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4-18-2013

GSU View, 2013-04-18

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2013, April 18). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/638>

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News and Events

Nominate 2013 Student Commencement Speakers

GSU's Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 8.

Two ceremonies will take place at the Tinley Park Convention Center. CHHS and COE will graduate at 10 a.m., and CAS and CBPA will graduate at 5 p.m. As a result, the committee will select two commencement speakers, one for the morning and the other for the evening ceremony.

Candidates are needed to represent all colleges, so please make a conscious effort to nominate deserving students for this prestigious honor.

Access the Student Commencement Speaker [nomination form](#) and fill out both pages of the nomination form no later than April 24.

In order for students to be eligible they must be willing to meet for an interview on Friday, May 3, between 10 p.m. and 3 p.m. Please be sure to share the information with your nominee before you submit the nomination.

Transformations at the CPA



Enjoy the unique opportunity to be part the revival of GSU's newly reinstated theater program with the production of Anne Sexton's *Transformations* on April 24 and 25, at 8 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts.

Directed by GSU's Dr. Patrick Santoro, *Transformations* is a re-telling of Grimm's fairy tales in the renowned author's deliciously strange voice. The play features a cast of staff and students from GSU.

Cast members are Cherish Brown, of Chicago; Lynne Clayton, of Park Forest; Keisha Dyson, of Chicago; Kimberly Hudson, of Park Forest; Keyana Marshall, of Chicago; Roshaunda Ross-Orta, of Homewood; and Deirdre Webb, of Richton Park.

Tickets are only \$10 and patrons will be seated "in the round" on the stage, with performers up close.

To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact GSU Center's box office at CenterTickets.net or call 708.235.2222. The box office is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and two hours prior to performances.

Overcoming Violence for Peace

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez is the keynote speaker at *Overcoming Violence for Peace: Community*

Forum, on Thursday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Alvarez will discuss *Successful Youth Diversion Programs and Current Successful Strategies*.

The event will include discussions led by Dr. Christopher Easley, Associate Professor of Management, and Teal Hardiman, CEO of Cure Violence (formerly Ceasefire) on coping with and deterring violence.



Cook County State's
Attorney Anita Alvarez

This event is sponsored by Area P District 6450 Rotary Clubs and GSU Students for Peace and part of *Enough is Enough*. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 708.925.4227.

Graduate Student Reception - Cancelled

The Graduate Student Reception scheduled for April 25 has been cancelled.

Psychology and Counseling Well Represented

GSU will be well represented at the upcoming 85th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, in May. The Division of Psychology and Counseling is sponsoring a booth in the Exhibition Hall and a number of students and faculty will be in attendance, volunteering, and presenting.

Student Carrie Bregar will be presenting in the Psi Chi poster session on her independent undergraduate research project, "Parenting Styles and Acceptance of Homosexual Identity." Psychology faculty members Dr. Al Tuskenis, Dr. Tim Pedigo, and Dr. Jean Johnson will present results from their research on APA Learning Goal 9: Teaching and Assessing Personal Development." Also, Dr. Johnson will chair a roundtable on Reducing Academic Dishonesty in Psychology Courses.

Alicia McCray Honored by the Village of Park Forest

Alicia McCray, Director of the Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education at GSU, was recently inducted into the

Village of Park Forest Hall of Fame.

McCray was honored for her years of service to both the village and to the region. According to the nomination, “She has made significant contributions to our community with regard to education, housing, health, and the arts.... Alicia feels most passionate about issues of race, women, affordable housing, and education. She has consistently given her time and energy to make a difference with respect to these issues.”



Alicia McCray of MILE and Congresswoman Robin Kelly

In her 40 years in the region, McCray has served on the Mediation Task Force; the South Suburban Housing Center board; as commissioner and vice chair of the Housing Authority of Cook County; the Friends of the Park Forest Health Department board; Cable Commission member Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra board and board president; Village of Park Forest trustee; board member of the South Suburban YWCA Advisory Board and the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, and currently serves on the YWCA national board. She is also president of the District 162 School Board and vice president of the Southland College Preparatory High School board.

Celebrating the honor with McCray were her family and friends including Congresswoman Robin Kelly, a longtime friend.

