Commencement Program: 2011

Governors State University

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating the Past, Charting the Future

When Governors State University was founded in 1969, change was in the air. The Civil Rights, anti-war, and women's movements transformed society and altered everyone's perspective.

Now, the nation is again facing great challenges. The many calls for change at all levels of society have led GSU, once more, to a renewed commitment to serve students and the community.

When the first GSU students came to class in bellbottoms with flowers in their hair, they were met by classrooms without walls and coursework without grades. While today's programs have more structure and rigor, GSU remains dedicated to the educational innovation and experimentation that guided the university in its early years. The ideal that drove the initial design of GSU - that all students were entitled to an affordable, accessible education - has remained constant.

To fulfill the diverse educational needs of students and the shifting demands of society, GSU has adapted, innovated, and developed its degree and certificate programs. Currently, the university offers bachelor's, master's, and doctorate programs that not only create qualified personnel to fulfill today's employment opportunities, but prepare graduates for the demanding careers of the future.

The university has opened its doors to the community, inviting everyone - area residents, current students, alumni, retirees, and visitors - to celebrate academic achievement and accessibility. GSU has remained true to that early, guiding vision and is today everything it was meant to be - the educational choice for a powerfully diverse, professional, and non-traditional student body.
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Pat Quinn, Governor

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lorine S. Samuels, Chair
Jack Beaupre, Secretary
Bruce Friefeld
Lois Mayer
Brendan Hollandsworth, Student Trustee

This program is not an official university document.
The publication of the names of students does not necessarily constitute their official certification as graduates.
Governors State University is not responsible for any omissions, errors, and/or changes in this commencement program.

Photographers are requested to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony.

Printed with soy ink and recycled paper. Printed with the authority of the State of Illinois. Printing order number PA047211. 4,900 copies.
Honorary Degree Candidate

Vivian Gussin Paley
Educator and Author

Vivian Gussin Paley brings 37 years of classroom experience and observations to her work as an early childhood educator. The research and teaching techniques she developed as a result have made her one of the nation's experts on the education and enrichment of very young children.

Gussin Paley began her career with a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago in 1947. She taught preschool and kindergarten in New Orleans; Great Neck, New York; and the University of Chicago Laboratory School. She earned her M.A. from Hofstra University. Throughout her teaching career, Gussin Paley witnessed how the work of educators can stymie the development of young children, how a strict curriculum can bury innovation and conceptual thinking, and how a child's imagination can lead the way to a good education – if only educators would allow it.

Gussin Paley spent years investigating the world of young children, examining their stories, creativity, communication, and interaction. Her observations and conclusions on early childhood education influence how teachers are trained and how children are taught.

In her 13 books on early childhood education, Gussin Paley describes the world of young children by examining their stories, creativity, communication, and interaction. Her work helps guide educators to make better choices for the students in the classroom. Each book examines a central theme to healthy development such as fairness, multiculturalism, communication, and play.

Her most recent work focuses on the importance of storytelling and fantasy play and how it positively affects the academic and social growth of young children. Gussin Paley's research on the importance of storytelling and imaginative play has been cited as an argument against the strict adherence to teaching methods mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Gussin Paley earned the 1987 Erikson Institute Award for Service to Children and is the only kindergarten teacher to receive a MacArthur Fellowship (Genius Grant). In 1997, her book, The Girl with the Brown Crayon, earned the Harvard University Press Virginia and Warren Stone Prize as the outstanding book about education and society. Gussin Paley was awarded the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation for Lifetime Achievement in 1998. She also earned the NCTE David H. Russell Award for Distinguished Research in the Teaching of English in 1999. Gussin Paley received the John Dewey Society's Outstanding Achievement Award for 2000, and was recently named Outstanding Educator in the Language Arts by the National Council of Teachers in English.
**Order of Exercises**

Saturday, June 4, 2011, 11 a.m.
College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business and Public Administration
College of Education
College of Health and Human Services

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon  
*University President*  
*Presiding*

