

CS REVIEW

JUNE, 2012

THE PUBLICATION OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE SENATE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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"It's Miller Time"

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our ex-Civil Service President Kathy Miller a fantastic retirement! Kathy has been a great attribute to Governors State University throughout her many years of service here. With six years as President of the Civil Service Senate as well as many years on the Senate. Kathy has been the backbone of some great events here that help build community spirit. Things such as Educational Assistance, Civil Service Day, the Employee of the Month committee, the picnic, Personnel Resolution committee, Carnation sales, Vendors Fair, Fly-In, Cook-Out...and much more. Kathy has spent her time here at GSU bonding with her fellow employees, making friends all the way. It is said that a "great leader makes other feel they can be great also," I feel that is what Kathy has done for the Civil Service employees. She has inspired staff with

her 'Fundraising and Fun Raising' campaign, her positive attitude, and her friendly demeanor. Thank you Kath for being you. Know that your efforts will have long lasting effects, and as I said before, it's "Miller Time!" enjoy!

-Laura Owens



2012



Laura just received her Master of Arts in Communications and Training.

Congratulations, Laura

CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: MISSION STATEMENT

The Civil Service Senate works to promote scholarship and morale and protects the rights and benefits of the civil service constituency.

The Civil Service Senate helps promote:

- Quality instruction and scholarship by helping to create a positive university experience for students by supporting civil service employee continuing education through scholarship.
- Innovation and improved productivity by promoting a positive work environment through morale building events. This helps to create efficiency through increased productivity.
- Enhanced collaboration and partnerships by encouraging unity through special events and collaborative efforts with students, faculty, community, and staff.

CIVIL SERVICE SENATE: OUR PURPOSE

The Senate shall recommend policies and procedures concerning Civil Service affairs, evaluations, salary, merit, Civil Service education and development, Civil Service governance, grievances, and campus physical resources. The Civil Service Senate shall advise on the specific decisions which may be made under any of these policies and

which shall be set forth in the by-laws of the Civil Service Senate. This advisement shall be limited to those decision not specifically covered or stipulated by a ratified Civil Service union agreement and those not in the process of bargaining.

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SENATE OFFICERS AND SENATORS

The new roster will be posted next issue.

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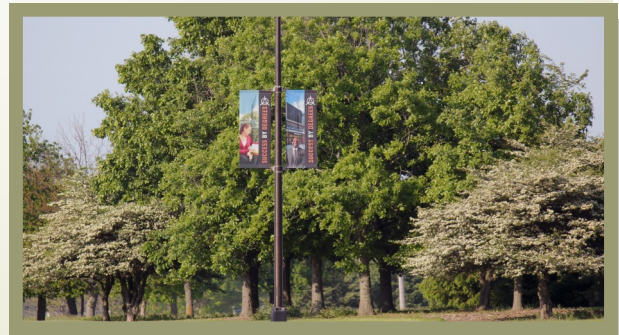
Senate Meeting Dates

Civil Service Senate Meetings are scheduled the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 11am

All meetings are held in Room D1496

Location subject to availability. Notification will be provided if there are schedule changes.

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Spring Open Market

Hosted By: Civil Service Senate

Vendors, Artisans and Crafters

May 3, 2012

The Herb Basket - Handmade herbal bath, beauty products, soap, salts

Nature's Garden - Soy candles & gifts

Kathleen & Fred Comer – Embroidered towels, table paintings, hand crafted leather hair clips

Etalaya's Exotic Mandel Broit & Ethereal Boutique - Handmade jewelry and holistic items

Monica Clayton – Old English China dishes, thimbles, “Tea Time”

Dress –A- Neck - Custom designed handcrafted jewelry

Avon The Company for Women – Avon personal care products

Pattycakes Boutique – Bed sheets, jewelry, baseball caps, oils

Bling Designs - Handcrafted bracelets, semi- precious stones, crystals

Miche Bag – Purses and accessories

Handmade Creations - Shawls, hats, ponchos, sweaters

PartyLite Gifts – Candles, accessories, and personal care

31 Gifts – Personalized bags, totes, and accessories

Beads and Jewels – Handmade Jewelry

Xquisite Xcessories – Jewelry, Art work, and accessories

Barbara Fulgear – Hand crafted dolls and jewelry

Sacred Treasures & Gifts - Religious gifts

Morinda Bioactives - Health and Wellness products

Pyramid Visuals – T-shirts, quilted wall hangings, cultural DVDs

Beads & Jewels – Hand crafted jewelry

Organo Gold - Coffee, Teas & Cream Co.

-Gina Ragland & Shelina Jenkins - Chairpersons

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Spring Open Market

Hosted By: Civil Service Senate

**Bling Designs
Handcrafted Jewelry
Kathy Spainhour
Manteno, IL**



**The Herb Basket, Natural Products fo a natural you, Maureen Chappell,
Bourbonnais, IL,**



RETIRING FROM GSU

By Kathy Miller

"It's hard to believe that I'm old enough to retire (but it's also hard to believe that I'm old enough to be a new grandfather). It is a hard and touching thing to do, because our university is a nice place, with lots of dear people, and it means a lot to me, helping people to get their degrees and do important things, and yet I'm also looking forward to retiring." David Weinberger

I would imagine that there are many employees retiring from GSU who understand what the statement above means. As one of the soon-to-be- retirees I can tell you that David is right. It's a difficult decision to make, and a very hard thing to do. First, we can't believe we are old enough and second, is it really possible we have been at GSU long enough to retire? What's the saying? Time passes quickly when you're having fun!

