

Spring 2015

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Newsletter, Spring 2015

Dean of Students

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of the Dean of Students, Student Affairs Newsletter (2015, Spring). http://opus.govst.edu/student_affairs_newsletters/7

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GSU Launches Transformational Leadership Series



The Student Leadership Institute, Graduate Leadership Scholars and the Emerging Leaders Program Closing Ceremony was held on March 10, 2015.



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”

President John F. Kennedy

Higher education can, and should be, a transformational experience for all students. Built on the success of the Student Leadership Institute, launched in 2012, an expanded series of leadership programs made their debut with the goal of challenging and inspiring students to be responsible citizens and leaders on campus and in their communities.

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy’s quote that “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other,” Student Affairs educators consider leadership development as one of four essential student learning outcomes of a comprehensive student experience. The portfolio of leadership initiatives is designed to help ensure adult learners have multiple entry points allowing them to customize their participation based on their experiences, but also designed to be comprehensive four year plan for our traditionally aged undergraduate students.

Since its launch in 2012, 130 undergraduate and graduate students have completed the Student Leadership Institute (SLI). Using Kouzes and Posner’s nationally recognized Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI) as a foundation, this innovative program consists of workshops that participants elect to attend based on their individual interests and leadership goals. After completing a common opening

program, the Student Leadership Institute, which includes a track for graduate students, offers participants the flexibility to create their own curriculum and opportunity to be paired with a leadership mentor.

In reflecting on their SLI experience, a student stated “I am blessed to have GSU’s Student Leadership Institute and my mentor deserves to take a bow, right along with the GSU Board, faculty, and sponsors. I could go on and on ... I never would have imagined that the SLI would be so informative in such little time. This has definitely been a great learning experience and should never end.”

Offered for the first time this fall, GSU rolled out leadership conferences for both men and women to examine leadership through the unique perspectives of gender. Twenty-two undergraduate and graduate men participated in the Men’s Leadership Conference that was held on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The one day retreat explored the essential elements of what it means to be a man in a leadership role in the GSU community and within a global context. Exploring the intersection of male gender and leadership allowed participants to discuss such topics/skills as advocacy, coalition building, contemplative practice, communication, decision making, consensus building, diversity/inclusion and conflict management. A participant described their experience as a success by saying “This program was by far the best I’ve seen of its kind. GSU is doing a great job at raising and developing leaders.”

Spring 2015

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Fulfilling the Promise

Guest article by Mrs. Roshaunda Ross, Director of Dual Degree Program

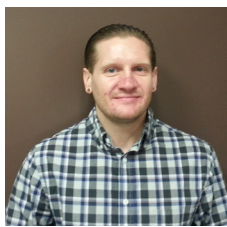


The entire DDP Team (l to r): Cheryl Turrise, Roshaunda Ross, Kyrie Kirkland, Aida Martinez, Tiesha Walker, and Agne Juskaite.

Governors State is approaching a significant milestone in its history. The Promise Scholarship is on the verge of becoming the university's first million dollar scholarship endowment! The endowment funds scholarships that make it possible for community college transfer students to complete their bachelor's degree free from crushing debt. The scholarship is open to Dual Degree Program (DDP) students and covers the full cost of tuition, fees, and books that is not covered by the student's Pell and MAP award grants.

The excitement over reaching the million dollar plateau is because as a permanent endowment fund, GSU will use the interest to help today's DDP students and support DDP students for decades to come.

Current GSU Promise Scholarship recipients are thriving here at GSU. There are currently 25 Promise Scholars enrolled at GSU, and their average GPA is 3.5. During the spring, 2015 scholarship selection process, we had an unprecedented number of applications. By fall, 2015, there will be a total of 50 Promise Scholars on campus from the majority of our partner community colleges.



Ted Bobak, a fall, 2014 graduate of Daley College and spring, 2015 scholarship recipient, says, "Receiving this scholarship is a life changing event. It's

the most humbling thing that's ever happened to me. The idea that GSU has so much confidence in me, pushes me to be the best student I possibly can be. Joining the DDP was one of the best decisions of my life."

All members of the GSU community are encouraged to help reach the goal by May 16, which is also Commencement Day at GSU. Contributions help today's students as well as future generations. Every dollar given goes into this permanent endowment fund.