---

**Prelude**

---

Bill Schuetter, *Conductor*

---

**Welcome and Speaker Introductions**  
*Tony Labriola, Master of Ceremonies*

---

**Processional**

---

Daniel Nearing, *Excellence Award Recipient*

---

"Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1," by Edward Elgar

---

**Call to Order**

---

Marilyn Yirku, *Excellence Award Recipient*

---

**National Anthem**

---

*Encore Concert Band*

---

"Please join in singing the national anthem"

---

**Greetings from the Board of Trustees**

---

Lorine S. Samuels, *Chair - Board of Trustees*

---

**Greetings from the Faculty**

---

Dr. Taida Kelly, *Excellence Award Recipient*

---

**Greetings from the Alumni Association**

---

Saundra Brunson, *President - Alumni Association*

---

**Introduction of Student Speaker**

---

Brendan Hollandsworth, *Student Trustee*

---

**Student Speaker Address**

---

Tamara Kroeger

---

**Presidential Address**

---

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, *President*

---

**Presentation of Honorary Degree**

---

Dr. Terry Allison, *Provost*

---

Conferring of Degree

---

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, *President*

---

Honorary Recipient, Doctor of Humane Letters

---

Vivian Gussin Paley

---

**Presentation of Degree Candidates**

---

Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*

---

College of Arts and Sciences

---

Dr. Karen D’Arcy, *Interim Dean*

---

College of Education

---

Dr. Deborah Bordelon, *Dean*

---

College of Business and Public Administration

---

Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis, *Dean*

---

College of Health and Human Services

---

Dr. Linda Samson, *Dean*

---

**Conferring of Degrees**

---

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, *President*

---

**Closing Remarks**

---

Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*

---

**Recessional**

---

Daniel Nearing, *Excellence Award Recipient*

---

"Crown Imperial," by William Walton

---

*Encore Concert Band*

---

Ms. Susan Bova, *Sign Language Interpreter*

---

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.
College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts

§ Jacqueline R. Adams
Dorothy T. Adebayo
Robert Agosto

^^ Antoine M. Alexander
§ Jacqueline Alfaro
Kristen Amato
Latoya Amos
Robert P. Anderl
§ Judith Andre
Janice S. Anthony
Donnell D. Austin
Glenda Avery
Sarahnell L. Bady-Jenkins
Larry Bailey

^^ Clem Balanoff
Juan C. Barrios
§ Isabella Mariana Alanza Batista
Fadi N. Battoukh
Lionel Bell, Jr.
Denise M. Beran
Michael W. Bickham
Renata Bondarowicz
Corey L. Bowen
Andrea N. Boyd
Jean A. Braun
Scott T. Brocious
Christopher W. Brown
Katrina G. Brown

^^ Christopher A. Bruce
Betty E. Campbell
Janita I. Campbell
Clothilde M. Carter

^^ Jonathan D. Casserilla
Sabina D. Childs
Lawrence Joseph Chisausky
Slawomir Cislak
Tajana M. Collin
Patrick S. Collins
Cynthia Ann Cotton
Cynthia L. Craig

^^ Kyle A. Cross
Shonda F. DeVasher-Williams

^^ Ernest M. Drigo
Lela DuBose
Abby M. Durczak

^ Adriane D. Easte
Melody J. Easterling
Jacqueline M. Edson

^ Caroline M. Edwards
Waltrina S. Eggleston

^ Sashae Epps
Leah Farr
Barbara A. Ferguson

§§ Amy S. Flaherty
Roberta A. Flot
Davina L. Frazier
Stephanie M. Free
Sakeena A. Gaither
Matthew J. Gallagher

^ Linda Gant

Panagiotis Giannakopoulos
John R. Gildroy

^^ Melinda Anne Glynn
Megan Gyriyon
Pierce L. Harper
Fenice D. Hedgeman
Joy C. Hights
Linda A. Hill