Secret Success Tips from GS2U

Students – college is a major commitment, and your academic advisors, faculty and peers want you to get the best from your education.

If you want to learn a few tips on academic success, come to GS2U’s workshop on Secret Success Tips from GSU faculty, advisors, and students, on April 24, from 5:30 pm to 7 p.m. in E-Lounge. You will learn about academic etiquette, effective communication with professors, classroom participation, and when to seek assistance and how.

For further information and to see future workshops and register for this workshop, go to www.govst.edu/g2u.

Donate Blood – Save Lives

Students, faculty, staff, and everyone else are encouraged to donate blood on

Thursday, April 25, from 3 to 7 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. The drive is sponsored by the Dual Degree Program and Heartland Blood Center. Volunteers in the DDP program will assist in passing out refreshments and registration information, as well as recruiting others to donate blood.

The event will be coordinated by DDP Peer Mentor and GSU student Sharita Walker with the assistance of other DDP mentors and students. Like all the activities in the DDP community service project, the April 25 blood drive addresses a vital need in the community. By giving blood, healthy individuals can donate the gift of life to others. The need is constant and donations are important for a healthy and reliable blood supply.

For questions about eligibility, or for other information, contact the Heartland Blood Center at www.heartlandbc.org or 708.633.0101.

Earth Week 2013 Encourages Sustainability

Next week, GSU is celebrating Earth Week 2013. The overall theme for Earth Week is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish, Restore. Everyone is invited to participate.



Monday, April 22

- Recycling display throughout the day in Hall of Governors
- Family Development Center environmental education activity, Hall of Governors from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Earth Day menu by FSI using compostable serving ware
- Cooperative presentation between Facilities and NMSP featuring native restoration at GSU, Hall of Honors, from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Tuesday, April 23

- Trash pickup, Environmental Research Preserve, 1 to 3 p.m. Volunteers meet at the south end of parking area, East Lot 2. Dress appropriately for weather.

Wednesday, April 24

- Tree planting, 10 to 11 a.m., Family Development Center

Thursday, April 25

- Book swap, Hall of Governors, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Bring in your used books and swap them out for others that are new to you. All books left at the end of the event will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

Home Inspection Certification at GSU

GSU is offering a home inspector certification course on May 31, and June 1 and 2, 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.

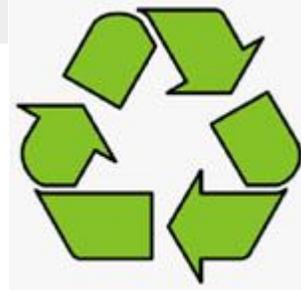
GSU's School of Extended Learning has partnered with the American Home Inspection Training Institute (AHIT), the industry leader, to offer a comprehensive home inspection course. Students will accompany the instructor to five local homes to conduct actual hands-on inspections. The course includes training 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. The registration deadline is May 3. Call 877.838.0959. Further information is available at www.ahit.com/affiliates/govst.

Recyclmania Championship Five-Peat

Once again, GSU shows its commitment to recycling and reducing waste by winning first place for the fifth time among all Illinois university competitors in the annual RecycleMania competition.

RecycleMania is a nationwide challenge for colleges and universities to increase awareness of waste reduction and recycling initiatives.



Competing in the Waste Minimization category, GSU once again placed first among Illinois schools in the competition and 36th out of 167 schools at the national level.

The university's efforts were measured by adding the weight of our recyclables to the weight of our trash and dividing that number by the number of students and employees of GSU.

Congratulations to the GSU community for remembering to recycle whenever possible. Keep up the good work!

Join the Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee



Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15 to October 15 and we need you to join the committee planning events. Please join us on April 22, at noon in the Student Commons Annex (A2134). Bring your ideas, and help plan events to celebrate the rich history and traditions of this vibrant culture.

For more information, contact [Vanessa Newby](mailto:Vanessa.Newby@gsu.edu) at 708.534.4551.

Join the LGBT History Month Planning Committee



October is LGBT History Month and planning is underway. Join us on Wednesday, April 24, at 3 p.m., in Room A2110. Help make this month of events informative, meaningful, and enjoyable for the entire GSU community. Attend the meeting and share your ideas.

For more information, contact [Vanessa Newby](#) at 708.534.4551.



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