6-12-2010

Commencement Program: Spring 2010

Governors State University

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring
Commencement Exercises
of the Thirty-Ninth
Academic Year

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010
11 A.M.
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.
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.
Peter Schjeldahl has spent his life observing the world, its art, and its people. He has taken those observations and keenly crafted them into poetry, criticism, and educational opportunities.

Schjeldahl is a product of the Midwest. He was born in North Dakota and raised in Minnesota. He attended Carlton College and The New School and began wielding his pen as a reporter for newspapers in Minnesota and Iowa.

After a year in Paris, he moved to New York City in 1965, and began writing art criticism first for *ArtNews* and later for *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, and *7 Days*. He is currently chief art critic for *The New Yorker*.

Using his keen insight and clear eloquence, Schjeldahl invites his readers into the world of art. He maps a clear path to the understanding of complex visual ideas for both the novice and experienced art connoisseur. His writing is elegant and spare without oversimplification. His observations are compelling. He has no agenda but to help his readers find their connection to the art he reviews.

He shared his observations and appreciation in a narrative describing the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. His essay, *A Park for the Prairie God*, appears in a 1987 catalog describing the park setting and its sculptures. His essay eloquently expresses the unique integration of art, education, and nature found on the grounds of Governors State University.

Schjeldahl has published five books of poetry and four books of criticism. For four years, he taught a seminar for studio seniors in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University.

He has received the Clark Prize for Excellence in Arts Writing from the Clark Art Institute, the Frank Jewett Mather Award for excellence in art criticism from the College Art Association, and a Guggenheim Fellowship for his nonfiction literary contributions.

As a poet, critic, and educator, Peter Schjeldahl has used words to enlighten and engage his readers and students and encourage them to open their eyes and minds to the new, the different, the exciting, and the unique.
Order of Exercises

Saturday, June 12, 2010, 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 .................................................. Encore Concert Band
Bill Schuetter, Conductor

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

Processional ........................................ Dr. Heikki Heino, Grand Marshal
“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,” by Edward Elgar
Encore Concert Band

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 Senate .................. Dr. Heikki Heino, President - Faculty Senate

Introduction of Student Speaker .................... Tony Labriola, Master of Ceremonies

Student Speaker Address ................................ Bryce Johnsen

Presidential Address ................................ Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, President

Presentation of Honorary Degree ..................... Dr. David Curtis, Interim Provost
Conferring of Degree ................................... Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, President
Honorary Recipient, Doctor of Humane Letters .................................................. Peter Schjeldahl

Presentation of Degree Candidates .................. Tony Labriola, Master of Ceremonies
College of Arts and Sciences ......................... Dr. James Howley, Chair, Division of Liberal Arts
College of Business and Public Administration .................................................. Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean
College of Education ................................ Dr. Deborah Bordelon, 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 .......................................... Dr. Heikki Heino, Grand Marshal
“Crown Imperial,” by William Walton
Encore Concert Band

Fanfare Selection ..................................... Encore Concert Band
Bill Schuetter, Conductor

Ms. Susan Bova, Sign Language Interpreter
The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.
Bachelor of Arts