^^ Robert L. Holmes

^^ Christopher Hood

^ Jeffrey Hoogland
Scherrye B. Horton
Kywanna M. Houston
Jacarra J. Hudson
Gerald J. Hughes
Jerome A. Hughes
Jennifer Hybl
Nicole E. Issert
Judy G. Jackson
Petrina L. Jackson
Tiffanie C. Jackson
Nichole D. Jefferson
April N. Johnson
James W. Johnson
Lauren B. Johnson

^^ Linda C. Johnson
Lorelei E. Johnson
Carmene A. Jones
Michelle M. Jovanovic
John L. Keating
Tracey L. Keith
Stephen J. Kelly

^^ Michelle N. Kelhofer
Frederick Kirkwood

^^ Victoria Kral
Tamara Kroeger

^ Dana A. Lake
Tara L. Linzy
Johnathan A. Marion
Lois J. Marshall

^^ Loren Mason
Rachel R. McClain

^^ Bryan W. McDonald
Darrell A. McGee

^^ Abigail R. Mellenthin
Don A. Mellenthin

^^ Luljeta Memishofski
Joseph Mikuzis

^ Lisa A. Miller
Sheila C. Miller
Silvija L. Moess
Mario A. Montemayor
Michael Moore
Andre M. Morgan
Marie A. Morgan
Joel Nagle, Jr.
Comfort I. Neal
Susan E. Newberry
Christina L. Nojd

Oosieh Z. Oldham
Christian H. Olthoff
Raymond E. Ondrejka, Jr.
Kelly L. Ortega

^^ Lois Palmer

^^ Tatanecia L. Patton
Arthur H. Pauls
Lanthia Peoples
Robert Pepperman
Ryan Phu Pham
Kelly Ann Picken

^^ Charles C. Pocius
Dorphiuse D. Rawls
La Tasha L. Riddick
Samuel Rios
Cheryl D. Roberts
Crystal T. Robinson
Geneen L. Robinson
Iris I. Rodgers
Brian J. Ruane

^^ Elaine M. Russell
Sharon A. Sanders
Eric R. Scanlan
Kelly A. Schoonveld
Robert Serrano
Alai N. Shalen
Kevin P. Sheahan
Sonia E. Smith-Bryant
Reginald Spearman
Malene Spencer

^^ Christopher P. Spindler
Benny L. Stewart
Melodye C. Stewart
Hazemi Sweis

§ Danielle S. Tabron
Joseph A. Tellez

^ Lisa M. Thomas
Kenneth G. Till
Fatmah M. Tommalieh
Angelia M. Tortorello
Stacy R. Toisignant
Aneta B. Trygaar

^^ Andrea M. Venegas

^ Scott Ward

^ Shirley C. Washington
Christopher A. Watkins
Debra D. Watson
Jasmin N. Watson
Nicole S. Webb
Raymon T. Webb

^ Cheryl L. Westlund
Jacob R. Widlowski
Mary E. Wilkes
Shannon M. Williams

^^ Dawn E. Wolf
Amanda Lee Young

^^ Grazyna Zarebczan

= Cum Laude 3.80-3.89
^^ = Magna Cum Laude 3.90-3.97
^^^ = Summa Cum Laude 3.98-4.00
§ = University Honors Program
College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Science

Sana Alkuyam
Daniel Carduff
Neil A. Darin
Tonille R. Evans
Peter G. Gladstone
Jacquelyn Harvey
Timothy S. Ilg
Rayiad Ismail
Billy R. Jackson
Sani K. John
Douglas B. Johnson
Emily L. Marrs
Dawn M. McPhee
Fahim D. Naeem
Jorge Ortiz
Renee N. Romito
Anthony A. Stulgate
Christopher J. Trojan
Venessa Tylka
Ann C. Walsh

Master of Fine Arts

Stephanie R. Portner

Master of Science

Samantha M. Clausen
Rakeshkumar V. Desai
Anisha Hari Ganji
Diana L. Harms
Megan J. Holba
Hardik B. Khared
Pradipkumar M. Koshiya
Darpanbhai P. Patel
Yogeshkumar Punabhai Radadiya
Ningwei Sun
Anwer Unnisa
Kuldeep Reddy Vanga
Bettylou M. Wahl

