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University Newsletters

3-29-2012

GSU View, 2012-03-29

Office of Marketing and Communications

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2012, March 29). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/> 448

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News and Events

Toward Innovation and Creativity in General Education

How should GSU provide the best learning to students during general education? What topics are most appealing to new GSU students? What should every student at GSU be able to do?

About 115 faculty and staff tackled those questions, and related topics, during Tuesday's "Innovation and Creativity in General Education," a participatory workshop that is likely to provide important ideas for first- and second-year programs as GSU prepares for freshman students in Fall, 2014.

Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, offered valuable guidance in her keynote address. Students attend college for varied reasons, she said, but colleges and universities should never underestimate their vital role in our democracy. "General education was established in the 20th Century to give people what they need to know as citizens," she said.



AAC&U initiated Liberal Education and America's Promise – LEAP – in 2005 as a response to increased pressures in the U.S. and around the world. LEAP sets four essential learning outcomes: knowledge of human cultures and the physical and practical skills, intellectual and practical skills, personal and social responsibility, and integrative and applied learning. Schneider said the fourth outcome – integration and application – is particularly suited as a response to 21st century demands; it covers "big picture thinking" that is essential in our rapidly changing world.

Schneider introduced the concept of high-impact educational practices that foster learning and completion. High-impact practices include first year seminars, common intellectual experiences, learning communities, writing intensive courses, collaborative assignments and projects, undergraduate research, diversity/global learning, service and community based learning, internships, and capstone courses and projects.

GSU needs to establish a purposeful and public spirited general education program, guided

by high quality aims and intended outcomes, and anchored in carefully sequenced high-impact practices, Schneider said. "It should be a curriculum that fosters civic capacities and also prepares students for the complexities of today's economy."

Today, Schneider said, colleges and universities aren't just facing economic pressures; they are also pressured by civic and global challenges. Employers, in particular, are "demanding more, much more. They want and seek many more college educated workers. They also seek much higher and broader levels of learning in those they employ, retain, and promote."

Download Schneider's [handout](#) and [PowerPoint](#) presentation.

Cabaret Weekend Ticket Special

2-for-1 tickets are on sale for Cabaret Weekend at the GSU Center for Performing Arts. Cabaret Weekend – on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – brings rock and jazz, country and pop, all performed up-close to an audience seated at onstage tables.

Interested persons must directly contact the CPA box office for the GSU discount. Current GSU ID required. 2-for-1 tickets can only be used for same show.

Singer-songwriter Susan Werner performs Friday, March 30, at 8 p.m. Werner slides effortlessly between folk, jazz, and pop.

Willie Fortune as Willie Nelson comes to the GSU Center on Saturday, March 31, at 8 p.m. Willie Fortune developed the "Willie and Friends Show" with the permission, blessing, encouragement, and endorsement of Willie Nelson.

Dennis Florine performs on Sunday, April 1, at 4 p.m. Pumping passion into every beat, Florine's percussive acoustics are inspiring fans throughout the United States.

Cabaret Weekend shows offer a cash bar throughout the performances.

To purchase tickets or for further information, visit www.centertickets.net, or call the GSU Center Box Office at 708.235.2222.

An Immortal Life Discussed



David "Sonny" Lacks Tuesday shared his mother's story with an audience of students, faculty, staff, and community members. Lacks was accompanied by his daughter, Kim.

Dr. Judy Berglund, assistant professor of social work at GSU, moderated the discussion of the bestselling book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*,

which details how Lacks' mother's cells were used without her permission for medical research, and the family's discovery of the facts years later.

This event was sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee, the College of Health and Human Services, and the College of Education.

Alcohol Awareness

Identifying the facts, realizing the risks, and determining your limits are all important in understanding the effects of alcohol. Learn what you need know at the Alcohol Awareness Information Session, on Thursday, April 5, 5 to 6 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex

This event is free, open to the public, and sponsored by the Academic Resource Center in conjunction with National Alcohol Awareness Week.