And fun it is, along with very hard work. I thought I would be here three to five years. I just turned around and it's 20 years later. So you can imagine that it is with mixed emotions many of us have opted for retirement. Would we retire if the state wasn't making changes to our pensions? Probably not, and in my case the answer would be definitely not. I didn't plan on retiring in 2012 but as with many others who have hit that magic 20 year mark, if we stay we lose. We have no idea what other changes lie ahead, but we do know there will definitely be changes.

I strongly encourage each of you to rally hard to protect your benefits because your future depends upon it. Join SUAA today! SUAA is the one common organization that each university employee can join. There is power in numbers and the legislature listens to voters. You are more than one vote. You represent hundreds of votes to each legislator. Your families, friends, and neighbors all represent your vote.

Write and call your state legislators. You can find who represents you at this link below:

<http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/districtofficialsearchbyaddress.aspx> all you need to do is type in your address.

Like David, I'm sure many of us will miss GSU and especially our co-workers. We've all developed relationships that will last a lifetime. We had the security of steady employment. And for

most of us it's hard to believe that we've been lucky enough to work at a place where we actually wake up and look forward to coming to work each and every day. We've all had the pleasure of working with very remarkable people.

What will we do after retirement? Will we seek new employment, volunteer, travel, or will we rest and relax? I'm sure most of us can't imagine sitting idle. So for some, rest and relaxation are out of the question. How many of us will be retired while our spouses still work? Would we want to travel alone? Volunteering is worthwhile and a good thing to do in moderation but maybe reemployment would suit some of us. I just hope that whatever we do, we can do it with people and at a place where we are treated as family just like at GSU. As our careers at GSU come to an end we can leave knowing that GSU will go on to achieve even greater things than it already has and we are all truly saddened to not be part of it!

I've worked here for more than 20 years, and yet I it always excites me to face each day. I don't know what retirement from GSU will be like, I can't even begin to imagine. The hardest thing about leaving and what I'll miss the most is the day to day contact with the people I've developed relationships with. I will miss my GSU family and wish each of you good health and much happiness!

-Kathy Miller

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SLOPPY JOE EVENT



The Sloppy Joe Event was held Wednesday March 14, 2012.

Thanks to everyone that made our “Sloppy Joe Day” a success. I never made Sloppy Joes for 100 people so this was an experience for me, it was lots of work, but also an enjoyable experience. I Look forward to the next one.

- Sandi Kawanna

(Sandi, a big hug and sincere thank you from the entire Civil Service Senate!)

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TIP OF THE MONTH

How to Pick a Good Watermelon

According to mgwhite in HubPages, the best way to pick a ripe watermelon is to look for a green color and symmetrical shape with no soft spots. It should have a yellowish white spot (not greenish) on one side where it rested on the ground. Knock on it to hear a hollow sound or “echo” (not a thud or high pitch).

“Watermelons do not continue to ripen once they have been picked.”

http://mgwhite.hubpages.com/hub/How_to_Pick_a_Good_Watermelon

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Support your Civil Service Senate

Enjoy the game and evening fireworks with friends Friday, July 20, 2012


Take the family out to the ball game

**Help support
Governors State University
Civil Service Senate**



Joliet Slammers vs. Southern Illinois Miners
Silver Cross Stadium
1 Mayor Art Schultz Drive, Joliet Illinois
Friday, July 20th
7:05 p.m.
Tickets - \$10/each

Must be purchased in advance by July 11th



Tickets and Information - 708.534.4582 or email adalpolo@govst.edu
Checks payable to Governors State University

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Employee of the Month

The Governors State University (GSU) Employee of the Month program recognizes a Civil Service employee who demonstrates exemplary work, makes significant contributions, and/or performs or demonstrates outstanding service. It was established to show appreciation of Civil Service staff members and show them they are valued members of the GSU community. This program is possible because of the generosity of Institutional Advancement and The Center for Performing Arts and is sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and the Civil Service Senate.

To qualify, an employee must be a status Civil Service employee with at least a 75 percent appointment, who has served GSU for twelve consecutive months in a Civil Service position, and has not been selected as an Employee of the Month within the past three years. The employee evaluation process plays an important role in the final selection. An employee whose current work record shows documentation that the performance evaluation form is less than satisfactory will be disqualified for consideration.

The selected Employee of the Month will receive a letter and certificate of recognition and a copy of the letter will be placed in the employee's personnel file and provided to the unit. An e-mail announcement will be sent to the university community, their photograph will be displayed, and they will receive the following; a designated parking space, a voucher for two tickets to The Center for Performing Arts, and a monetary award of \$150. They will be eligible to be the "Employee of the Year," which is selected from a pool of the 12 Employee of the Month recipients and voted on by the entire GSU community.

Anybody from the GSU community, faculty, staff, and students may nominate a Civil Service staff member who is worthy of this award. You will find

the nomination forms on the "Employee of the Month" nomination boxes located in the Faculty Office Center lobby, in the Hall of Governors next to Engbretson Hall, and in Human Resources. You can download a printable nomination form at www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/empmonth.pdf Please be sure to complete the entire nomination form and submit it in an employee of the month box, at the locations listed above or to the Human Resources Office.

We encourage everyone to participate in this program. Nominate somebody today!

-Kathy Miller

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Ice Cream Socials:

June 20th

July 25th

Baseball and Fireworks:

July 20th

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Important Dates

Ticket must be purchased
in advance for
the July 20th Baseball event
by July 11th.



Senate election results
To be posted in next issue.

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