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GSU View

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News and Events

Community Campaign a BIG Success

The success of the 2009 Campus Community Campaign was celebrated last week in the cafeteria with popcorn, prizes, and lots of well-deserved thanks to both contributors and CCC volunteers. The grand total raised through the generosity of the GSU community in the 2009 Campus Community Campaign was \$72,511. Fifty percent of the campus community contributed.

Much of the credit for the success of the CCC goes to the hard work of the Campus Community Campaign volunteers. They include: Sonja Anderson, Gail Bradshaw, Keith Briggs, Lisa Carra, Kyusuk Chung, Judy Ferneau, Kevin Graves, Viola Gray, Sheryl Jones-Harper, Nicole Harrison, Mary Hession, Carolyn Machura, Nancy Miller, Margaret Neumann, Kevin O'Shea, Tracey Paynes, Sheree Sanderson, Scott Smith, Danella Soeka, and Karol Woodward. Each volunteer was recognized with a framed certificate.



Raffle prize winners are:

- Paula Levickas – Grand Prize, Designated parking spot in lot of winner's choosing for one year;
- Lillian Jung – 1st Prize, One year member to the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center, includes a GSU Spirit Pack;
- Donna Rutledge – 2nd Prize, Overnight hotel accommodations at the Matteson Holiday Inn; 2 tickets to The Millers at the CPA and dinner for two at Scrementi's;
- Kathleen Miller – 3rd Prize, Overnight hotel accommodations at the Empress Casino in Joliet and a certificate for two to the buffet;
- Gail Bradshaw – Guest passes for two at the East Bank Club and a \$50 gift card to Maxwell's;
- Sharon Browne – Cooper's Hawk wine tasting for ten;
- Donna Finn – 2 tickets to Die Fledermaus at the CPA;
- Rashidah Muhammad – 2 tickets to Winter Dance Party at the CPA;
- Pat Thompson & Chuck Klaas – 2 tickets to Hubbard Street at the CPA;
- Prisca Collins - 2 tickets to 100 Years of Broadway at the CPA; and
- Deb Bordelon and Gladys Turner - 2 tickets to Glenn Miller at the CPA.

Semester Explanation Resources Available

Beginning in Fall 2010, GSU will operate on a new semester-based academic calendar. Members of the surrounding community may be interested in additional information about how the new academic calendar will affect their partnerships with GSU.

- Off campus partners, such as internship sites and practicum supervisors, may need information about and explanation of possible adjustments to their work with GSU students.
- Understanding the new GSU academic calendar may also impact the ways that community college faculty and staff advise their students who are planning to transfer to GSU.
- Community members who participate in programs and events presented or hosted by GSU may also be interested in understanding the new calendar.



It is critical for GSU personnel to work with their off-site partners, community college colleagues, and other community members toward understanding the characteristics and impact of the new semester-based calendar. To assist GSU personnel, templates of letters explaining the semester calendar are available on the new semester website. These letters may be adapted to meet the requirements of specific programs, partnerships, and purposes.

To view the letter templates or for more information about the [new semester calendar](http://www.govst.edu/semesters), visit www.govst.edu/semesters. This website also includes a FAQ with answers to questions about the change and the academic calendars for the next three years. Specific questions about the change can also be submitted via this site.

Wanted - Commencement Volunteers

GSU staff, faculty, and students are needed to help make commencement a very special time for GSU graduates, their families, and friends.

The 2010 Winter Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 6, at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center.

Volunteers are needed for setup, to answer questions, provide directions, to assist with coat check, to assist with robing faculty and students, and to assist with guest entry and seating. Volunteers play such an important role in making commencement a most memorable experience for our students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Please consider assisting with this very important university event. Contact [Pulchratia Kinney-Smith](mailto:Pulchratia.Kinney-Smith@gsu.edu) at ext. 7466 by Wednesday, January 27.

All commencement volunteers and employees working the event are asked to attend an orientation on Tuesday, February 2, at 10 a.m., in the Center for Performing Arts on the Mezzanine Level.

On Their Toes



The Center for Performing Arts is offering a special buy one ticket, get one free ticket offer for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, on Saturday, January 23, at 8 p.m. Tickets are limited for this exuberant, athletic performance by a renowned dance company.

The offer begins on Friday, January 22, at 10 a.m., and ends on Saturday, January 23, at 7 p.m. Call ext. 2222 or visit the CPA box office.

Docents Learn and Lead

Volunteer docents at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park help visitors to the park understand its 26 pieces of art, and the meaning and motivations behind the art and the artist. Training for the 2010 class of docents begins February 4. Volunteers interested in learning about art and sharing their knowledge are encouraged to join.



