

Spring 2013

## Student Affairs Newsletter, Spring 2013

Dean of Students

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# Student Affairs Newsletter

Office of the Dean of Students

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www.govst.edu/studentaffairs



SPRING 2013

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Welcome to the first edition of the *Student Affairs Newsletter!* This new publication is designed to inform the campus community about student affairs sponsored programs and services, and to highlight the accomplishments of our talented students. We hope to publish this newsletter three times a year, and for many years to come.

I was initially drawn to Governors State University because of the immense opportunities to contribute to the institution during such a transformative moment in its history. But what inspires me regularly are the stories of our students' aspirations and the dedication of the faculty and staff to support them. Amidst my conversations with students, many tell me of individual faculty or staff members that have made the difference between giving up to many of life's challenges or continuing their efforts to earn their degrees.

In particular, I am proud to be associated with a team of dedicated student affairs educators and academic enrichment professionals working with one common purpose – advancing the GSU mission by promoting the academic, personal and

professional development of our students and inspiring them to be responsible citizens and leaders on-campus and in their community. As a team, we aspire to be recognized as vital contributors to Governors State in creating an inclusive, supportive and engaged campus environment by providing an innovative, comprehensive and integrated student life curriculum.

The **Leadership Institute** is the most recent example of an innovative program our dedicated team has developed to enrich the student educational experience. This interactive program was designed specifically for students who are highly motivated and seeking opportunities to fulfill their leadership potential. In its inaugural year, 45 undergraduate and 20 graduate students are participating (selected from 160 applicants), and 15 faculty and staff are serving as workshop presenters, while 45 more as leadership mentors.

Over the course of the Spring semester we'll also launch a **Student Concerns Program, Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice**, and contribute to campus-wide efforts to prepare for the introduction of a Lower Division program and opening of our first Residence Halls.

Please do not hesitate to visit the Student Life Center, my office is located in A-2130 and my weekly open hours are on Tuesdays from 4-5pm, if you need anything at all, or if I can be of assistance. Even if you don't need anything, stop in and simply visit!

Sincerely,  
Aurélio Manuel Valente  
Dean of Students and Associate  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

**our mission:**

“ Student Affairs educators promote the academic, personal and professional development of our students and inspire them to be responsible citizens and leaders in our communities. ”



Alpha Sigma Lambda induction was held on Nov. 8 as part of GSU's annual Non-Traditional Student Week celebrations.

After much dialogue and reflection about our work, the staff in the Academic Resource Center developed a mission statement: ***The Academic Resource Center strives to promote the personal growth of students and to enrich their academic experience.*** Given the renewed focus on the Center's mission and the role of the Academic Resource Center in supporting student success, this past semester included many accomplishments to celebrate:

The **Writing Center** hired and trained five new writing consultants to help students with their writing. This brings a total of ten staff members to serve students. Writing Center consultants collaborated with Library staff to offer six workshops during the fall semester. Look on the Writing Center site for six new workshops offered during the spring semester.

The **Student Enrichment Program (SEP)**, focused on assisting low-income, first generation undergraduate students and welcomed twelve new participants during the fall semester for a total of

26 students being served. These selected students are offered six extra support services in order to increase their degree completion rate.

September and October were busy months for mental health outreach workshops: National Suicide Prevention day, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder were just four of many. The annual National Depression Screening Day, always held on campus the second Thursday of October, had 75 individuals requesting screening for depression. At the end of November, World AIDS day was commemorated with various activities held across campus.

In mid-October, ARC staff collaborated with the Physical Therapy department and Student Life to bring the live production of ***Handicap This!*** to the Center for Performing Arts.

October was also the inaugural month for the first student **GS2U** workshop on Blackboard. The

planning committee of professional advisors applied and received a university Intellectual Life Grant to sponsor three more workshops in the spring semester. Look for these on the newly created **GS2U** site.

Mathematics and statistic tutoring remain in high demand. During the fall semester, there were 428 visits from over 100 individual students. The LSAT preparation workshop remains ongoing through the end of the spring semester. Two Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) mathematics workshops were held through the ARC. The next one begins January 31, with a second one in March after spring break. A registration form for these workshops can be found on the ARC website.

**Project HOPE's** fall session ran for five weeks from October 13 through November 10. Project HOPE is an academic enrichment program serving Hispanic middle school students from the Chicago Heights community. The fall session culminated in a field trip to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

Recently, the Academic Resource Center assumed responsibility for coordinating the New Student Orientation. In January 2013, over 250 students and 100 guests participated in a campus-wide orientation program designed for new transfer and graduate students.

