

Summer 2013

Student Affairs Newsletter, Summer 2013

Dean of Students

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Recommended Citation

Recommended Citation: Governors State University Office of the Dean of Students, Student Affairs Newsletter (2013, Summer).
http://opus.govst.edu/student_affairs_newsletters/5

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"I enjoyed the presentations and sharing with mentors/ mentees. It was excellent to be reminded of the need for continued action. Leaving with a vision of what that means to each of us is critical to maximize the impact of everyone's efforts."

SLI Participant

Summer 2013

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54 Students Complete Inaugural Student Leadership Institute

Student Life offered the first co-curricular certificate program based on national best practices for leadership education, and the students were clamoring to enter the program. More than 145 undergraduate and graduate students applied for entrance into the program with only 40 spaces available.

The Student Leadership Institute (SLI) is a distinctive co-curricular certificate program designed for students seeking leadership development opportunities that will contribute to their personal development and help achieve their leadership potential.

Using Kouzes and Posner's nationally recognized Five Practices of Exemplary Student Leadership® as a foundation, this innovative program consists of workshops that participants elect to attend based on their individual interests and leadership goals.

While the SLI co-curricular certificate program offers participants the flexibility to create their own curriculum, there are common program features that include the introduction to, and administration of, the Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI). LPI is the only leadership tool designed specifically for student leaders and approaches leadership as a measurable, learnable, and teachable set of behaviors.

This 360° leadership assessment tool helps student leaders measure their leadership competencies, while guiding them through the process of applying Kouzes and Posner's acclaimed Five Practices of Exemplary Student Leadership® model to real-life challenges.

The program connected faculty with student affairs educators via the program's mentorship component and the topical interactive workshops. Approximately 40 faculty members participated as mentors providing support and guidance throughout the leadership experience. The mentors assisted students in processing LPI results, maximizing benefits from the workshops, and served as a personal leadership resource.

Due to an overwhelming response to the SLI program, a graduate component was introduced called the Graduate Leadership Scholars (GLS). 16 Masters and 4 doctoral students enrolled working in 4 groups to analyze leadership and develop a poster presentation.

Student Affairs would like to acknowledge the faculty and staff members who mentored students and taught workshops; your contributions were vital to making the debut of the program a success. We look forward to your participation next year.

From the Dean of Students:



I am pleased to present the second issue of the Student Affairs Newsletter! This issue focuses on selected programs sponsored by student affairs and highlights the accomplishments of our talented students over the past semester.

This issue also marks the end of my first academic year as Dean of Students. As I reflect on the past two semesters, I do so with a great deal of pride on what has been accomplished

to date. In particular, the new programs and services that have been launched with the support of the campus community.

These new programs, many of which are featured in this newsletter, include University-wide on-campus orientation programs for new students, Student Leadership Institute, Leadership Awards Ceremony, Student Concerns Program, new Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice, and new club sports teams. The new and enhanced programs this year are only indicators of the year to come, we have big plans for the next academic year!

As proud as I am of the work of the talented and dedicated team in Student Affairs, I am even more proud of our students' accomplishments. Students featured in this newsletter, such as Nicole Moore and Vera Green presented at their first conference. Others such as Shirley Faye Davis, Diana Muhammad, Sharon Starks, Cynthia Gail Frye and Nneka J. Howell whose accomplishments were recognized as part of the Black Women Rock program, and of those nominated and recognized at the Leadership Awards. The reality is that these students are just a sample of those that excel while participating in campus life, and there are many more that are involved in other departments and colleges that share comparable and impressive stories, such as Michael Griffin and Shaniqua Jones, both of which were selected as student commencement speakers!

While these success stories are examples of our efforts, our motivation in Student Affairs is to ensure that as many students as possible have the opportunity to tell comparable stories about their educational experience at GSU!

Please do not hesitate to visit the Student Life Center, my office is located in A-2130 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

www.twitter.com/GSUDean

Student Concerns Program launched as early outreach and intervention

Striving to support students in all aspects of achieving their academic and personal goals, the Student Concerns Program was developed by the Office of the Dean of Students and launched this semester.

The program provides a centralized method of identifying and working with students who may be distressed or whose behavior is of concern. The Student Concerns Program functions as both a portal to identify and connect support services to a student before more substantial problems potentially arise, and as a proactive support service to enhance the well-being and safety of the university's students.

23 Faculty and staff throughout the university community have partnered with the Office of the Dean of Students to support the Student Concern Program's efforts. Our 23 partners gathered in early March for an hour and a half program orientation and training module. Since training and program implementation, we have had ten referrals with all ten referrals successfully connected to university and/or community resources.