Eloise Adams
Linda J. Adams
Kylisha Alsberry
Sonja L. Anderson
Vincent C. Anyaso
Pamela R. Anzelone
Connie Ann Bambulas
Tenya S. Baskett
Milissa A. Baugh
Matthew P. Beasley
Rabindra Bickhem
Myrna Brady
Lucinda R. Branch
Richard J. Brantley
John H. Bush
treva J. Cain
Samantha M. Canada
Antoinette Cannon
Carter E. Cavitt
John N. Colby
Nicholas J. Cosentino
Orlando L. Craig
Katherine M. Cullinan
Peter J. Cummings
Ann Marie Cunning
Kristin T. Dargert
LaNita N. Davis
Debra DeBoer
Adam P. DeFarno
Dennis W. Dean
Clifton G. Donaldson
Chrisy Dortch
Jamie L. Drzewiecki
Caprice Ellis
Justin M. Fialko
Allyson C. Fillcicchia
Erin M. Fionda
Stacey S. Ford
Elladeen Foster
Letha M. Foster
Therese Francis
Christopher D. Gierhahn
Susan L. Gonzales
Gregory A. Goosby
Willie J. Gordon
Megan C. Grady
Brian D. Gray
Dale L. Grinker
Sinad Hammad
John M. Hardeman
Claudia D. Harris
Karen D. Harrison
Kimberley A. Harrison
Anthony B. Henderson
Denice Hill
Carolyn V. Holcomb
Frieda J. Holley
Jason C. Humbles
Daniel L. Janusek
Bryce C. Johnsen
Carol M. Johnson
Glen E. Johnson
Naima A. Johnson
Betty J. Jones
Conchetta A. Jones
Megan M. Kan
Kathleen M. Karwoski
Monica Mary Keogh
Keyanna J. Kindred
Neil T. King
Toby Ladsas
Lori L. Lambert
Robert Louis Lebda
Christina E. Lee
Joseph P. Lerro
Marlene Joyce Lewis
Jennifer A. Lola
Amy J. Lubke
Michael A. Lucia
Silvia J. Lumpkins
Dawn M. Malec
Leslie A. Malvin
Gregory L. Marconi
Samantha Marquez
Raja J. Matarijeh
Catherine A. Mayo
Kelly M. McDevitt
Natoya R. McGary
Jennifer K. McKinney
Cherise C. McLaurin
Jenna Medina
Melva M. Mitchell
Dymphna M. Mooney
James Morgan
Glenesha L. Mullen
Adam F. Nagy
Daniel T. Nawara
Nicole M. Neuhaus
Hilario Nieto
Yvonne C. Noke
Albertin Oatis-Gibson
Cari M. Oladiji
Pamela M. Parker
Dominique Partee
Marvin W. Peters
Wanda Pettie
Suzeet M. Porter
Angela M. Preto
Helena N. Rachal
Jeannine M. Rein
Michael J. Resendiz
Joel A. Reyes
Michelle J. Robinson
Robert C. Robinson
Lora J. Roddy
Renee C. Rybak
Jacqueline Ryon
Namita Sareen
Bakr N. Shahen
Kennice L. Shaw
Cynthia R. Sims
Simon Sroka
Patricia Sterba
Ali Suleman
Joseph C. Sullivan
Jetaun L. Teamer
Amanda S. Teske
Theresa M. Tofiga
Candice L. Wade
Renee A. Washington
Dawne D. Washington-Shelton
Marc C. Westbrooks
Monica J. Williams
Linda J. Wills
Latonya Wyatt
Nathania Renee Wynn
Ashley L. Yates
Versetta P. Young
Ruby Zambrano
Kevin A. Zickerman

Bachelor of Science

Michael E. Abels
Joseph P. Ambrosino
Jonathan G. Bardahl
Zachary T. Delaney
Jon Dharamsy
Arianna J. Farias
Ramon C. Fuller
Dale L. Grinker
Trisha M. Hodock
Jeffrey W. Hojnicki
Malak M. Jabar
Robert B. Miller
Benjamin D. Novotny
Mathew J. Rossell-Griffin
John J. Spotora
Krzesztof Tralka
Camaro Walker
Jason Robert Zenawick
Thaddeus J. Zurga

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

Master of Arts

Tresa S. Abraham
Elvin L. Altman
Jeremy J. Basso
Andrea Nicole Batie
Alicia T. Beal
Christopher J. Clark
Eric R. Coleman
Elizabeth M. Cook
Chrishan S. David
Robert S. DeWitt-Barber
Aliscia M. Doriety
Manal M. El-Hrisse
Lydia J. Gasca
Tina Marie Hill
Karen Keorpes
Thomasine A. Laib
Demetria L. McClenton
Dona A. McCullough
Tonoah P. Merritt
Jocelyn T. Meyers
Fabiola Mireles
James C. Orr
Sheena V. Parker
Monique R. Parker-Tarleton
Dorothy T. Petraitis
Raygnol Pierre
Rahkal C. Shelton
Jeremy M. Spence
Jennifer E. Stoner
Christopher J. Vasel
Tonia J. Ware
Todd C. Williams

Master of Fine Arts

Jamiel K. Chapple
Yusef Hood

Master of Science

Mohammed Azeem
Mirza Azheruddin Baig
Abdul Qawi Hazari
Varun Chander R. Lenkala
Ahmed Baig Mirza
Nida Ullah Khan Mohammed
Waseem Mohiuddin Mohammed
Rama Gopal Neerukonda
Sreekanth Penumetsa

