 30s female (staged kiss with Sara); Sara, mid-20s to early 30s female (staged kiss with Callie); George, late 20s to early 30s male; Peter, mid-20s to early 30s male; Mrs. Winsley, early 40s to early 50s female; Nurse, late 30s to mid-40s female; Detective Cole, late 30s to mid-40s male. Please note that ages are merely representative and by no means prohibitive.
Crossword

ACROSS
1. Stage
6. Imploded
10. Chilled
14. Slander
15. Part of the outer ear
16. Japanese wrestling
17. Wash out with a solvent
18. Atop
19. Portent
20. A supplementary part
22. Not yours
23. A
24. Flip over
26. A unit of instruction
30. Excellence
32. Come to pass
33. Pass into or through
37. Seize
38. Conducts
39. Holly
40. Outlying areas
42. Climb
43. Cantankerous
44. Artists’ workstands
45. Applied to a wall or canvas
47. Married
48. Money owed
49. Probability
56. Two-toed sloth
57. Feudal worker
58. Soothing ointment
59. Spar
60. Sleigh
61. Attempts
62. Away from the wind
63. Views
64. It delivers babies?

DOWN
1. Urgent request
2. Sword handle
3. Adjudged
4. Bribe
5. Voter
6. Feather
7. Easy gait
8. Black, in poetry
9. False teeth
10. Muscle-building exercises
11. Aromatic seeds
12. Make improvements
13. Accomplished
21. Female chicken
25. A sizeable hole
26. Corporate image
27. Beige
28. Leave in a hurry
29. Replacement
30. Substantial
31. Terminates
33. Flippant
34. Wings
35. Express in words
36. X X X
38. Lethargic
41. Barbie’s beau
42. They love to inflict pain
44. Snake-like fish
45. Prison-related
46. Humiliate
47. Noxious plants
48. Russian parliament
50. Small island
51. Leg joint
52. Male deer
53. Hodgepodge
54. Not under
55. Writing table

Comics

PHD: Actually happens

"PHD" ("Piled Higher & Deeper"), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. Updates occur about twice per week. To read more comics, head to www.PHDcomics.com

XKCD: 2012

Alt-Text: To compensate for this, I plan to spend 2013 doing nothing but talking about Mayans. My relationships with my friends and family may not fare well. "XKCD" is a webcomic “of romance, sarcasm, math, and language” run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to www.xkcd.com

GSU Happenings

Career Workshops
Thursday, February 2
Cafeteria Annex
Career Transitions and Life Management in the New Career Market
10 a.m. to noon
Navigating Uncertainty
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Passion Search:
Find your Career Passion and Path
5 to 7:30 p.m.

Discussion of
The Color Purple
Distinguished Panel
Tuesday, February 7
Hall of Honors
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Color Purple
Wednesday, February 8
7:30 p.m.
Center for Performing Arts

GSU Library
Hours for 2012
Mon. thru Thu.: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Lincoln’s Birthday
GSU Closed
Monday, February 13