Master of Arts

Margaret A. Akines
Joseph M. Baltz
Nina D. Bell
Joseph A. Chellino
John J. Conrad
Devon Dilworth
Christy L. Dorsey
Sulushash Dossynkulova
Brenda S. Farris
Elicia P. Frelix
Sharron A. Grant
Taneka N. Harris
Thomas A. Kotsakis, Jr.
Rachel J. Kurz
Diana C. Lynch
Aida L. Milbergs
Mark M. Mitchell
Laura Moustis
Brooke Nicholson
Jaclyn M. Reidy
Christel A. Rogers
Christine K. Ross
Patricia L. Rounsayville
Treschel L. Sanders
Ann O. Shaw
Shannon N. Simmons
Sean C. Smith
Sandy A. Wheeler
Lori J. White
Fida S. Yasin

\( ^\ast = \text{Cum Laude 3.80-3.89} \)
\( ^\ast\ast = \text{Magn Cum Laude 3.90-3.97} \)
\( ^\ast\ast\ast = \text{Summa Cum Laude 3.98-4.00} \)
\( \text{§ = University Honors Program} \)
College of Education

Bachelor of Arts

%^ Ayah M. Abdelhadi
Jeanette M. Adler
Daryl Anette Allen
Michelle M. Allen
%^ William C. Armstrong
Erica A. Austin
Brenda M. Ayres
Michelle K. Black
%^ Jillian N. Boban
Bernadeta Bogun
\^ Abby L. Brackins
Eric T. Buksa
Michelle M. Butkus
Joy M. Camera
Ian J. Carter
Aubrey L. Ciesiun
Chetna K. Cobb
%^ Jennifer L. Connors
Siobhan M. Conroy
Briana G. D'Aversa
Angelica L. Damiani
Eric Davy
Cristina N. Edwards
Holly M. Ervin
Ryan J. Esquivel
%^ Esther Faro
%^ Rana Hreish Fino
%^ Carol S. Forlenza
Jessica A. Foulkes
%^ Milady Garzon
Heather E. Gomez
Laura A. Grossi
%^ Brittany L. Grosso
%^ Shannon M. Hall
Reinhold A. Heinrich
%^ Bridget C. Hill
Miesha Y. Hill
%^ Kevin H. Houcek
Ranna O. Jaber
Rodney E. Johnson
Catherine M. Kazzaz
Carol L. Khan
Hanan I. Khatib
Jessica M. Lamm
Lynsey M. Lattyak
Tara M. Litko
Diana A. Mansour
Jessica Martinez
Andrea T. Mason
Christopher R. McMahel
Megan E. Morse
%^ Aleksa J. Moss
Tomasz P. Naglak
%^ Kelly N. O'Connor
Michael Obrutz
\^ Christine A. Patterson
Dorothy N. Payne
%^ Tricia Ann Peterson
Melissa E. Porfirio
%^ Lindsay M. Reppen
Karli A. Rybski
Holly Lynn Schafroth
%^ Thomas Showers
Danielle M. Smith
Leyla Sosur
%^ Katarzyna M. Suarez
%^ Jessica C. Sullivan
Julianne L. Szalkowski
%^ Christina D. Terrell
%^ Catherine A. Torpy
Matt E. Varek
Jonathan P. Varriale
%^ Cassandra L. Wegner
Jamie L. Weiss
Jennifer M. White
Tiffany A. Whitworth
Carrie L. Williams
SaBrina Williams
Joanna D. Wincek
Adriana M. Zulanas

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%^ = Magna Cum Laude 3.90-3.97
^^^^ = Summa Cum Laude 3.98-4.00
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College of Education

