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News and Events

[IRiS Advisory Group Hears Team Progress](#)

In a session last Wednesday in the Hall of Honors, the IRIS Project Campus Wide Advisory Group met for the first time.

After an introduction to the IRIS Project website from Executive Director Sandi Gieson, team leaders gave the Advisory Group updates on progress in the implementation process: Christine Radtke – Advancement, Linda Buyer – Data Standards, Yakeea Daniels – Student Teams, Karen Kissel – Finance, Greg Kain – Portal, and Gail Bradshaw – Human Resources.



It was clear from the reports that the IRIS Project has been keeping the teams busy. The Advancement Team recently had four days of training, followed by homework. Data Standards meets once a week for two hours preparing existing data for the move to the Colleague software; team member are also deciding on field codes for Colleague. Two Student Teams have completed their first three-day training sessions.

The Finance Team is near finalizing the general ledger accounts for Colleague. After several training and consulting sessions, the Portal Teams have the new GSU portal up and running in a testing environment. Human Resources, slated as the first team to “go live” in January, 2011, has critical deadlines this week.

Campus Wide Advisory Group leaders, Drs. Beth Cada and Jim Howley, said they were pleased by the teams’ progress and are looking forward to live simulations and testing.

[FDC Parent University](#)

While parenting does not come with a handbook, there is help for parents facing the often-perplexing questions about what is best for their children. The Family Development Center at GSU is sponsoring Parent University, a series of free presentations designed to give parents the information and insight they need to address the issues, questions, and problems that come with raising children.

Parent University begins on Monday, October 3, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Dr. Cyrus Ellis, Associate Professor of Counseling at GSU, will present *Raising African American Boys to Men; A workshop for fathers*.

Dr. Jon Carlson, Professor of Counseling, will present *Helping Your Child to Develop Self- Discipline* on Wednesday, October 13, from 5 to 7 pm.

More guidance for parents comes from Dr. Shannon Dermer, associate professor and chair of the Division of Psychology and Counseling, on Wednesday October 27, from 5 to 7:30 pm. She will discuss *Winning the*

Whining War.

Each month through May 2011, Parent University will continue with presentations by experts designed to provide parents with valuable information and tools. Parent University at GSU is made possible by an award from the U.S. Department of Education.

All presentations are free and open to the public. They are held at the Family Development Center. For more information, [visit the FDC website](#).

Forensics/Debate Comes to GSU

GSU's newly formed Forensics/Debate Team is preparing for its first competitive tournament next month.

"We're starting out slow," said faculty sponsor Arness Krause, Adjunct Professor of Communications Studies. "We are taking small bites out of the apple. But we have some talented, experienced team members and expect to be ready for completion in October."

Forensics refers to speech and debate that must be able to pass a legal litmus test, Krause said. For that reason, intercollegiate forensics is often confused with the crime-solving techniques on TV shows like "CSI." As a different type of forensics, those law enforcement practices must also withstand legal scrutiny, she said.

During forensics competition, students present several types of oral interpretation – persuasive speech, humorous and dramatic readings, poetry, and samples of their own writing. Forensics is new to GSU but teams at Prairie State College, Joliet Junior College, Moraine Valley Community College, and other schools have been competing for years, Krause said.

"Experienced forensics students were transferring to GSU from their community colleges, but there was no team," she said. "I talked to them and found out they were very interested in starting a GSU forensics team."

This fall, Krause announced the formation of the forensics team and was heartened by the response. Fifteen students came to the first meeting, with eight forming the core of the team.

"We already have some heavy-hitters who progressed to national competition on the community college level," she said.

Krause also believes the forensics team offers a prime opportunity to connect with community college students who might transfer to GSU. Forensics workshops at Prairie State and JJC are already in the works.

In coming weeks, team members will be practicing for the tournament circuit, which begins October 10 at Moraine. The tournament season lasts through April.

Students interested in joining the Forensics/Debate Team can contact [Arness Krause](#).

Hispanic Heritage Fact - Federico Peña

Federico Peña was the highest-ranking Hispanic member of President Bill Clinton's administration. He worked to improve aircraft safety as Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997. Peña was Secretary of Energy from 1997 to 1998. In that position, he also focused on improving energy research and supporting school access to the Internet.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, Student Life is providing little-known facts about the contributions of Hispanics in the United States.

Taste of Jamaica

The College of Arts and Sciences is sponsoring a presentation by Ann Marie Webster, former educator in Jamaica. Learn how culture, food, and history are connected. Taste three traditional Jamaican dishes, and view *Life and Debt*, a documentary film on the impact of the IMF, the World Bank, and current globalization policies in Jamaica.

Experience the culture and history of the Caribbean on October 5, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., in E Lounge.

This event is sponsored by a grant from the GSU Intellectual Life Committee. For more information, contact [Dr. Elizabeth Johnson](#) at ext. 7531.

Last Farmers Market of the Season

Thursday is the last day of the GSU Farmers Market. The market is now located just west of the main entrance. Hours are 1 to 6 p.m.

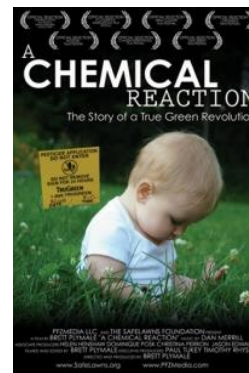
The GSU Farmers Market has fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, fresh-baked breads, delectable desserts, and yummy pizza, as well as natural products, jewelry, and crafts.

Green Lawns – Safe Earth

Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution will be presented Saturday, October 2, at 1 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The film explores how the elimination of lawn pesticides transformed one Canadian community and impacted the chemical lawn care industry in North America.

The film is sponsored by GSU, the Park Forest Environmental Commission, and the Thorn Creek Audubon Society. GSU students with a university ID can attend the screening for free. A \$10 donation from other viewers is requested.

A panel discussion on natural lawn care will follow the film screening.



GMAT Prep at GSU

CBPA is offering a GMAT preparation course. The non-credit course prepares students who plan to take the GMAT, an admission requirement for many graduate programs.

The GMAT Prep Series concentrates on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GMAT. Topics to be reviewed include data sufficiency, ratios and proportions, word problems, fractions, and percentages, as well as reading comprehension, critical reasoning, sentence correction, and analytical writing.

This series will be offered on Saturdays, October 9, 16, 23, and 30, and November 6 and 13, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in room B2202. The cost of the six sessions is \$300.

Registration and payment is required before the first class. For more information or to register, contact the CBPA Advising Office at 708.534.4391 or BPA-INFO@govst.edu.

The End of Summer?



Although the Pierre photo contest is officially over, he is not yet ready to put an end to his adventures.

After almost getting eaten by Susan and Bob Rakstang's pooch Tony, our fine feathered friend got off to a better start with Karen D'Arcy's dog Lillie.



Pierre also made friends with a giant orange moose at a Michigan truck stop while travelling with Lindsay Gladstone.



Provost Terry Allison caught Pierre napping in the Pasadena Botanical Gardens. I can't think of a better way to end the day.



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