## ARC mission:

“ The Academic Resource Center strives to promote the personal growth of students and to enrich their academic experience. ”

### Our location & contact info:

B-1215 (off of Hall of Governors)  
phone: (708) 534-4090.

[www.govst.edu/ARC](http://www.govst.edu/ARC)

### Our Hours:

Mondays -Thursdays: 8:30am to 7pm  
Fridays: 8:30am to 5pm

# Career Services programs include a “professional makeover.”



Health and Human Services Career Fair hosted 37 employers on November 28.

This semester Career Services saw a total of 209 clients over the course of 296 counseling sessions. In addition the Career Services assisted an additional 163 walk-ins seeking services and assistance.

In September, the Business, Communication and Technology Career and Internship Fair took place hosting 28 employers and 154 students job seekers attending.

The Professional Image Makeover Conference (formerly Career Preparation Week) was held in October. This conference offered nine presentations and workshops throughout the course of three

days. This year’s PIMC event drew in a total of 82 attendees/27 unduplicated participants (event was co-sponsored by the Academic Resource Center and the Office of Career Services.)

In November, Career Services held the Health and Human Services Career and Internship fair. With an increase of 22 participants from last year, a total of 37 employers and 176 student job seekers participated. In addition 37 employers and 20 GSU faculty members participated in a new networking component which was added so faculty members and employers could meet to discuss student needs.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Teacher Education Career & Internship Fair**

Hall of Governors  
Thurs, Feb 21, 2 - 5pm

#### **Professional Etiquette Luncheon**

E Lounge  
Tues., March 26, 11:30am - 1:30pm

#### **Criminal Justice Career & Internship Fair**

Hall of Governors,  
Thurs., April 18, 2-5pm

### **Visit or Contact us:**

A Building, Room 1120  
Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 7pm  
phone: 708.235.3974  
email: [career@govst.edu](mailto:career@govst.edu)  
web: [www.govst.edu/careerservices](http://www.govst.edu/careerservices)

## Career Services welcomes new Career Counselor, Dartina Dunlap, MA ‘12



**Dartina Dunlap**

Dartina is a proud GSU alumna having earned both a MA in Counseling and a BA in Psychology. She received the majority of her experience through Career Services as a Graduate Assistant. Her belief in the power of human connectedness is the foundation of humanitarianism and is a principle that she embodies.

She defines student success as the ability to utilize the collective resources available through the institution in which they attend. One of her greatest accom-

plishments as a former student she recalls involvement with Chi Sigma Iota.

As a Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship recipient she shifted her focus slightly to include a post-secondary institution as a catalyst for impacting other students. Her involvement in various organizations and programs contributed to her academic success and expanded her opportunities. She is excited about her position as a Career Counselor and is looking forward to working with today’s GSU student population.

# Student Senate registers 320 voters for November elections.



Select members of 2012-2013 Student Senate with President Maimon.

Over the past year, GSU's Student Senate has coordinated and participated in numerous events and activities. The Student Senate strives to improve the quality of academic and co-curricular experiences at GSU and provide developmental opportunities for its members.

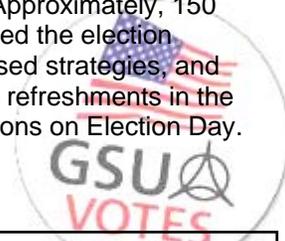
During the past presidential election, the student government at Governors State University developed the GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign. As part of the initiative on civic engagement, it is important to educate students on the importance of voting and understanding the political process. As a result, a massive "GSU Votes" vote campaign was launched for the month of September.

The GSU student senate went one step further and collaborated with the Cook County Clerk's Office. Prior to beginning the registration drive several student senators; *Erin Fletcher, Eric Williams, Regina Haynes, Codjo Padonou, Christopher Apata, Antron Washington, Adrienne Farmer*, and a few staff members became deputy registrars to ensure that GSU would be able to service the campus and community voting needs.

As a result, the student senate registered 320 students, faculty, staff, and community members, and changed hundreds of addresses during their GSU Rocks the Vote campaign.

The Student Senate members have been instrumental in displaying leadership to ensure that our students and the community are connected and informed.