^ = Cum Laude 3.80-3.89
^^ = Magne Cum Laude 3.90-3.97
^^^ = Summa Cum Laude 3.98-4.00
§ = University Honors Program
College of Business and Public Administration

Bachelor of Arts

^ Leean M. Abramowicz
Kenneth Britter
^ Susan P. Browne
Darlene Burtis
Michael J. Byrne
Charles Carrington
Justin Clinton
Leslie Blaine Coulter
Richard A. Dennison
Northern Denson
Emily S. Dubs
Michelle L. Farrell
Daniel K. Firlej
Irma Flores
Yesenia M. Flores
Angela M. Frausto
^ Thomas J. Hampton
LaDonna P. Holmes
Melissa R. James
Senatha Jenkins
Lisa L. Jones
Parris R. Jones
Michael R. LaPorte
Angelique Lacey
Luis I. Lopez
^ David M. Love
Brandon M. Lukasik
Scott F. MacDonald
John Mauch-Major
Holly Ann McNichols
Celena J. Minetti
Bonnie J. Mitchell
David S. Nemsick
^ Wendy M. Oswald
^ Michael B. Paczkowski
^ Adam C. Pepper
Heather A. Radcliffe
Bernadette G. Reed
Tabitha P. Richardson
^ Katherine M. Schippits
Wendell E. Schubbe
Darren L. Seefeldt
Noah J. Smarkesse
Ava A. Solarzki
Russell R. Stovall
James P. Sweeney
Kristina L. Temple
Justin D. Thompson
Shakita D. Tillman
Sarah Varnauskas
Tiesha M. Vernon
Katherinie Wambangco
LaTonya L. Whiteside
Donna R. Wilkinson
^ Carl J. Wojciak

Bachelor of Science

Rammy Ahmad
^ Akemi Arias
^^ Vallicienne A. Arnold
^ Tara M. Bryze
^ Gregory T. Burke
^^ Heather J. DeRuiter
Tanya L. Funches
Jill S. Gregory
Joanna Halupka
Sabrina M. Johnson
La'Quisha R. Lewis
Erica Moore
Ryan Murphy
Suzanna Raigoza
^ Kil S. Yan
Khafayat Funmilayo Young

Master of Public Administration

Tyara Michelle Adway-Smith
Doris J. Barnes-Cook
Douglas T. Beckman
Timothy J. Biron
Michael D. Brady
Peter B. Chmura
Tony L. Curtis
Scott A. Durano
Judith L. Edwards
Denise L. Ellis
Charles J. Geraci
Timothy J. Krish
Tammy K. McMullan
John P. Murphy, Sr.
Antonio L. Padron
Toure G. Peck
Rena Redic
Tajuana L. Rice
Steven H. Roberts
Willie L. Rogers
Karyn A. Schmidt
Jennifer M. Sheard
Kevin D. Sisk
Timothy W. Sisk
Robert B. Stegenga
Daniel V. Sylvester
Karen Y. Thurman
John T. Touhy
Gregory S. Vitale
Samantha M. Webb

Master of Business Administration

Naela Asmar
Benson A. Cariyadil
Yi Chen
John D. Chisholm
Jian Zhu Huang
Anthony W. Jacob
Nashena L. Johnson
John D. Leszczynski
Wenyi Liang
Michael J. Montgomery
Pamela Rochelle Morgan
Janiqua Vanette Nash
William Charles Pender
James M. Poling
Christina M. Scruggs
Gigi Koshy Simon
Antawana C. Smothers
Robyn Marie Vukelich
Sheryl Rena Wilder
Xiaoke Yi
Xi Ni Zhang
Liuzhen Zheng

Master of Science

Thomas J. DeYoung
Colleen M. Ivancic
Carron S. Johnson
Patricia I. Norek
Joel D. Pepin
Katie J. Sayler
Deborah A. Taylor
Linda J. Taylor

^ = Cum Laude  3.80-3.89
^^ = Magne Cum Laude  3.90-3.97
^^^ = Summa Cum Laude  3.98-4.00
§ = University Honors Program
College of Education