The program utilizes current GSU structures such as the Academic Advisor, each college's student services, the Academic Resource Center, among others to help students. Faculty and staff play a key role in identifying students who are in distress; as such the Student Concerns Program depends on their referrals to identify students who might benefit from proactive outreach and assistance.

Visit our website at www.govst.edu/studentconcerns to learn more about the program and/or complete a student concerns report.

To report alarming behaviors or concerns of any GSU student use the online Student Concerns Program form to identify students and describe their area of concern(s). Student concerns can include, but are not limited to academic, physical or emotional concerns. Completed "Student Concern" forms are reviewed and then connected directly to campus resources best suited to address the conveyed concern.

Many thanks to our partners throughout the university community, your commitment and support are the reasons for the Student Concerns Program success in its first semester.

www.govst.edu/studentconcerns



Orientation programs welcome new students to campus.



Orientation Volunteers ready to welcome new students.

96%
of students reported that attending on-campus orientation added value to what they learned in online orientation.

"They [GSU faculty and staff] were very patient, answered all my questions that I had and offered me valuable information that might interest me as they are making sure I'm on the right track to my future endeavors."
New GSU Transfer Student

The programs opened with welcome remarks from President Maimon and Provost Allison (respectively) and the GSU A Cappella Choir provided entertainment by performing an opening song at both orientations. After receiving a general overview of the university and GSU technology expectations, students had the opportunity to connect with their academic advisors, faculty members, and administrators to ask program/college specific questions and make appointments to develop an individual study plan. There was also a selection of concurrent sessions that included MYGSU portal, Financial Aid, Meditation, Blackboard, and a family/guest session. The programs ended with a resource fair and campus tours.

While online orientation is available for students that live at a distance or only enroll in online courses, having an on-campus orientation for new incoming students allows for an enriching experience that allows them to get acclimated to campus and the resources GSU has to offer before attending the first day of classes.

Fall 2013 New Student Orientation dates have been scheduled: Thursday, August 22 for transfer students and Friday, August 23 for graduate students. Please contact LaTonya Holmes for more detailed information at lhomes@govst.edu or visit the Academic Resource Center at www.govst.edu/arc for a list of orientation FAQs.

Nicole Moore, Writing Center Tutor, reflects on her first conference experience.

When asked by Dr. Becky Nugent if I was interested in working on a proposal for a conference, I was intrigued. I had never been asked to participate in something of this magnitude. Speaking among experts in the field of writing as an expert is no small feat for an undergraduate student. Also, working on a proposal can be a tedious process. That is why when the proposal was accepted by the Minnesota Writing and English Conference, I was both nervous and excited to make the presentation.

After our proposal to speak at the conference was accepted, Vera Green, Becky, and I drove eight long hours to Minneapolis, Minnesota to present at my first conference. Vera and I gave a talk titled "An Ordinary Day in a not so Ordinary Writing Center" with Becky as our guide.

Our presentation talked about the cultural shifts that are necessary in writing centers to ease the anxiety of students from groups normally underrepresented in higher education when seeking help. Since all students at GSU are currently transfer students, most of them are older and female, and many of them are from groups underrepresented in higher education, our practices were of interest to all of the educators who work to retain these kinds of students.



Vera Green and Nicole Moore

We highlighted ways in which we have transformed the Writing Center into a welcoming place for all students to come and seek help without judgment.

The response to our talk was very positive with the audience engaged in a spirited discussion. It felt good to know that we were well received, and that people were able to understand our points of view on writing center work. My first time on the stage as a "writing expert" was encouraging, and I am grateful for the opportunity. The small conference was perfect for starting out, but I'm now ready for another, bigger one--so is Vera.

Leadership Awards recognizes contributions to campus life.



Members of Social Work Student Organization are all smiles after being recognized as Outstanding Student Organization of the Year

The Leadership Awards Banquet was designed to recognize the many clubs and organizations, and students leaders who give of their time to create engagement at GSU. Students, faculty and staff were able to nominate students as well as faculty and staff. There were 120 students, faculty and staff in attendance at the event who walked the carpet like moguls and posing for pictures with friends and fans on the GSU backdrop. The evening got off to a great start when our very own GSU Idol, Audrey LaBranche serenaded the crowd with one of her original works. President Maimon and Dean Valente presented awards while Dr. Jennifer Groebner from CHHS did an outstanding job as mistress of ceremony, along with her assistant Ms. Brittani Barnett who is a student in the Criminal Justice program.

The evening was full of surprises when Dr. Maimon and Dr. Allison were presented with the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Certificate for GSU. The crowd enjoyed a great meal prepared by our very own FSI, music, excitement and good times for student leaders and organizations who have dedicated their time and efforts to leadership and development for the GSU student population.