The student senate concluded the campaign process with a voting receipt drive. Approximately, 150 students watched the election returns; discussed strategies, and were treated to refreshments in the Student Commons on Election Day.



**Save the Date:** Second Congressional District Candidate's Forum on Thurs., Feb. 7 at 6pm in the Center for Performing Arts. Event is free and open to the public.

## GSU Rising Star: Kayla Randolph-Clark



Kayla Randolph-Clark

Kayla Randolph-Clark is a junior studying Business Administration with a concentration in Finance at Governors State University.

She transferred to GSU from Joliet Junior College (JJC) where she was a highly involved student. She participated in JJC's Student Government, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committees, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and served as the 2011-2012 Student Trustee and Commencement Student Speaker.

Kayla works part-time in the Office of International Services at GSU and as a Peer Mentor for the GSU Dual Degree Program.

She currently serves as a senator on the GSU Student Senate, secretary for the International Culture Organization, and contributes to GSU's student newspaper, The Phoenix. Kayla's future plans are to attend law school after graduation to study entertainment and intellectual property law.

# Ribbon Cutting ceremony for new Veterans Resource Center.

October 6, 2012 was a very exciting day for veterans at GSU. The campus hosted a Veterans Resource Fair, attended by vendors across the southland supporting our veterans and military.

The Federal Employment Workshop was conducted by Mr. Siggy Letheby of the U.S. Department of Labor on veteran hiring practices for federal employment. The Grand Finale was the Grand Opening of GSU's own Veterans Resource Center. Dr. Maimon, GSU president was the guest speaker during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Also on November 8<sup>th</sup> the Office of the Coordinator for Veterans and Military Personnel hosted a veteran's panel "Profiles in Courage". The panel was a collection of veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and

Desert Storm and our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans spoke of their experience in the wars past and how future veterans can learn from their experience.

This Spring we will be hosting several events on campus to highlight our veterans beginning in February for Black History Month, March for Women's History Month and May for Memorial Day.

If you have any question please feel free to contact Keith White at (708) 235-2223 or stop by the office in the new Veterans Resource Center in A-2109 or via at [kwhite@govst.edu](mailto:kwhite@govst.edu).



Student Senate President and Veteran, Lisa Wallace (L) along with President Maimon (R) cut the ribbon at Dedication Ceremony for new Veterans Resource Center in A-2109



# Familiar Student Affairs Faces in New Roles and Capacities.



**Sheree Sanderson**

Ms. Sheree Sanderson was appointed Assistant Dean of Students as of Jan. 1. In addition to oversight of student life, in her new role, Assistant Dean Sanderson will contribute to an expanding civic engagement program and work to build a student life program that is reflective of a comprehensive campus community with both a lower division and a residential population.

A GSU employee since 2002, Sheree, joined the Student Affairs division in 2010 as director of Student Engagement and College Relations. Her experience collaborating with faculty and students to create meaningful programming has had a positive impact on student life offerings. Sanderson has been instrumental in developing student engagement initiatives for the GSU student population. Ms. Sanderson recently held an interim appointment as Assistant Dean and provided energetic leadership during the recent transition in the Office of the Dean of Students. Most recently, Sheree was the lead organizer of the GSU Delegation to the 2nd Inauguration of President Barack Obama.



**Tamekia Scott**

As of Feb. 1, Tamekia Scott has been selected to serve as Coordinator of Community Standards. Tamekia has served as the Outreach Counselor since 2008 in the Academic Resource Center where she coordinated the university's threat assessment process, and outreach programming. Prior to GSU, Ms. Scott worked at DePaul and NEIU developing support programs in their student affairs unit.

In her new position, she coordinates institutional efforts to support and promote a climate of integrity and civility by overseeing and enforcing the student code of conduct. She will also coordinate institutional efforts to support and promote a climate of integrity and civility by overseeing and enforcing the student code of conduct. Among other responsibilities, Ms. Scott serves as the case manager for the new student concerns program; develops and implements campus programs promoting outreach and education focused on integrity and civility; annually updates student handbook and relevant policies and protocols; and assists with assessment efforts in the Office of the Dean of Students.

# Student Row, Conference Rooms & Meeting Spaces debut in building A.

After much planning and re-arranging, we are proud to launch several new spaces in the Student Life Center, located in the building A, second floor. New spaces include two conference rooms, a meeting room, computer terminals, lounge space, study alcoves, and increased space allocated to student organizations which has been dubbed "Student Row."

