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STEM Camps Designed for Summer Learning—and Fun

How do you get grade school and high school students to take a part of their summer vacation and spend it learning about science, technology, engineering, and math? Melinda Elliott, an Assessment Software Specialist in GSU’s Science Department, has the answer. It’s STEM Camp!

Now in its second summer, GSU’s STEM Camps for area middle and high school students has been an unqualified success. In its initial go-round in 2014, only 11 students in total came out for the camps. This year, with word-of-mouth and video evidence of last year’s fun clearly spreading the news, the camps were at capacity of 30 for both the high school and middle school camps.

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GSU’s Birthday Party

We had a great time celebrating GSU’s 46th birthday last week! We took a look back at how the campus has changed through the years on Facebook, and finished up our week-long celebration with a party, complete with two birthday cakes, in the Hall of Governors. This year promises to be a great one as the countdown begins for the big 5-0!
Professor is Keynote Speaker at IT Conference in Mexico

Dr. Carlos Ferran, an Associate Professor in Management Information Systems from the College of Business and Public Administration, was an invited Keynote Speaker at the XXIV National Congress of IT/IS School Administrators that took place in June at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City. More than 75 people, all Chairs and Deans of IT/IS Schools in Mexico, attended the conference.

Dr. Ferran’s Keynote speech was on Technology-Mediated Knowledge Transfer (online education). Other Keynote speakers were the Vice-President of Universidad Carlos III (Madrid, Spain) and the President of the Open Online University of Mexico. "This invitation not only demonstrates how GSU faculty is highly appreciated worldwide, but also opens new and exciting international opportunities for our community," Dr. Ferran said.

Dr. Ferran has taught and given academic lectures in English and Spanish at universities in Argentina, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, United States, and his home country of Venezuela.

Conference on Adverse Childhood Experience
The Southland Education and Health Initiative through a GSU Teacher Quality Partnership grant, is sponsoring a conference on Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). The one-day conference, "ACEs: An inter-professional approach to creating a trauma-informed environment in our schools," will be held Thursday, July 30, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Hall of Honors.

All who work with children from the education and healthcare communities are invited to attend. "This will be an informative and interactive day with opportunities for teams to work together to plan for implementing at least one principle that is designed specifically to address the consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences and to facilitate healing," GSU Professor Emerita Karen Peterson said.

The conference will introduce attendees to the research around ACEs, building resiliency, and how to build a trauma-informed school environment. Children who are suffering from trauma after exposure to ACEs often have a variety of issues that disrupt their learning and hamper their ability to develop the skills necessary for social and emotional development.

**BUZZ**

**Students—Are you Looking for Employment?**

Students, if you are looking for employment, the Office of Career Services is hosting a Student Employment Job Fair, Wednesday, August 26, from 3-6 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

For more information, contact Cynthia Staples in Career Services by August 19, or call 708.235.3974.

**Shrek the Musical at CPA**

Kids of all ages will enjoy "Shrek the Musical" at The Center for Performing Arts from July 24-26. The Crete-Monee Enrichment Program has been selected as the first high school theatre group to participate in GSU’s new Theatre & Performance Studies (T.A.P.S.) High School Theatre Collaborative and will be presenting the play. The mission of the collaborative is to partner with high school theatre groups in developing, educating, and inspiring young actors and technicians in their craft.

"Shrek the Musical" is based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, and is a TONY Award-winning fairytale adventure. It features all new songs and brings all the beloved characters from the film to life on stage. It’s irreverent fun for the whole family.

Performances are Friday, July 24 at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 25 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15; $10 for students.

**It’s that time of year again! Employee Picnic Fun!**
"Hot Fun in the Summertime" is the theme for this year's Employee Picnic, Friday August 7 from 11a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be a photo booth sponsored by Civil Service Senate, and two new Foodie Attractions: Arise, GSU's new food vendor, and Zarlengo’s Italian Ice. But get there early! Food will only be served until 2 p.m.