2012-13 Leadership Award Recipients

Outstanding Student Org Advisor

Ann Manning-Nagel

Outstanding Graduating Student

Stephanie Snow (Undergrad)
Shaniqua Anderson-Jones (Graduate)

Outstanding Student Organization

Social Work Student Organization

Unsung Hero (Student)

Snehal Chavda

Outstanding Support Staff

Johnsie McAuley- Davis

Program of the Year

Trip to President Barack Obama's
2nd Inauguration
Sheree Sanderson, Assistant Dean of Students
Dr. Elizabeth Johnson
Christopher Cook
Dr. Phyllis West

New or Most Improved Student Organization

Computer Science

Rising Star

Terry Baines
Raymond Vasquez



Members of Art Forum recognize CAS Faculty Advisor Jeff Stevenson



Terry Baines, BSW '13 accepts the Rising Star award from President Maimon

To view a full list of nominees, please visit www.govst.edu/studentlife

Club sports now include softball, bowling, table tennis, golf, and more.



Bowling Club

The Bowling team has just wrapped up its first year, and will resume in the upcoming fall semester. The bowling club advisor is Ann Manning-Nagel. The bowling club was meeting on Fridays in Richton Park at Lakewood Bowl. Come join the over a dozen students for another magnificent year of bowling and fun with your fellow GSU classmates in the upcoming fall semester.



Softball

The GSU Softball team is getting fired up with their first win of the season with a final score of 11 to 3. The games are held weekly on Tuesdays at Heritage Park located at 1550 Sangamon Street Crete, IL. Check out the GSU softball webpage for weekly game start times, and to check out our softball player's stats. Come show your fellow GSU classmates some support, and watch the game, or if you're interested in playing, come join in on the team's practices. While the softball team is currently an all male team here at GSU, this could certainly change in the future if there are enough females interested in a GSU women's softball team.



Table Tennis

Governors State University was proud to host the Midwest Regionals for table tennis on Saturday, February 9, 2013, in which Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of Washington, and Illinois State University all competed. Come be a part of the GSU collegiate level table tennis team, which has seen high success in recent years, as they were ranked fourth in the nation in their 2010 season.

Golf

The Golf Club has just begun their meetings every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The golf club meetings are being held at the Deer Creek Golf Club, located at 25055 Western Avenue, University Park, IL, and will continue through September. So if you're looking for a fun relaxing way to spend your Thursday evenings, come check out the GSU golf club.

Volleyball and Basketball

Calling all volleyball and basketball athletes. The Governors State University basketball and volleyball teams are looking for GSU students interested in joining the basketball and volleyball clubs coming back this coming September. Come join your fellow GSU students in these popular clubs that are sure to get you active, and help you meet new people, while having a great time.

For more information regarding GSU club sports, email Dean Jennings at djennings@govst.edu or 708.534.4945.

Career Services promotes graduate student life.



During the Spring 13 semester the Office of Career Services branched out with new programmatic offerings looking to enhance the Graduate student experience at Governors State University. The inaugural spring semester offered students an opportunity to attend workshops on “How to Utilize LinkedIn to Establish a Positive and Professional Online Presence” and also “How to Deliver Compelling Presentations”.

In addition, a Graduate Student Panel discussion was held and was open to all graduate students as well as prospective graduate students. The panel discussion was student delivered and gave some surprising information on ways to make graduate school a success both professionally and personally.

Additionally, we have established a Graduate Student Organization at Governors State, which was spearheaded by our Graduate Assistant, Erin Fletcher. The Graduate Student Organization will be focused on improving social interaction between graduate students by organizing, sponsoring and coordinating larger scale semi-annual graduate student events on campus.

This summer the GSO will meet to discuss upcoming program initiatives for the fall semester. If you are interested in getting involved in the GSO or have program topics you'd like to suggest Career Services offer for the fall, you may reach Erin Fletcher at gso.gsu@gmail.com.

Tips for new Graduate Students

The Office of Career Services is a great place to start when students are organizing that future job search. Here are some important tips to also remember:

1. Contact friends, family members, colleagues, peers and others to discuss your job search.
2. Attend professional meetings and both formal and informal networking events.
3. Don't be afraid to utilize informational interviewing as another tool. Informational interviewing is a meeting in which a job seeker asks for career and industry advice rather than employment. This information is used to gather knowledge in the field, find employment leads and expand your network.
4. Keep good notes on any contacts that you make or additional types of information that you acquire.
5. Organize your information in a contact log so that you will remember with whom you spoke last and when you talked to them.

Student Testimonials for Career Counseling and Internship



My name is Melvin Hayes and I am working on my Bachelor's in Business Administration expected late May. I would like to say that the Office of Career Services has been instrumental in helping me obtain current opportunities.

