News

Town Hall Meeting

In a recent message to the GSU community, President Maimon responded to the latest events regarding the State’s budget situation.

On Thursday, February 18, President Maimon will host a Town Hall meeting for GSU faculty and staff. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Sherman Music Hall. President Maimon and members of her cabinet will provide a budget update and answer questions from the audience. See the President's letter on page 5.

Nominate a Change Agent

Intercultural Student Affairs will be implementing a social justice peer advocacy program for the 2016-2017 academic year. This program will train students to serve as presenters and workshop facilitators for university classes, student organizations, and community groups on topics of diversity, social justice, and inclusion. Faculty and staff are asked to nominate students whom they believe would be excellent for this leadership role. Please send nominations to diversity@govst.edu by Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

Accepting Program Submissions for Women’s History Month

Join us in celebrating the contributions of women by submitting a program for Women’s History Month. This opportunity is open to university departments, student organizations, and GSU community affiliates. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, February 25. For more information or inquiries, please call x4551 or email diversity@govst.edu.

Students Raise Money for the YWCA and Shelter with Famous Monologues on Women

GSU Theatre and Performance Studies (T.A.P.S.) will present Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, Saturday, February 13 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall. The award-winning play is based on Ensler's interviews with over 200 women that has brought awareness to the conversation of ending violence against women and girls for nearly two decades. All proceeds will benefit the YWCA and South Suburban Family Shelter.

Art of Science Competition

The 2016 Art of Science Competition is a photo contest that explores the relationship between art and science. This year’s theme is “Small”, referring to images of objects, natural events or other phenomena fewer than two inches in scale. Students, staff, and faculty of Governors State University are encouraged to submit photos for entry by March 31, 2016.
Students - Enter the Literacy Autobiography Writing Contest

Students enrolled in English 1000 this fall are eligible to participate in the Literacy Autobiography Award Writing Contest. As a required assignment in the first semester, the Literacy Autobiography assignment asks students to reflect on how writing and reading have shaped their lives. Students enter the contest by submitting their Literary Autobiography by February 27, 2016. Winners will be announced by the end of March and honored at a luncheon. Entries will be judged by a committee appointed by the President's and Provost's offices.

Student Club Hosts Conversation with State Representatives

Friday, February 19 at 7p.m., the GSU Chapter of the Masters of Public Administration Club will host its first annual Illinois State Representatives roundtable discussion. Members of the GSU community are invited to join the conversation as the leaders discuss current policies and issues facing our communities. Please email Blevian Moore by Monday, February 15, to confirm your attendance.

Social Work in Action: GSU Professor and Students in Flint, Michigan

GSU Professor, Dr. Phyliss West and 12 of her social work students collected cases of bottled water, and drove them to Flint, Michigan this weekend to distribute at the “Flint Matters First Official Tailgate.” Their participation in the event was captured in a local news stories that was then shared widely through social media. Please click on the image below to view the video.

Reminder: February All-Campus Symposium Canceled
The all-campus symposium scheduled for Friday, February 26 with Dr. Uri Treisman has been canceled. The Symposium tradition will continue in the fall with Dr. Alma Clayton-Pederson, Senior Scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities. On Friday, September 23, 2016, Dr. Clayton-Pedersen will lead us in exploring diversity and cultural competence. Please mark your calendars.

**GSU Dance Company Auditions**

The GSU Dance Company is holding auditions for its 2016 season on February 8, on the Center for Performing Arts stage. Registration begins at 7:15 p.m. and auditions begin at 8 p.m. Auditions are open to all GSU students, faculty, and staff. The company performs works in the style of modern, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, and African dance. The company will perform on April 7 at the CPA. For information, contact Megan Lindsay.

**Black History Month**

GSU celebrates diversity with our observance of history and heritage months. Please visit www.govst.edu/diversity for a listing of the 2016 Black History Month events in February. For more information, email diversity@govst.edu or call x4551.

**February HLC Visit**

A five-member team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be on campus to review GSU February 22-23. In preparation for the upcoming visit, the university submitted the “Assurance Argument” as evidence of how GSU meets the HLC accreditation standards. It is available on the GSU Portal under the team site HLC 2016. A final schedule of the review is in development and will be posted on the portal prior to the visit.

**Lambda Pi Eta Black History Month Production**

Lambda Pi Eta Communications Honor Society is hosting a Black History Month production: *Black History - Not Slave History*, Thursday, February 11, 6-8 p.m., A2150 (Faith Room). This is an overview of a five part series of Black History focusing on Color.

**Education Abroad Workshops for Students and Faculty & Global Lunch Series**

The Office of International Services will host several workshops for students and faculty interested in studying abroad. Click here for the Spring 2016 programming. Students can also enjoy a free lunch served with a side of knowledge at the Global Lunch Series. During this hour, GSU faculty will present engaging information on a global topic. Workshops in the Global Lunch Series will be held in Engbretson Hall.

- Wednesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
  Andrae Marak and Cristina Garcia from Alianza Americas on Local Impacts of Immigration
- Wednesday, March 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
  Dr. Phyllis West on Intentional Cultural Empathy and Diversity: A Chance of a Life Time
- Wednesday, April 20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
  Larry McClellan on the Underground Railroad
submission guidelines.
Dear Colleagues:

Yesterday, Chicago State University’s Board of Trustees announced that CSU was in financial exigency. In other words, Chicago State declared its lack of minimally adequate financial resources to continue to carry out its core mission. Having no state operating appropriation since July 1 is causing real, perhaps irreversible, damage in Illinois public higher education.

As I have reported to you previously, years of careful fiscal management and increasing enrollments at Governors State University are allowing our university to stay open and continue serving our students for the rest of this academic year. In anticipation of a reasonable resolution of the budget stalemate over the next few months, we are also recruiting for a summer session and, indeed, for the 2016-17 academic year. To date, new applications are up. It’s hard to predict, however, what the state’s inability to pass a budget will ultimately mean to the public universities.

I want to thank you for your concern for our students and your consistent support of our university during these challenging times. It is imperative that the State of Illinois continue supporting Governors State University—and all its state institutions—in the essential task of educating our students. We are doing everything in our power to get that message across.

At a campus-wide town hall scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016, following the Governor’s budget message on Wednesday, I and members of my cabinet will be responding to any questions you may have. Details about the town hall will be announced shortly.

Sincerely,
Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President