

Symposium to focus on economics of immigration

Event draws registration from area colleges

GCCC Information Services

Students from at least eight Kansas and Colorado community colleges will converge at GCCC April 11 and 12 for a symposium called The Economics of Immigration. Organized by Garden City Community College Economics Instructor Chip Marcy, the symposium will offer an opportunity to focus on economic issues and learn from leaders in the field.

Keynote speakers include Dr. James Regan, Jr., former research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Dr. Heather Luea, who served as a financial analyst with the Farm Credit Bank, as well as corporations ranging from Payless Shoe Source to Cessna Aircraft; and Dolores Mesa-Lopez, a lifetime Garden City resident active in social issues connected to immigration.

In addition to students, there are political, community and business leaders participating from the Western Kansas office of U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University Extension, the Presbyterian Church of Leoti, the Mosaic organization in Garden City, the Finney County Economic Development Corporation, the Garden City Telegram, the GCCC Small Business Development Center, the Western Kansas Broadcast Center, Golden Plains Credit Union, the Finney County Commission and Garden City's Unified School District 457.

"The real purpose is to cut through the political rhetoric and get down to the true impact of immigrant from the standpoint of economics," Marcy said.

Approximately 70 students are registered from Cloud County, Coffeyville, Colby, Butler County, Garden City, Hutchinson and Pratt Community Colleges in Kansas, plus Lamar Community College in Colorado. Students from Kansas City Kansas and other community colleges may also attend, Marcy said. The conference will address an issue that has reached the national level: immigration.

"The U.S. has a rich history of immigration," Marcy explained. "Though the founding of our nation dates from 1776, Kansas has been part of France, Spain, Mexico and the U.S. over the same period. Today, the Kansas population includes significant Hispanic, German, Mennonite, Vietnamese and Scandinavian roots."

He said the conference would explore whether each of the past and present contributing cultures shared the same economic experiences, and exerted the same economic impact on existing cultures as they arrived. In addition to the guest presentations, students will participate in round table discussions on immigration-related economic issues.

Faculty personnel and the visiting leaders



REGAN



LUEA



MESA-LOPEZ

will also take part in those segments.

Activities are scheduled April 11 and 12, with the initial speaker presentation by Regan at 6:45 p.m. April 11 in the Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building, followed by a question-answer session and the opening round table discussion. April 12 events will include guest lectures at 9:30 a.m. by Luea and 1:30 p.m. by Mesa-Lopez in the fine arts auditorium, followed by question-answer sessions.

The second day will also involve round-table discussions in various campus locations at 10:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

"We're convinced our speakers will have some significant things to share, and we wanted to let people in the community and area share in their insight," Marcy said.

Anyone interested in attending may pick up free advance tickets to the presentations March 25 and later at the GCCC Student and Community Services Center.

Tickets are limited to four per request, but any still available at the time of the conference will be offered at the door. For more information, contact Marcy at 620-275-3286.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Mesa-Lopez, a lifetime Garden City resident, is active in a number of community organizations, and has been involved in aiding immigrant families and others, as well as addressing social issues related to immigration.

Regan has served as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and a visiting associate professor at Washburn University. He also served 14 years as a department head in economics at Kansas State University, and previously as director of graduate studies.

He earned his doctorate in 1975 at Washington University of St. Louis, and is co-author of a major economics textbook, Principles of Economics, Second Edition, published by Harcourt Brace. His work has been cited by U.S. News and World Report, Business Week and the Wall Street Journal.

Luea was recently chosen as an assistant professor of economics at Tennessee State University. She was also selected as a presenter at the 80th annual conference of the Western Economic Association International, where she focused on housing costs, non-housing consumption and household debt.

She earned her doctorate at Kansas State University after completing her master's degree in business administration at Wichita State University and her bachelor's degree in finance at Fort Hays State University. She earned the Kappa Alpha Theta Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Carroll Greene Award. She was also nominated for the Stamey Teaching Award and the Proffer of the Year Award.

College hosts Jazz Festival

GCCC Department of Music and the Garden City Telegram presented a Jazz Festival Concert Monday, March 10, 2008 in the Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building Auditorium. The concert featured Craig Treinen and the Southwest Kansas All-Start Big Band. Pictured are (top row, from left) Brandon Stuckey, Garden City, Kan., trumpet; and Lyle Graverson, Garden City, Kan., trumpet; (middle, from left) Lawrence Hoerman, Sublette, Kan., trombone; Paul White, Garden City, Kan., trombone; (bottom, from left) Daniel Baldwin, Deerfield, Kan., trombone; and Shawn Martin, Lakin, Kan., saxophone.