Master of Arts

Larissa M. Acker  
Carmina Aguirre  
Thomas S. Aguirre  
Sue Almquist  
Mildred D. Andaluz  
Josefina Arroyo  
Rebecca J. Athey  
Chad John Augustine  
Benjamin M. Baer  
Susan Barankiewicz  
Angelean M. Behm  
Sonja M. Blades  
Robert R. Boryca, III  
Alison L. Brosius  
Elizabeth A. Brudnak  
Kathy A. Bunde  
Christina L. Burgess  
Gerald T. Burke  
Kristina M. Burzinski  
Christopher Carlson  
Marty Carr  
Natalie A. Coleman  
Brittany D. Collins  
Kyle T. Cosentino  
Karen R. Danielian  
Emmanuel N. Davies  
Kathleen de Groh, Jr.  
Ty Kathleen Dilger  
Martrice Edge  
David V. Evans  
Anthony J. Fasano  
Maria Louisa Flores  
Scott Francis  
Anmarie B. Frank  
Maureen F. Fruhwirth  
Elvia M. Gaeta  
Mark Garrity  
Eriona M. Gjikdhima  
Gwendolyn D. Grant  
Çhanel A. Gray  
Jillian T. Gray  
Neal W. Grimes  
Adriane L. Hanes  
Keith A. Healy  
Nancy A. Healy  
Michelle L. Hence  
Jamie L. Hettlesch  
James E. Hitchcock  
Pamela S. Hohlman-Ethridge  
Kevin D. Irvin  
Suzanne M. Janacek  
Candice M. Johnson  
Kimberly J. Johnson  
Lisa Y. Johnson  
Minnie L. Johnson  
Shalor A. Johnson-Eggleston  
Jamila Jones-Dozier  
Lindsay E. Klauck  
Thomas Knappczyk  
Kristi A. Kramer  
Michelle L. Kruser  
Chad A. Larson  
Jacqueline Larson  
Christina Lavin  
Amie L. Leib  
Matthew J. Leman  
James Looper  
Prine P. Lowe  
Kathleen M. Major  
Natasha Malone  
David G. Mannon  
Craig D. Mark  
Jacqueline K. Mark  
Janet L. Martin  
Michelle Rene Matt  
Lisa Mattison  
Adrianne P. May  
Nancy D. McBride  
Steven H. McCleary  
Michael McGrone  
William J. McNichols  
Alisha S. Mercherson  
Crystal L. Mitchell  
Meikeia T. Morgan  
Tina M. Musselman  
Chiralaine C. Natschke  
Meghan Nilsen  
Coley M. O'Connell  
Julia A. Oglesby  
Kristie L. Olmetti  
Jody G. Olson  
Michael L. Otto  
Todd J. Painter  
Anthony J. Pape  
Nekia T. Parchman  
Terrone A. Parham  
Chris T. Proutsos  
Josh Quigley  
Kirby Dale Radston  
Lindsey A. Raske  
Anni Rasmussen  
Lynda T. Reese  
Andrea J. Roseland  
Sandra J. Sanburg  
Sarah S. Sanderson  
Dena M. Schlunz  
Linette D. Segaline  
Donna M. Shupe  
David J. Sinkular  
Colleen A. Slattery  
Lorna R. Smith  
Tia T. Smith  
Rosa Sosa  
Nicole M. Stanek  
Jason E. Stanley  
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Jeffrey R. Sukley  
Pamela A. Swierczewski  
Maria D. Thomas  
Patrice M. Thomas  
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Darlene D. Vargas  
Kathryn Loel Wade  
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Kerri Whittington  
Allan J. Wills  
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Margaret Anne Zagorski  
Kristin L. Zakrzeski  
Beata Zawada  
Baohun Zhou

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College of Business and Public Administration