There will be an egg relay and bag team events, and a DJ who will have some games as well.

Be sure to wear bright, festive colors like lime green and yellow or your GSUJaguar apparel!

Don’t forget to print and sign your risk waiver and bring along with your tickets otherwise you will have to sign one that day.

More surprises to come!

**Bookstore Summer Clearance**

The GSU Bookstore is having a Summer Clearance Event. From June 29-July 26, take an additional 30 percent off already reduced items. The offer is not valid on food items, Starbucks products or graduation items and cannot be combined with any other offer.

**Summer Hours Ending July 31**

The last day of the Friday Summer Hours Program for employees will be Friday, July 31, 2015. Regular work hours will resume on August 3, 2015.
Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing July 24

Join the GSU Foundation for its Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing Friday, July 24, 2015 at the University Golf Club & Conference Center, 23520 Crawford Avenue. The day will feature 18 holes of golf, lunch, contests, and prizes. A dinner buffet and awards presentation will follow. Proceeds from the Scholarship Scramble will provide merit and financial need-based scholarship opportunities to deserving students in pursuit of bachelor's degrees. Call Angela Mehalek at 708.235.2832 for more information. Sponsorship and raffle opportunities are also available when you register.

Facebook Security Presentation

Facebook is a fun social media tool that can you connect to millions worldwide. You can find and be found by family members and childhood friends. In addition you can learn and join community events or help different world efforts. However, there are other considerations when using Facebook such as protecting your privacy and managing your friends. Come join us Monday, July 27 at 1:30 p.m. in D2401B and find out how you can protect yourself and still enjoy the fun of using a social media tool. GSU Librarian Jake Noodwang will demonstrate the security features of Facebook. You will also have a chance to chime in and be part of the open floor demonstration.

GSU Days at Great America

GSU Days at Great America are August 8 & 9. Discounted tickets are available to use on the designated days for entry into the park through the Cashiers’ Office for $30 per ticket. Purchase tickets to enjoy fun and excitement with your friends and family.

Ticket sales are on a first come, first served basis. Contact Student Life for additional information at 708-235-7653.

Call for Latino Heritage Month Programs

Friday, August 21 is the deadline to submit programs for Latino Heritage Month. Celebrated September 15-October 15, Latino Heritage Month recognizes the history, culture, and contributions of Latinos in our global society past, present, and future. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

Please submit your program, including title, description, program date, and type (lecture, service, social, visual arts, performing arts) online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LatinoHeritageMonth. For more information or questions, email diversity@govst.edu or call x4551.
SAVE THE DATE

Do You Conduct Research Involving Human Subjects?

The Office for Human Resource Protections will present a Research Community Forum: "Human Subjects Research: Current Challenges in the Modern Research World" at GSU Tuesday, July 28. Elizabeth Buchanan, Ph.D., Endowed Chair in Ethics and Director of the Center for Applied Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, will give the Keynote speech, "A New Internet Research Ethics Program." Additional information can be found at: http://www.ohrpjuly15.illinoisstate.edu/.

ADA Resource Fair July 29

GSU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with an Alternative Accommodations Resource Fair, Wed., July 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

Learn about the services and programs that local, regional, and state agencies provide for our special needs community. The fair will feature speakers, presentations, and other valuable information about the ADA.

The event is free, and everyone is welcome. Vendor tables are also free. For information and to reserve a vendor table, contact rsweeney@govst.edu, or 708.235.3968.

Creating a Culture of Employee Ownership

The School of Extended Learning will present a workshop called "Creating a Culture of Employee Ownership," Thursday, August 6, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The workshop will be presented by Phil Moeller, past president of Holland Company. The fee for the workshop is $150 and includes a copy of Moeller's book, "Employees Becoming Owners."

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Looking for a place to donate some of your new or gently used books, CD’s, DVD’s, and artwork? Look no more! The GSU Friends of the Library are planning for the next book sale on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25 and 26.