Bachelor of Arts

Angela M. Adochio
^ Elizabeth A. Anthony-McDowell
Janell E. Armstrong
^^ Samantha E. Barker
   Cherry R. Bennett
   Kelly Lee Blackmon
   Josey Marie Bonadona
   Nicole C. Breit
^ Erin E. Brennan
   Crystal A. Briney
   Romel Bryant
^ Lori A. Caswell
   Catherine A. Dalla Betta
   Kelly K. Dial
^ Peter Arthur Drey
   Lisa M. Dulek
^ Diane E. Elliott
   Katherine M. Fitzgibbons
^^ Nicole D. Frey
   Gustien R. Glover
   Amanda M. Granza
^^ Tina M. Gray
§^^ Glenda R. Grundy
   Jessica M. Guzman
   Gladys A. Gyabaah
   Jennifer Hayden
   Hayley J. Helfrich
   Leah R. Ipema
^ Jennifer Jenciek
^ Dawn M. Kieffer
   Sophia E. Kodura
^ Jennifer E. Kozinski
^ Kevin E. Kuzanek
   Jacqueline A. LaFaye
   Kristina M. LaMorte
   Danielle LeVee
   Katie S. Litwin
   Megan K. Mahoney
   Brandon L. McCreary
^ Alexandria E. Merrick
^ Kimberly Anne Miller
   Danielle Desire’ Montijo
^^ Jennifer Moore
^ Janice L. Morande
^ April Muller
   Jamie A. Muzika
   Linnea M. Nemcek
   Shanee’ J. Norfleet
   Taylor M. O’Keefe-Hart
   Chiquita M. Patterson
^ Jaclyn R. Pavlick
   Christin M. Pawchak
^ Michelle Philippi

James T. Pitcairn
  Angel K. Raines
^ Rebecca A. Saathoff
  RasheedaT A. Said
^^ Maria E. Sandora-Meeder
^ Edward R. Slak
  Temitope Sofowora
^ Katie L. Springfield
  Tracey A. Stege
  Stephanie L. Szykowny
  Stacey D. Taylor
  Karra D. Thompson
^ Bethany J. Treasure
  Javier Vasquez
  Alan Watkins
^ Susan L. Waxweiler
^^ Jenna R. Weglarz

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^^ = Magna Cum Laude 3.90-3.97
^^^ = Summa Cum Laude 3.98-4.00
§ = University Honors Program
College of Education

Master of Arts

Kameyal Alexander
Rosalya A. Alsup
Creo S. Argue
Janice M. Banks
Diane M. Barrett
Dana R. Becker
Twyla L. Bennett
Kathleen M. Bisch
Michelle G. Body
Michelle M. Bongiovanni
Kevin G. Broene
Aaron D. Brown
Paula Burnett
Michelle A. Cartolano
Veridiana Chavez-Alonso
Christine A. Clavena
Megan A. Cleary
Nancy L. Coluzzi
Ashley R. Cosentino
Therese Coughlin
Craig M. Crafton
Patricia A. Crowe
Catherine P. Doran
Carolyn Eberhard
Linda Esposito
Andrew J. Findysz
Debra Gaskin
Barbara J. Gindville
Michelle L. Gulo-Hernandez
Laura A. Gray
Steven L. Gress
Stacy L. Griffin
Debra A. Gross
Robert J. Grosso
Susan M. Groves
Donnald Eugene Hamrin
Melinda G. Harshfield
Angela S. Harston-Lampkins
Khlisha M. Hawkins
Jill Rae Herrick
Harmony Hitchcock
Ester LaSamuela Hope
Karla M. Horn
Lindsay C. Hushka
Anitra Cellete Hutcherson
Stacy M. Irvine
Amy Jo Jacobs
Lorie L. Kaiser
Kara L. Kamstra
Rebecca L. Kemp
Chad M. Kiffmeyer
Debra Kimbrough
Christina L. Kinsella
Cheryl Kokaska
Carrie L. Kostka
Lauren J. Kottler
Barbara E. Krupa
Kathryn A. Kupchek
Kristine M. LaVine
Alicia Mary Lanacki
Michael P. Lavey
Linda D. Lee
Leigh C. Leinweber
Linda S. Lessard
Robert R. Lightfoot, Jr.
Jillian M. Lorde
Margaret M. Love
Catherine M. Lyons
Rachel S. Lyons
Patrick A. MacDonald
Maureen A. MacLeod
Bridget A. McGoldrick
Laura Jean M. Mertes
Katie A. Mertz
Mary K. Milarczyk
Karen M. Morales
Nicole A. Mulder
David A. Murray
Christine R. O’Brien
Douglas Ogarek
Nicole L. Olofsson
Jana S. Panici
Michael S. Pero
Michael R. Peterson
Jeanne M. Pickett
Mary A. Pierard
Tracy D. Plesek
Kim T. Pronoitis
Carrie A. Quinn
Ivan E. Rayner
Edward A. Renas
Natasha L. Roberson
Consuelo Rodriguez
Marcia A. Rogers
Julie B. Rowoldt
Maricela Ruiz
Patrick M. Rush
Felix Sanchez
Michael J. Schroeder
Sabrina M. Scott
Amanda M. Shannon
Jennifer M. Smith
Melissa M. Smotherman
Rebecca J. Snyder
Kelly A. Swan
Elizabeth Ann Swaney