GSU Offers Home Inspection Course

GSU is offering a home inspector certification course on May 11, 12, and 13, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The course provides the tools needed to successfully start a home inspection business and is open to those seeking both a part and full-time career opportunities. Studies show that full-time certified home inspectors earn approximately \$50,000 per year.

GSU's Office of Continuing Education has partnered with the American Home Inspection Training Institute (AHIT), the industry leader, to offer a comprehensive home inspection course. Students will accompany the instructor to five local homes to conduct actual hands-on inspections. The course includes training on structure, interiors, exteriors, plumbing, electrical, roofs, heating and cooling, and report writing. Students will also receive expert guidance in how to develop and market a business.

The course fee is \$1,795, which includes all materials. Registration must be completed by April 13 and is available by calling 877.838.0959. Further information is available at www.ahit.com/affiliates/govst or by calling 708.534.4099.

Intellectual Life Grant Deadline Nears

Intellectual Life Grants will be awarded for up to \$500 for events taking place between August 20 and December 1 that promote and increase awareness of the arts, humanities, and other intellectual topics of universal interest. Possible events might include lecture series, faculty research salons, workshops, panel discussions, film screenings, exhibits, presentations in local communities, and field trips.

Submissions are due April 6. Please download and fill out the [grant form](#) and return it via email to lruetten@govst.edu. Award winners will be notified by April 20.

Scholarship spotlight – Monica Clanton



Monica Clanton of Park Forest received the Great Lakes Bank Endowed Scholarship. She is an undergraduate student in the College of Health and Human Services' social work program.

As a licensed social worker, Monica intends to make an impact on her community through the administration and implementation of services and programs that help those in need.

Substitute Teacher Academy 2012

GSU is sponsoring a daylong Substitute Teacher Academy with Resources on April 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Many school districts are in need of qualified substitute teachers. This workshop will help experienced and new substitutes increase their knowledge and skills.

The academy will teach substitute teachers what to expect in the classroom, what to do in an emergency, how to maintain classroom control, and how to follow the teacher's lesson plans. It will also provide ideas and activities for both new and experienced subs that can be adapted and used in any school and any grade.

Participants must have a bachelor's degree. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch and all materials. Seating is limited to 40 registrants. Advance registration is required.

Call 708.534.4024. Registration deadline is April 6.

Navigating Our Colliding Worlds

The GSU Honors Program is hosting *Navigating Our Colliding Worlds*, a lecture series featuring presentations by Anna Carvalho, Alex Kotlowitz, and Dr. Charles Payne.

The lecture series begins with a presentation by author Alex Kotlowitz, *Making Sense of the Madness: Reflections from Twenty Years of Reporting on Urban Violence*, on April 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

Kotlowitz is best known for his bestselling book, "There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America," selected by the New York Public Library as one of the 150 most important books of the century. Most recently, he co-produced the film "The Interrupters," a documentary on urban violence. Kotlowitz also contributes to The New York

Times Magazine, The New Yorker, and public radio's "This American Life."

The lecture series continues with *Urban School Reform: the State of the Debate*, a lecture by Dr. Charles Payne, on Wednesday, April 18, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

The series concludes with *Riding the Cultural Revolution: Lessons From Chicago's Southland*. Anna Carvalho will discuss the unexpected observations and benefits found in embracing differences in on Wednesday, April 25, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

The Honors Program lectures are free and open to the public.

Power of Mindfulness

Research shows that mindfulness practices lead to greater calmness of mind, enhanced concentration, reduced stress, strengthened immune functions, and decreased anxiety and depression.

Learn more about the power of mindfulness at *Mindfulness in Education and Other Settings*, a free symposium at GSU, on Friday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The symposium includes panel discussions, presentations, workshops, and exercises. Seven CEUs are available for psychologists, counselors, and social work professionals.

Meals are not included. Registration is required. Contact [Maristela Zell](#) at 708.235.2235.

