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News and Events

GSU - KCC Signing Event

In an important step toward the future of education, Governors State University joined forces with Kankakee Community College on Wednesday when the presidents of each institution signed a dual admissions agreement.

“If the nation is to compete, we know we must move the needle on the percentage of students who achieve bachelor’s degrees,” President Maimon commented, at the recent signing ceremony at KCC. “What has been done before to help them has not worked. This program has the potential to serve as an example to the nation.”



The KCC-GSU dual admissions agreement guarantees that participating KCC students, after earning their associate’s degree in two years, will be able to complete their bachelor’s degrees at GSU with some significant benefits. Their GSU tuition will be fixed at the rate in effect when they began their freshman studies at KCC. They will also be eligible to compete for the debt-free education offered provided by the GSU Promise and receive the guidance and services of both institutions

during their studies.

Dr. Maimon noted the disappointing record of bachelor’s degree completion at both the university and community college level. “Only 10 percent of students who begin at community college with hopes of achieving a bachelor’s degree have done so after six years of study.” The numbers are even lower among minority students.

“The Obama administration has targeted community college and baccalaureate degree completion as a national priority,” said Maimon. The dual admission initiative also supports the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Public Agenda and Complete College America coalition, she added. “Dual admission will motivate students and encourage them to aim high by deciding to pursue a bachelor’s degree at the start of their college career.”

Dr. John Avendano, President of KCC, lauded the agreement noting that the majority of the transfer students leaving KCC attend GSU.

Joining Presidents Maimon and Avendano were Jack Beaupre, GSU Board of Trustees vice chair, and Richard J. Frey, KCC board trustee.

On April 30, President Maimon will host a summit of the presidents of the community colleges from Chicago and the south suburbs at GSU. The focus of the meeting will be initiatives such as dual admissions agreements that respond to the growing need to more effectively serve community college transfer students in their quest for higher education.

Spring Commencement Student Speaker Sought

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the winter commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 12. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to nominate a deserving individual to give the student commencement address. Students may nominate themselves.

To nominate a student, complete the [Commencement Faculty-Staff Recommendation Nomination](#) form. Nominated students should submit the [Commencement Student Nomination](#) form. All forms should be submitted to [Vanessa Newby](#) (room A2104) no later than Thursday, April 22. Applicants must be willing to meet for an interview on Friday, May 14, between noon and 5 p.m.

Table Tennis Team Triumphs

In its first appearance in the NCTTA national championship competition, the GSU women's table tennis team made its presence known both on and off the court. Among the 14 women's teams in the competition, GSU had the lowest skill rating at the beginning of the competition, but that rating did not indicate how well the team would perform.

In the consolation round of matches, the GSU women's team beat 11th ranked Drexel University in intense singles and doubles competition. Coach T.J. Wang and his players followed a strategy that accented their strengths and disrupted the opposing team's confidence. While the GSU women had never played doubles table tennis, they rose to the occasion, ultimately beating Drexel three games to two. As one observer noted, the cheers of joy and excitement from the GSU women filled gymnasium where the competitions were held.



When not competing themselves, GSU team members served as volunteers assisting the NCTTA wherever they were needed.

"I am very proud of what our women players have achieved at the 2010 NCTTA Championships," said Dr. Wang. "Their conduct and services have been commended by the NCTTA President as being leaders and role models to students from other schools. As the coach of our women players, I am very proud of their courage, spirit, self-discipline, and remarkable representation for the University."

Crafty Devils at Work

The Civil Service Senate is Hosting a Spring Open Market on Thursday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Hall of Governors will be filled with more than 25 vendors. Shoppers are encouraged to pick up a gift for Mother's Day or graduation. Spending your tax refund on yourself is OK, too.

Trustees and Students Exchange Ideas

More than 80 students joined President Maimon and all six GSU trustees Tuesday evening for a frank and open discussion of university issues. The event, planned with the help of the Student Senate, was a GSU first, providing students with the opportunity to talk directly with the Trustees. Several students remarked that they had never heard of such a gathering at their previous institutions.

Carmin Garnica, President of the Student Senate, organized the evening's agenda, which included several discussion points and plenty of time for audience participation. Garnica and Lorine Samuels, Chair of the Board of Trustees, acted as discussion moderators.

Students raised questions about commencement, tuition and fee increases, day vs. evening classes, and new doctorate programs, along with many other issues. Bryce Johnsen, GSU's student trustee, presented a compelling argument for a proposed \$2 per student increase in the Career and Counseling fee. He explained how he, along with many other students, is entering a tight job market, underscoring the need for more services to help these students find jobs – services that will be supported by the proposed fee increase.