Thomas L. Tucker
William R. Tucker
Yetunde Toro Uwajeh
Carrie M. Van Duyne
Christopher L. VanNoord
Ryan S. Visser
Tyrone D. Ward
Melissa A. Weber
Crystal D. Williams
Sarah A. Winbush

^ = Cum Laude 3.80-3.89
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§ = University Honors Program
Bachelor of Health Administration

Susan L. Ader
Shkendije Arifi
Renee M. Damiani
Lakita Patrice Daniels
Rosemary Dominguez
Patricia A. Fryer
Kourtney V. Hartmann
Kayla S. Heyward
Jessica L. Miggins
Megan M. Parady
Stelliani Peters
Joshua Raglione
Gail S. Szewczyk
Chavahn L. Williams

Bachelor of Social Work

Michelle L. Adams
Sarah A. Adekola
Brenda Allen
Angel R. Aiston
Janell V. Bailey
Deborah A. Bashir
Kimberly Brennan
Jessica Bujanski
Kristen R. Carr
Samantha A. Dagenais
Trevaughn Davis-Neal
Francisco Enriquez
Carmen L. Free
Scott C. Hedge
Jaclyn S. Hicks
Roxanne Hughes
Ruza S. Jaber
Shannon L. Kraehner
Lee W. Lavender
Valerie Marks
Patricia R. Moen
Abiodun O. Opeifa
Dana Marie Osborn
Sima J. Patel
Montreal Robinson
Gianni P. Sansone
Vanita A. Seals
Latoya Y. Smith
Maria L. Ursetta
Constance M. Vann
Monica M. Walker
Latonya J. West
Elana M. Willis

Bachelor of Social Work in Nursing

Megan M. Knarr
Anabela Largo
Kathryn L. Laoing
Ella J. McDonald
Enchelle R. Morris
John P. Nilson
Terrance W. Patillo
Kante T. Reed
Dorothy M. Robinson
Julia R. Romero
John F. Smith
Wendi C. Swift
Vanessa Virgous
Willie B. Watts
Cristiane N. White
Gwendolyn White
Venus L. Whitiker

Bachelor of Science

Susana J. Almazan
Ohood M. Baste
Bill Biederman
Sharon L. Burnham
Melinda S. Foresta
Elissa Ann Kurz
Maria E. Maldonado
Kelli M. Merlo
Nina A. Ortega
Brandy Pilny
Javier Soler
Sara M. VanByssum

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Lynn M. Christian
Elaine Fountain
Nneka P. Johnson
Michael J. Lane
Abigail U. Ogumiyi
Ed Allen E. Roska
Tamara L. Smith
Irene Thomas

Bachelor of Health Administration

Marcus M. Allen
Manuel H. Beltran
Tamika D. Hinton
Ipshita Sheelam

Bachelor of Health Science

JoAnn Allférink
Barbara R. Burgess
Latanya O. Craig
Pamela Therese Daffin-Sibless
Tiffany B. Dixon-Johnson
Lillie B. Dodd
Anthony Giles
Tamorrow A. Griffith
Christine B. Gribowski
Amy R. Hunte
Bertha F. Johnson

Master of Health Administration

Kenneth Earl Abrams
Janette R. Arceneaux
Vilija Aukstuolis
Michelle Bashton
Pamela Bills
Karissa J. Blaschek
Quintin Bradley
Brenton P. Bridgeforth
Aishia R. Brown
Sarah K. Clark
Tracy L. Cunningham
Jabar H. Dowdell
Alicia A. Driscoll
Brooke A. Escobar
Megan L. Givens
James E. Golding