We look forward to continued improvements and more use of the Student Life Center.



## Student Row Directory:

1. A-2126, Student Enrichment Program
2. A-2124, Board of Trustees & IBHE Student Representatives
3. A-2122, Student Senate Office
4. A-2121, Meeting Room (reservable)
5. A-2123, Lactation Room
6. A-2125, Center for Diversity and Social Justice
7. A-2127, Student Organization Resource Room



Computer Lab and Meeting Space



Small Lounge

## New Reservable Space in Student Life Center



Conference Room A (A-2134)



Conference Room B (A-2110)

To reserve either Conference Room A (capacity 30), Conference Room B (capacity 20), or the E-Board Conference Room (capacity 6), please contact Ms. Johnsie McAuley at [jmcauley@govst.edu](mailto:jmcauley@govst.edu).

Be sure to provide date, time and purpose for the meeting, and allow 3-5 days for reservation confirmation.

# Diversity and Social Justice programs kick off Spring semester.

For more information on these and other events, please visit: [www.govst.edu/diversity](http://www.govst.edu/diversity)

Governors State University is recognized as one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the State of Illinois. Consequently, we are committed to campus-wide efforts that affirm the diversity represented within the University community and the value and vitality that pluralism brings to our individual and collective experience.

In addition to commemorating Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March with a series of programs and events, the Offices of Student Life and International Students are accepting applications for the **Student Coalition ("The Coalition") for Diversity and Social Justice**.

The mission of the Coalition is to foster an accepting and nurturing environment where students can embark upon a journey of education, awareness, and empowerment through discovering the similarities between individuals and their cultures, acknowledging and celebrating differences, and overcoming challenges.

In addition to sponsoring educational programs about various identity groups within its membership, the Coalition will work collectively to promote dialogue and programs across cultures and identity groups.

## "Crossroads of Freedom" is Black History Month theme.

This year's theme marks two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States, the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. A wartime measure issued by President Abraham Lincoln, the proclamation freed relatively few slaves, but it fueled the fire of the enslaved to strike for their freedom. In many respects, Lincoln's declaration simply acknowledged the epidemic of black self-emancipation – spread by black freedom crusaders like Harriet Tubman – that already had commenced beyond his control.

A century later, on August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans,

blacks and whites, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, marched to the memorial of Abraham Lincoln, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, in the continuing pursuit of equality of citizenship and self-determination.

It was on this occasion that Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech. Just as the Emancipation Proclamation had recognized the coming end of slavery, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom announced that the days of legal segregation in the United States were numbered.

Reprinted with permission by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History at [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org).

## "Women and Innovation, Paving the Road" is the theme for Women's History Month.

GSU's Women's History Month celebrations honor generations of women who throughout American history have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions.

This year's celebrations kick-off on March 7, 2013 with a campus presentation by Dr. Roberta Ness, a recog-

nized expert in women's health research and dean of the University of Texas School of Public Health since 2008, and author of *Innovation Generation*.

Other highlights include a prelude to the 3rd annual Gender Matters Conference. For more information, visit: [www.govst.edu/diversity](http://www.govst.edu/diversity).

## Nitika Sood performs Indian dance during International Education Week.



# Fall 2012 Snapshots & Spring 2013 Dates



Student leaders holding executive board positions in student organizations gather early in the Fall semester for a planning meeting.



Chris Otten, Political & Justice Studies major, and other student volunteers reopen the Food Bank as part of 1st Hunger & Homeless Awareness Wk



Audrey LaBranche, CAS junior majoring in Math & Biology, won the first GSU's Got Talent competition and reprised her performance on *Chicago Live!*



Student Senate sponsored its 2nd annual Holiday Party!



Prof. Susan Burke (L) and Dean Aurélio Valente (R) with Katherine Rhea Baggarly the GSU 2012-13 Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

## Save these Spring 2013 Dates:

- March 12: Student Senate Candidate Forum – Hall of Governors
- March 29: GSU Night at the Movies - Center for Performing Arts
- April 19: Tau Sigma Induction – Sherman Recital Hall
- April 26: Lambda Pi Eta Induction – Engbretson Hall
- May 3: Student Leadership Awards Night – E Lounge
- June 1: Graduate Celebration – Hall of Governors

For more information on these and other events, please visit: [www.govst.edu/studentlife](http://www.govst.edu/studentlife)