Adam Shrimplin | SILHOUETTE

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Fire training center opens to public March 30

GCCC and the City of Garden City recently opened the Southwest Kansas Fire Training Center on campus. They will be hosting an open house for the public from 2 to 4 p.m., Mar. 30.

A short ceremony is planned to kick off the open house, followed by self-guided tours and demonstrations.

Garden City Piano Festival

The 2008 Garden City Piano Festival will feature free public concerts at 7:30 p.m. on March 28 and 29 in the auditorium of the Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building. Information is available at 620.276.9545.

GCHS student wins state oratory contest

Abraham Rodriguez, junior at GCHS, won the State Oratory Contest for the American Legion. Rodriguez will be traveling to Indianapolis for the National contest. Rodriguez will receive \$1,500 that can be applied to any Kansas University. GCHS speech department including debate and drama will also receive \$500 for having this year's winner.

Blood drive a success

A total of 65 people showed up on campus to volunteer and donate blood March 6 for the Red Cross. The goal was 70 units with 60 units collected.

SGA proposes purchase of grills, tables for on-campus use

By Cassie Glenn
CGLENN1459@STUDENT.GCCCKS.EDU

Student Government Association members are proposing outdoor campus enhancements in hopes of benefiting students. SGA representatives surveyed more than 100 students to obtain their input.

"The project consists of getting two barbecue grills with two picnic tables and trashcans and place them outdoors somewhere around GCCC's campus," said Jon Urban, SGA's executive public relations officer. "But we are running into a problem with where exactly they should go."

The survey consisted of a campus map and an explanation of what SGA wanted to accomplish. Students were asked to circle a spot on the map where they thought the grills, benches and trash bins should be placed as well as indicate whether they would use them or not.

"Pretty much everyone that took the survey was in favor for them," Urban said. "We handed out 50 or 60 at the cafeteria and only a couple

of people said that it was a good idea but they wouldn't use them."

Marcus Palimenio, an on-campus resident, said the idea of placing barbecue grills somewhere around campus has his approval.

"It depends on where there are going to be at, but I would use them and I do think it's a good idea," Palimenio said.

The survey results indicated that students would like the grills to be by the basketball courts, located west of the Beth Tedrow Student Center and somewhere in the dorm courtyard.

"There are some faculty who are afraid there will be too much noise if placed within the dorm courtyard and there are others who think if they are placed by the student center, they won't get much use," Urban said.

Kate Covington, director of residential life, said she has concerns about the project as a whole.

"We used to have picnic tables by the dorm courtyard and the picnic tables are now at the student center because it makes a noise problem when the kids congregate around them," Covington said. "I also have concerns about the grills because who's going to clean them and who's

going to pick up the trash? If students are expected to furnish their own charcoal and lighter fluid, where are they going to keep that?"

Covington said she would like SGA to consider planting trees or building a structure for a shady area by the student center, or purchase a water fountain to be placed near the basketball court.

"Personally I think students would probably choose grills over a shaded area," Urban said. "The water fountain isn't a bad idea, but from what we've heard from the students, the grills is something they want. Since it's coming from SGA's fund, which is the student's money, we want to give them something they want. And there are members of the rodeo team that already have their own personal grill over by the dorms and it hasn't caused too much commotion."

SGA's adviser, Ryan Ruda, said he supports the idea.

"The students have been working very hard on this project this semester. I am very much in favor of the project and support the student's excitement for it," Ruda said. "I think they will be utilized by the students and create a good gathering place for students at GCCC."



Cassie Glenn | SILHOUETTE

Michael Hensley, Garden City, Wes Hedrick, Dighton, Kan., and Joe Pantoja, Stanton County, Kan., play a game of 21 Tuesday evening while enjoying the 60 degree weather. The area around the basketball court is a possible location for the grills and tables.

Urban also said that SGA has spoken with Mike Cruz, GCCC's ground supervisor, about keeping the area clean and Cruz has agreed to help out.

The total cost is projected at XXXXX, which includes the grills, benches, trash bins and cement that will be placed XXXXX SGA's plan will be finalized if it receives the necessary authorization.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 110

KS. National Education - Student program meeting Mar. 27. Come and go 12-1 p.m. @ BTSC Small Theatre. Don't forget to stop by the ACAD Bldg. to work on the banner in the afternoons! Contact Wisnom Lamb 276.0443 or Tammy Hutcheson 276.9581 for more information.

HELP WANTED 205

Volunteers needed for the West Area Special Olympics Track Meet. 8:30, Sat. May 3rd. If interested contact Kim 620.271.8777 or Stan 6203.408.6227

FOR SALE 305

For Sale: King sized water bed and dresser w/ hutch. Head board w/ mirror can also be used for a box spring & mattress. Whole set \$100. Contact Brenda 276.8298
Attic Sale: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church 710 N. Main. March 29, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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