Master of Health Science

Matthew J. Gonzalez
Teresa L. Illum
Dyneen M. Jackson
Jovan Johnson
Kathleen A. Keating
Demesha T. Lewis
Rachel M. Magruder
C. Granne Mahoney
Gwendolyn A. Malinowski
Megan T. McShane
Diane M. Moler
Yolanda Ringo
Brigid M. Rousonelos
Regina M. Serio
Bridgette L. Spann
Sister Ann Sylvia Tamale
Nathan A. Underhile
Mildred E. Woodward
Myesha K. Wright
Jessica F. Zimmer

Master of Occupational Therapy

Stephanie Anne Noreiko

Master of Science in Nursing

Debra L. Boyd-Seale
Diane Carr-Lynn
Tina M. Decker
Paula M. Dunskis
Linda H. Hale
Clementha A. Ingram
Berinda Jones
Terry L. Muhammad
Elizabeth Nevarez
Ramona Williams

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Shirley K. Comer
Patricia A. Martin

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Tanya L. Anderson
Patricia L. Barker
Megan A. Bryce
Scott Thomas Bullard
Michelle A. Gibbons
Emily C. Harn
Kristina N. Jones
Shannon K. Kleinfielder
James A. Lagoni
Andrew S. Lange
Cheryl A. Lui
Cari D. O’Donnell
Bradley D. Phillips
Megan Renee Schneider
Joshua Velarde
Justin Velarde
Jena M. Zientek
Gregory J. Zukowski
Student Speaker

Bryce Johnsen

Student Commencement speaker Bryce Johnsen says he attended Governors State University for all the right reasons. The school was close to his Park Forest home. It was affordable. His credits from Prairie State College transferred, and GSU had the degree program he wanted.

What he found when he got to GSU was more than educational opportunity. He found enlightenment, direction, and empowerment. Through his education at GSU, Bryce developed a different perspective on the world and formulated his own direction. Education, according to Bryce, gave him more choices by exposing him to new ideas and differing points of view.

In the short time he has been at Governors State University, Bryce has earned more than his Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. He has earned the respect of his professors, the university administration, and fellow students. As the elected student representative to the GSU Board of Trustees, Bryce played a key role in representing student interests in trustee and administration discussions.

Bryce provided a student perspective during the recent Higher Learning Commission review. He also served as a volunteer student mentor in the interdisciplinary studies program, which led him to pursue his goal of becoming an academic advisor. He is currently studying for his master's degree in communication and training at GSU.

“Education is empowering. I want to help people develop their direction and encourage them not to be afraid to learn about themselves,” said Bryce.

Bryce currently interns in the GSU Office of Admission and was recently elected as a member of the GSU Student Senate.

Bryce believes that one of the most important lessons he has learned at GSU is how to become part of the decision-making process—to question, analyze, and think critically to formulate a solution. While he remains focused on his studies, he is also determined to be an active and contributing member of the university community.

“When I got to GSU, I realized why education is so important and how it can be the key to success. Many people fear that they don’t have the ability to achieve great things, but they can do anything if they put their minds to it. I learned a lot about myself at GSU. Education gives people the confidence to make a difference.”
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

University Grand Marshal
Heikki Heino – President, Faculty Senate

Coordinator of Marshals
John Stoll – Vice Provost

Assistant Coordinator
Colleen Rock – Director, SAAS

College of Arts and Sciences
Xiaoyong Chen – Associate Professor
James (Chip) Coldren – Associate Professor
Daniel Cortese – Assistant Professor
Rashidah Muhammad – Professor
Nancy Shlaes – Professor

College of Business and Public Administration
Mary Bruce – Assistant Professor
Kathleen Hamby – University Lecturer
Akkanad Isaac – Division Chair
John Simon – Assistant Professor
Colleen Rock – Director, SAAS

College of Education
Sara Acton – Director of Field Experiences
Thomas Bierdz – University Lecturer
Jung-ah Choi – Assistant Professor
George Garrett – Professor
Sharon Neste – University Lecturer

College of Health and Human Services
Kim Boland-Prom – Assistant Professor
Rupert Evans – Assistant Professor
Martha Gainer – University Lecturer
Joyce Sligar – University Lecturer
Beverly Younger – University Lecturer
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.