Initially, when I went into the office I was looking for a job and or an internship opportunity. After meeting with a Career Counselor, I was given some strategies to aid me in my search. I completed a mock interview and was given resources significant to the challenges I was dealing with at the time.

After applying these techniques and taking advantage of the resources, I have secured not only a job but an internship with McDonald's Corporation. This internship focuses on learning customer insight in business. I have gained confidence and continue to work on my presentation skills.



My name is Samantha Claysen and I am an Accounting major. Being involved in the internship process has helped me to greatly further my career goals.

I will be starting my Master's degree in the fall, so both of my internships have given me that extra experience that will push me further ahead in everything. Also, the Student Leadership banquet was very enjoyable and I was happy to be a part of it. I would recommend students get involved early with Career Services and Student Life.

Office of Career Services

A1120

708.235.3974 • career@govst.edu

www.govst.edu/careerservices

New Student Senate and BOT and IBHE representatives elected.



The 2013 spring elections for Student Senate were held March 25-29, 2013.

The Student Senate previously voted to amend the electoral process in anticipation of the University admitting freshmen in 2014. The Senate implemented the new process with the current election, which required voting for a Board of Trustee student representative, an IBHE student representative and four college representatives in the spring.

Subsequent fall elections will be held for 10 Student-at-Large senators positions. Ultimately, these will also include two positions for each cohort.

Meet the 2013-14 Student Senate

College of Arts and Sciences

Amanda Ziaja, Senator
Christopher Otten, Senator
Shaniqua Jones, Senator
Codjo Padonou, Senator

College of Business and Public Administration

Shawnta Young, Senator
Valencia Brown, Senator
Darren Heldt, Senator
James Brown, Senator

College of Education

Lisa Wallace, Senator

College of Health and Human Services

Michael Alexander, Senator
Crystal Locke, Senator

Senator-at-Large

Betty Campbell, Alumni

Kayla Randolph-Clark, CBPA
Board of Trustee Representative

Regina Haynes, CBPA
IBHE Representative

Veterans Resource Center welcomes SALUTE Honor Society.



SALUTE the Veterans National Honor Society held its Inaugural Induction Ceremony at Governors State University on May 23, 2013.

The ceremony which honored student veterans for their academic achievement and commitment to higher education was an excellent demonstration of gratefulness to those who have served this country.

The intent of this program was to pay homage and tribute in recognizing those who have shown courage, strength and leadership in their military endeavors and now accord that same resolve in quest of academic achievement. The students who were inducted into SALUTE represented every sliver of student veterans in higher education at GSU. Our members included retirees, disabled veterans, active duty military, National Guard and reservists who returned to Governors State University in pursuit of college degrees.

Each honoree received a military style challenge coin, a membership certificate suitable for framing and an honor chord to be worn on graduation day. Family and friends were also present to show support and encouragement to their loved one.

Dr. Debra Boyd-Seale PhD, RN (GSU "10") also a Marine Corps veteran served as the guest speaker. Her words of encouragement were another high point of the evening.



- ☆ Service
- ☆ Academics
- ☆ Leadership
- ☆ Unity
- ☆ Tribute
- ☆ Excellence

Student Life Spring 2013 Snapshots



Dean Aurélio Valente with student leaders Chris Cook, Lisa Wallace and Erin Fletcher at Prairie Place Groundbreaking.



Brittani Barnett, April Grammer, Sylvia Vines, Shaniqua Anderson, Audrey LaBranch, Adriene Farmer, Melissa Parram, Cynthia Gail Frye (L to R)



Brittani Barnett reads messages from the Clothesline exhibit held at GSU to raise domestic violence awareness.



Doria Scott, Erin Markase, Vanessa Newby (L to R) of the GSU Cancer Crusaders raised \$1,958 for Relay for Life.



Dennis C. Dent, Jr.

Student Life welcomes Dennis Dent as Coordinator for Campus Programs and Community Service

Dennis C. Dent, Jr., a native of Zachary, Louisiana, holds a BA in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication from The University of Louisiana. In addition, he has a Master's of Public Administration degree from Eastern Washington University, where he also served as Advisor of Student Activities.

Dennis has been a Student Affairs professional since 2006. His area of service spans campus programs, student activities, student government, and fraternity/sorority Life. He is a member of a number of civic and social organizations that promote leadership, community development, and mentorship.

As Coordinator of Campus Programs and Community Service, Dennis will implement campus-wide programs, support and advise student organization leaders, and chair the new Program and Activities Council (PAC). In addition, Dennis will provide daily management of the Community Service Center and spearhead ongoing and short-term service projects.