Bring items that you would like to donate to the Library during regular business hours. The Friends of the GSU Library table is on the library balcony. You can place your items for donation in one or more of the Green bags, and leave them on the table; and

1. Fill out the Donations/Gifts to GSU Library Form that is on the table. Please be sure to note whether you would like a letter of acknowledgement.
2. Place the Donations/Gifts to GSU Library form in one of the books where it can be found.

If you have any questions, please send them to friendsofgsulibrary@gmail.com.

Facebook Posts of the Week

Response to our post wishing GSU a Happy 46th Birthday:
Nikki Daily Graduating from GSU class of 2013 whoot whoot! was great! My fondest memory is working the graduation for the past 2 years since my own. Being apart of celebrating the hard work of my fellow alums dedication & perseverance to the completion of a goal is an honor to me! The Pomp and Circumstances March always, always makes me tear up. I love it! Gives me chills.

Felicia Ames My memory is a new one as my daughter is a brand new Jaguar! Spending the day Tuesday at orientation was wonderful! Can't wait for many more exciting memories in Jaguar Nation!

The Village of Matteson Last year's ribbon cutting ceremony for Prairie Place was a great day for the south suburbs and a great memory for GSU! The Village of Matteson was proud to be a part of the celebration that day!

Natalie Rende Helberg Happy Birthday GSU! This is wonderful school and I have loved my time there. I hope to be starting my MA there soon as well. I'm at work today otherwise I be there with bells on! Have a fabulous celebration GSU!
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July 20, 2015

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NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, “The Big Read is a powerful example of how the arts can bring
communities together and help us to connect with one another. These 75 organizations, including Governors State University and participating partner libraries and schools, are creating valuable opportunities for their communities to share wonderful stories and characters and to have meaningful conversations.”

The Big Read provides communities nationwide with the opportunity to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 37 selections from U.S. and world literature. The 75 selected organizations will receive Big Read grants to promote and carry out community-based reading programs. The NEA has also developed high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including reader’s guides, teacher’s guides, and audio programming, all of which are available to the public on neabigread.org.

Project partners and participants will include the GSU Library, GSU Visual Arts Gallery, GSU Center for Performing Arts, The Knowledge Exchange at GSU, Crete Public Library, Manteno Public Library, Peotone Public Library, Richton Park Public Library, Steger/South Chicago Heights Library District, University Park Public Library, and the Michelle Obama School for the Arts. The initiative is being managed by Arts Midwest, which connects the arts to audiences throughout a nine-state region.

The Latest On Twitter

A #Biology major from St. Rita High School. #KnowYourJaguars

#GSUJaguars #NAIA #Basketball https://t.co/LtfxD3AVzz
November 24, 2015

https://t.co/vVCcIBJ7xd
November 24, 2015

Charles Nolley posted "App test" to the "Test ERT Group" group. Check it out:
https://t.co/68rUkXISiV
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The students came from across the region to the camps, which were held in two different weeks, beginning July 13 and July 20. The Tetrix® robotics camp was for high school students only and, according to Elliott "strictly engineering." The students designed, built and tested $600 Tetrix remote-controlled robots.
During the Hands-On STEM Camp for 6-7 grades students, the campers designed, built, and tested K’NEX plastic and balsa wood bridges; discovered what makes Mentos candy and pop explode; designed, built and tested electronic circuits; built brush-bots, calculated probability from dice and playing cards, and investigated invertebrate CSI. According to Elliott, the campers did more than put Mentos into a soda bottle. "The students learned the science behind why this chemical reaction occurs."

As the camp director, Elliott sees the increasing popularity of the STEM Camps as evidence that students will embrace the idea of learning about science, math and engineering—even during summer vacation—if they are encouraged to participate. "We want the campers to have fun while they are learning. Giving them a hands-on environment to perform experiments and find out why things happen gets them interested in STEM, and hopefully encourages them to explore STEM fields when they get to be college-aged," she said.