“Docents lead tours, host programs and receptions, and act as ambassadors of the park,” explained Geoff Bates, director and curator of the park. “This is a great way to get involved, to learn about contemporary sculpture, and meet lots of interesting people.”

Docent orientation consists of seven evening sessions spread over a 12-week period and a morning tour of the sculpture park. Session topics include park history, an introduction to the history of sculpture, presentations on each piece in the collection, and pointers on how to conduct tours of the sculpture park.

Docent training sessions are conducted on Thursdays, beginning February 4 and continuing through April 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The final session is a tour of the park on Saturday, April 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Light refreshments and materials are provided. Advance registration and a \$30 fee are required.

For more information on the park docent program and other volunteer opportunities, call ext. 4486, [email the park](#), or visit the [NMSP website](#).

Nothing But Net!

Student Life is sponsoring a student trip to the Chicago Bulls vs. Miami Heat game, on Saturday, February 6, at 7 p.m. To ensure equitable distribution of the available tickets, Student Life is sponsoring a raffle. Students are eligible to win two tickets. Raffle winners also receive transportation via charter bus to and from the game (space is limited), and a mini Chicago Bulls poster.

To enter the raffle, submit an email entry to gsudsil@hotmail.com. The subject line of the email should read *Let's Go Bulls!* Include your name, address, telephone number, and Student I.D. Number. All entries must be received by Thursday, January 28, by 11 p.m.

The drawing will occur on Friday, January 29, at noon. Winners will be notified via email the day of the drawing.

DFI Graduate Student Scholarships

The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Program Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recently announced the release of the 2010-2011 application for the DFI Fellowship Program. The DFI program provides competitive need-based financial awards to underrepresented students in graduate degree programs in participating Illinois higher education institutions. Program funding for the 2010-2011 academic year (FY2011) is contingent on the availability of funds appropriated by the Governor and Illinois General Assembly.

Completed application materials must be submitted to [Dean Sherilyn Poole](#) in C1330 on or before February 19, at 5 p.m. For more information and application forms, visit www.ibhe.org/DFI/application.htm.

Social Work Students Research Community Preparedness

GSU Social Work students were recognized recently for their participation in *The Maturing of Illinois*, a community preparedness report assessing local readiness for the aging of the baby boomer generation. Thirteen communities throughout Illinois were surveyed in the report.



Students conducted the research as part of Dr. Lorri Glass's Social Work 530–Urban Dynamics class in Winter 2009. Dr. Glass, Assistant Professor of Social Work, and her 27 students collected data for AgeOptions, the suburban Cook County agency on aging. The report was prepared in partnership with Bloom Township and Chicago Heights, where students polled older adults to determine whether the city is currently meeting their needs and whether it is on track to provide future services to a growing senior population.

“Dr. Glass and her students went above and beyond the initial assessment questions to evaluate how community characteristics could impact the quality of life of older residents,” said Rebecca Burgstahler, Planning Specialist with AgeOptions. “Their feedback and observations demonstrated an understanding of the changing needs of residents as they age.”

Dr. Glass attended AgeOptions' annual volunteer recognition luncheon in November, where agency officials noted her students' contributions. Dr. Glass's students conducted the ethnographic research and observation portion of the study, which was more qualitative in nature. Students also broke up into teams to observe and analyze programs and services, including transportation, public safety, shopping, parks and recreation, and a host of other factors related to quality-of-life issues for older adults.

In Winter 2010, students in Dr. Glass's Social Work 320 class will conduct census work for AgeOptions and the Urban Dynamics class will do a community needs assessment of GSU's Family Development Center.

Celebration of Life for David Drechsel

The GSU community is invited to celebrate the life of Dave Drechsel on Monday, January 25, at 1 p.m. in the Hall of Honors.

Human Resources is seeking pictures of Dave for a video photomontage. Please email photos to [Loretta Jones](#) or drop them off at the Office of Human Resources by January 22. Please label photographs with your name. All photographs will be returned.

Time-Saving Strategies: Organizing Online Content

Learn how to better use Blackboard CE-8 during an important, timesaving workshop. Instead of making additional copies of the course syllabus, lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, and other content materials, educators can make them available to students online through Blackboard CE-8.

The Center for Online Teaching and Learning is offering *Time-Saving Strategies to Organize Online Content*. This hands-on workshop will discuss best formats to save, publish, and organize materials online for students.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, January 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., in D2438 in the ACS lab. To register for this workshop, contact [Barb Mandel](#).

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