Bachelor of Arts
Mohammad Y. Abu Hashesh
Roma N. O. Armstrong
Nauman Bakhrani
Barry V. Brown, Jr
Juana I. Cardoso
Michael J. Davlantis
Melanie R. Deskin
Martha V. Ferguson
Janelle Fletcher
LaSharita R. Golden
Francis J. Goncher
Angelica M. Hernandez
Syed A. Jaffery
Marie Johnson
Derrick D. Jones
Christopher M. Keane
Robert J. Lawyer
Joseph M. Lenard
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Sean Lynch
Joyce D. Martin
David R. Mayerchin
Jessica L. McKenna
Claybourne Miller
Omar R. Muammar
Kristen M. Neal
Denise J. Newson
Ewa Pilarczyk
Deanna M. Prairie
Ferdinando Raia
Patrick J. Robinson
Daniel Rodeghero
Malgorzata Smorczewska
Shantell B. Steward
Kyle R. VanderMeyden
Dolores Villalpando
Brenda J. Wallace
Travon A. Wilson
Anne L. Wittstock
Lorenzo T. Wofford
Christina W. Yan
Bozena Zarebczan

Bachelor of Science
Lindsay A. Ankrom
Vanessa C. Ellis
Andrew J. Halkyn
Nariman M. Hamad
Kevin M. Healy
Norrita J. James
Wisam Kashour
Severin N. Konan
Rana Saadoun
Michael Saint George
Cynthia Scott
Sherri Shannon
Ishmael C. Thompkins
Mary Jo M. Wingerter

Master of Business Administration
Musab A. Abu-Hamdan
Nour Al Naber
Andre L. Barnett
Jacob A. Brashares
Laura J. Bukachek
Sumpter Campbell
Joy E. Deacon
Lauren K. Fanta
Steven T. Fundarek
Aaron G. Hemphill
Eric R. Himmel
Shermona C. Hinton
Ashleigh N. Hostert
Lorie Jackson
Chengting Li
Zarin Mathew
Joyce L. McCollum
Cheryl A. Moore
Avinash Kumar Muppidi
Edward J. Pizzo
Michelle A. Secor
Clint P. Squier
Josephine N. Stutsman
Geoff L. Upjohn
Jeffrey C. Ward
Janelle M. Webb
Siqi Wu

Master of Public Administration
Tawanda C. Anderson
Earl W. Briggs
Mashaunda C. Brown
Sarhonia E. Brown
Terese E. Burton
Robert Contro
Colin W. Cook
Mary P. Crout
Henry M. Dahl
Sandra M. Davis
Lanae D. Dorsey
Zelma Evans
Patrick M. Freeman
Marilyn A. Gabiniski
Thomas Hartwig
Tanya L. Hooker
Dora L. Hope
Dean Hoskin
Bryant J. Krizik
Edward D. Leeson
Tyrone Lewis, Jr.
Jacob P. Melrose
Johnita N. Neely
Jeffrey A. Newbury
Jamye T. Paul
Andrew Ramirez
Brad A. Sprague
Brenetta Stephenson
Jacqueline A. Swain
Tina J. Varney
Marilyn E. Ward
Elder Billionaire Wilkins

Master of Science
John G. Buenger
Rosalba De La Paz
Daniel N. Gallagher
Ashleigh N. Hostert
Janice E. Knowles
John M. Muir
Bola O. Oderinde-Ojo
Kelly N. Vos

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College of Health and Human Services

Bachelor of Health Administration

Tatiarree J. Brinson
Jennifer P. Davis
Charina Francisco
Claudia M. Garcia
Joseph D. Graham
Reggie L. Hooper
Elizabeth N. Hruza
Angel Lindley
Manar Matarneh
Stephanie A. Misner
Brenda Morris
Jeremy P. Palmer
Ryan D. Rachal
Tiffany L. Ricke
Autumn C. Sako
Amber Shaw
Tatiana D. Stokes
Katarzyna M. Szarek
Babette Thornton
Glea I. Worthy

Bachelor of Health Science

Whitney K. Andrews
Jessica L. Calderon
Rita F. Costello
Amanda C. Martini
Eric I. Ruffin
Eileen M. Sheridan
Ora E. Spearman
Renata M. Styka
Robyn Whitehead