Students, administrators, and trustees were in agreement about the value of such a discussion and expressed appreciation to the others for participating. Trustee Samuels ended the evening by thanking everyone for sharing their concerns, opinions, and suggestions.

Celebrate Earth Day at GSU

Earth Day at GSU will be celebrated with music, stories, informative exhibitions, and great food served on eco-friendly products. On April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the campus will be a hub of Earth Day celebration.

Live folk music will fill the air. The cafeteria will offer a special Earth Day menu served on compostable products. Exhibits include demonstrations of GSU's wind turbine, composting, and alternate fuel vehicles including the hydrogen bus from Bloom Township High School. Also on display will be eco-friendly products such as rain barrels, garden stakes, and children's art exhibit. Information on the uses of manure and herb gardening will also be available. The GSU Biology Club will display the unusual collection of garbage cleaned from one small section of Thorn Creek that runs through the grounds of the university. There will also be stations for recycling batteries and pharmaceuticals.

A tour of Natural History of GSU, which will take participants to the GSU biology field station, begins at 11:30 a.m. A tour of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park begins at 1 p.m. Storytelling will be at 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the GSU Sustainability Committee. All the events and demonstrations are free and open to the public. For more information, contact [John Yunger](#) at ext. 4524.

GSU Students Again at Argonne

GSU computer science students will attempt to bring America closer to energy independence when they return to Argonne National Laboratory this summer.

Two teams of computer science students will engage in computer modeling and simulation during the 10-week program at Argonne, the U.S. Department of Energy's giant laboratory near Lemont. Students will participate in Argonne's search for efficient, practical fuel cells that can be used someday to propel American automobiles.



"They are helping create the car of the future," said Dr. Xueqing (Clare) Tang, associate professor of computer science. Dr. Tang and Dr. Soon-Ok Park, professor of computer science, will supervise the two teams of students.

GSU faculty and students have participated for five years in the Argonne project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. In past years, five or six undergraduate computer students have worked each summer with Argonne scientists on research projects dealing with groundwater contamination and combating West Nile Virus.

Students this summer will work on the fuel cell project for the second straight year.

Under the NSF grant, students live at Argonne for the summer, and are paid to participate in the program. Students must come from underrepresented groups. At the end of the summer, each student presents a research paper.

Working each summer with world-class scientists can be daunting, Dr. Tang said. “DOE and NSF expect us to deliver on what we promise,” she said. “We have to contribute to Argonne’s research. That means our students have to show that they are capable. We sometimes have to remind them that they are good enough to be part of this research. But they always meet the challenge.”

Dr. Mary Carrington will lead a team of GSU biology students at Argonne this summer.

GSU maintains a relationship with Argonne throughout the year, Dr. Tang said. An Argonne scientist delivers a Distinguished Lecture every year at GSU. Also, students in Dr. Tang’s Computer Science Research class participate electronically in on-going projects at Argonne.

Perfectly Imperfect

Governors State University will welcome Lee Woodruff to campus on Wednesday, April 21. The free discussion is open to the public and will take place from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., in Sherman Hall.

Woodruff will discuss her intriguing life as an author, PR exec, Good Morning America contributor, wife of ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff, and founder of Remind.org.

She will also sign copies of her newest book *Perfectly Imperfect: A Life in Progress* before and after the discussion. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the GSU bookstore. She wrote her previous book, *In an Instant*, with her husband Bob Woodruff, after he was critically injured while covering the war in Iraq for ABC news.

For additional information, contact [Robbie O’Shea](#) at 708.235.3994.

Occupational Therapy Information

Learn about entry level Master of Occupational Therapy and the post professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy programs offered at GSU at an information session on Saturday, April 24, in room G127. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. The program is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Attendees are encouraged to bring transcripts for preliminary advisement. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call 708.534.7293, or email [Mary Tracy](#).

Student - Faculty Symposium

The Title V Latino Center for Excellence is sponsoring a free symposium for students, faculty, and staff from across the region on May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at GSU. The symposium will address the issues and concerns facing Latino and other students from diverse backgrounds in higher education.

The goal of the symposium is to increase awareness of the social, economic, and cultural barriers that negatively impact student success in higher education. Increased understanding will lead to more effective teaching and academic advising at both the community college and university levels.

The keynote speakers, Dr. Christina Gomez and Dr. Frank D. Sanchez, are experts in issues surrounding access to education and equitable and fair education practices.

In addition to the keynote speakers, GSU faculty members, trained in best practices for providing equitable educational opportunities within the classroom, will share their discoveries and observations in breakout sessions.

This event is sponsored by Title V Cooperative Grant with Morton College, the Latino Center for Excellence, Student Affairs, and the GSU Faculty Development Committee.

For more information, contact [Monica Teixeira](#) at ext. 7609 or visit the [symposium website](#).

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