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Kionie T. Abraham
LaTanya Arnold-Cowart
Krystle B. Banzuela
Rachel A. Bulthui
Stephani L. Hardie
Charissa M. Hurt
Crystal R. Locke
Patti A. Schassburger
Candice L. Willingham

Master of Health Administration

Jarryl A. Anderson
Michelle Renee Atkins
Sarita D. Bartels
Kendra M. Bouk
Jacob Brunner
Angela Davis
David Lester
Babatunde D. Olaseinde
Onomeroso Clara Omene
Kiki B. Samuels
Donisha L. Santiago-Anderson
Michael Sedlacek
Temitayo A. Sholankan
Tokunbo Ihonrume Shode
Tatshie L. Simmons
Raquel N. Sims
Navrose Singh
Stephen G. Stout
Tiffany Wilson

Bachelor of Social Work

Mary Abukhudair
Gretta Adams
Nikia R. Adams
Kaitlin M. Aldworth
Adela Alsabgh
Patricia E. Breford
Anthony R. Coyne
Sarah J. Cullina
Danielle M. Cythamil
Emma D. Eaton

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Carol Lisa Alexander
Barbara Helen Johnson
Brenda C. Rocha
Jacquelyn J. Whitten

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Agneszka Adamczyk
Amy D. Bender
Todd P. Boyer
Bernt A. Carlson
Brennon C. Deike
Lauren E. Ditcon
Stefanie M. Dominguez
Jessica L. George
Kelly M. Ghiotto
Nicole M. Gogolew
Alexander Sangmo Han
Sara A. Hennessy
Matthew Robert Kelling
Tevs J. Kirkling
Linda Lai
Beth A. Landers
Danya L. Lev
Taryn E. Lewis
Jennifer Eileen Lukow
Lauren T. Mansell
Janie S. Mohan
Olubunmi O. Olowe
Idris A. Omosanya
Barbara M. Papciak
Steven E. Reiter
Halidu G. Shokunbi
Sarunas Skadas
Christina L. Werner

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy

Teodoro C. Cirujales
Wendy S. Reils

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Caren Schranz

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Tamara Kroeger understands what it means to face challenges and never give up. As a child, she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Even though she was too young to understand the scope of her disease, she felt the physical pain and witnessed the emotional toll it took on her family. She learned at a young age to live life to the fullest and to do whatever she needed to make that possible. Tamara also learned that there was no time to waste in reaching her goals and fulfilling her dreams.

With those lessons in mind, Tamara embraces life with all it has to offer and all she has to give in return. She joined the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and served her country for five years. While she was in the service, she met and married her husband. After an on-the-job injury led to a medical release, Tamara turned to new challenges. She focused on raising her two sons, working part time at Chase Bank, volunteering at her sons' school, and earning her bachelor's degree.

As a student at Governors State University, Tamara found that she had a lot in common with her fellow students. She and her classmates seemed to share many of the same characteristics and goals. Many of them were returning adults with a spouse, young children, and a job, in addition to classes, homework, and exams. Tamara found that the rapport and friendship she experienced in the classroom helped her achieve her educational goal.

Tamara believes she owes much of her success to her support system - her fellow students, her encouraging mother, and her husband who understands what it is like to be an adult returning to earn a degree. He, too, has returned to college to earn his degree even as he serves in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Today Tamara will earn her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science. She plans to continue her education in graduate school; perhaps even law school. Most important, she plans to never stop learning. As the first member of her immediate family to earn her degree, Tamara plans to serve as an example for her sons.

"It started with my mom who always loved to read and now it is my husband's and my turn to show our sons. Knowledge is contagious. The more we learn, the more there is to know."
Academic Regalia
During the commencement ceremony, students and faculty wear academic costumes indicating the wearers’ degrees, colleges/universities, and fields of study.

The Cap
The black mortarboard type is the most common cap worn. Degree candidates wear cap tassels that are black and white, the university colors. Colors worn by the faculty vary according to their fields of study.

The Gown
Gowns are of three kinds. The bachelor’s gown is relatively simple, with lines falling straight from a fairly elaborate yoke. Its distinguishing characteristic is the long pointed sleeve. Braided silken cords are worn by students who have achieved special scholastic recognition: gold signifies high honors; white, honors. The master’s gown has sleeves, with a back end extending down below the knee in a crescent shape. The doctor’s gown is an elaborate costume, with velvet panels down the front and around the neck, with three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves.

The Hood
The official colors of the college or university from which a degree is conferred are represented in the lining of the hood. For each field of study, there is a corresponding trim color. The trim colors for master’s hoods are as follows:

- Accounting: Drab
- Addictions Studies: Salmon Pink
- Analytical Chemistry: Golden Yellow
- Art: Brown
- Business Administration: Drab
- Communication Disorders: Salmon Pink
- Communications and Training: White
- Computer Science: Golden Yellow
- Counseling: Light Blue
- Early Childhood Education: Light Blue
- Education: Light Blue
- Educational Administration: Light Blue
- English: White
- Environmental Biology: Golden Yellow
- Health Administration: Salmon Pink
- Management Information Systems: Golden Yellow
- Multicategorical Special Education: Light Blue
- Nursing: Apricot
- Occupational Therapy: Slate Blue
- Physical Therapy: Teal
- Political Studies: White
- Political and Justice Studies: White
- Psychology: Light Blue
- Public Administration: Peacock Blue
- Social Work: Citric
- Sociology: White
COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Coordinator of Marshals
Rupert Evans - Department Chair, CHHS

Assistant Coordinators
Lorri Glass - Assistant Professor, CHHS
Nancy Shlaes - University Professor, Library

College of Arts and Sciences
Daniel Cortese - Assistant Professor
James “Chip” Coldren - Associate Professor
Walt Henne - Assistant Professor
Caron Jacobson - University Lecturer
Shelly Kumar - Professor
Rashidah Muhammad - Professor

College of Business and Public Administration
Carlos Ferran - Assistant Professor
Edna Fry - University Lecturer
Kathleen Hamby - University Lecturer
Margaret Neumann - Division Chair
Gokce Sargut - Assistant Professor

College of Education
Sara Acton - Director of Field Experiences
Thomas Bierdz - University Lecturer
Sandy Gandy - Assistant Professor
Dan Hechenberger - Assistant Professor
Twyanda Jiles - Assistant Professor
Julia Yang - University Professor

College of Health and Human Services
Jennifer Armstrong - Assistant Professor
Martha Gainer - University Lecturer
Stephanie Hughes - Assistant Professor
Raven James - Assistant Professor
Joyce Sligar - University Lecturer
Robin Washington - Assistant Professor
Phyllis West - Assistant Professor
The Mace

The governor's mace, carried by the marshal who leads the academic procession, is a symbol of the authority of the university as a degree-granting institution. The legal authority of the university is grounded in the intellectual authority of the distinguished faculty who follow in the procession.

In antiquity, the mace was a weapon used to establish the “authority” of the physically strong. Its transformation into a symbol of intellectual authority is both a tribute to and a reminder of the civilizing force of a university’s teaching, research, and community service functions.

Engraved on the four side-panels of the governor's mace are the seal of the State of Illinois; a cardinal, the state bird; the seal of the former Illinois Board of Governors Universities; and an inscription which reads “The governor's mace, a symbol of tradition and authority of Governors State University, dedicated to the search for excellence in the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and the love of learning. Presented by Peter Levin, friend of the university, June 2, 1979.”

Atop the mace is a silver rendition of the university logo. The three sides of the “triangle” symbolize the university's teaching, research, and community service functions. The three lines visually suggest the shape of a rocket, reminding us both that the university was founded within days of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon and that the university is a hope-filled, pioneering community, committed to a better future for all men and women. The circle symbolizes the fact that the university is, indeed, a community. Finally, the fact that the tips of the triangle reach beyond the circle indicates the university's outreach into the region, state, and nation and its commitment to teaching, research, and community service.