Please help us reach the million dollar goal before May 16 – Commencement Day at GSU. If you have never given to GSU before, now is the time to take that first step. If you previously gave a donation, please consider making another gift to help reach this milestone. Every donation – large and small – makes a difference. Please help. Give today.

www.govst.edu/donate



Tomika "Rennay" Fullilove, a spring, 2015 graduate of South Suburban College and fall, 2015 scholarship recipient shared "When I tell them (adoptive and birth families) about

winning this Promise Scholarship, this is going to mean so much more than waived tuition to them, I strongly believe it will inspire more of them to make "Promises" to themselves to want to change their lives and pursue more of their own personal achievements in life. "

THANK YOU!

Fulfill the Promise
Pep Rally was held
on April 1, 2015 and
raised over **\$4,250** —
big thanks to all!



New Faces in DDP

Tiesha Walker, Coordinator of Peer Mentoring

Tiesha Walker received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Communication Studies: Organizational Communication. She also received her Bachelor of Arts degree from UNI in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services: Nonprofit Youth Administration. Her professional background consists of more than five years of experience in higher education including the areas of financial aid, student mentoring and student club advising, teaching, and academic advising. She also has a strong background in youth programming as a former Boys & Girls Club staff member. Tiesha loves to travel, take on new adventures, and has a passion for working with students as they pursue their path towards their career endeavors!

Kyrie Kirkland, Transfer Specialist (PSC, KCC)

Kyrie began her career at Governors State University in 2014 as a Housing Representative/Interim Residence Hall Director for the Office of Auxiliary Services and University Housing. Kyrie has 6+ years of full time work experience, four of which have been in Higher Education where she has passionately mentored, advised, and assisted students with navigating the college process. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking and accumulating random facts to one day star on Jeopardy.

Cheryl Turrise, Transfer Specialist (JJC, SSC)

Cheryl comes to GSU with eight years of professional advising experience. Her background includes serving four years as an academic advisor at Moraine Valley Community College, and most recently as Transfer Specialist (Coordinator) at Joliet Junior College where she developed programs and services aimed at establishing a transfer culture and engaging transfer populations. She is committed to providing excellent advising and transition services, and eager to begin reestablishing critical connections and important student success collaborations.



It's Time to Act. Safer Campuses. Brighter Futures.



April kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and GSU is excited to be participating in a whole new way. A dedicated team of GSU staff, students, and community members are working together to create a meaningful month of activities. The national goal of SAAM is to support campuses in creating a culture of prevention and effective response. Everyone has a role to play in creating safer campuses.

On March 31, GSU and the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU seals the commitment of the YWCA and GSU to provide prevention, education, and response services to survivors of sexual assault. The 24/7 rape crisis hotline number for the Chicago Metropolitan Area is 888.293.2080 and for the South Suburbs is 708.748.5672.

On **April 14, 15, and 16** Be on the lookout for students, faculty and staff around campus who may be wearing different shoes than they normally do. We encourage you to ask them about their shoes. If you just can't wait until then to find out more, please complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/AskAbout-MyShoes. We hope you will be ready to participate!

On Wednesday, **April 15** at 4:30 p.m., the video "I Believe in Me: Fighting for Trans Rights in Prison" will be shown in the Hall of Honors.

Participants of SAAM will join other campus groups like the Gay Straight Alliance and Gender Matters on Friday, April 17 as they take part in a Day of Silence, the Gender Matters Conference, and the Breaking the Silence Cabaret social event. Be on the lookout for more detailed information.

On Wednesday, **April 22** participants of SAAM will be around campus helping students, faculty and staff learn healthy ways to give and ask for consent for sexual activity. Join the team in the Hall of Honors at 4:30 p.m. to learn more.

Monday, **April 27** is the Clothesline Project. This powerful event makes its third appearance here at GSU as the YWCA fills the Hall of Governors with t-shirts designed by those who have been impacted by sexual violence in some way. You can find out more information on the origins of this project by checking out this link: www.clotheslineproject.org.

Wednesday, **April 29** is Denim Day. Be sure to wear your jeans to GSU on this day of solidarity. The Denim Day campaign was originated after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt the victim, while wearing tight jeans, implied consent because her rapist would have had difficulty removing them himself. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

Visit <http://ddusa.peaceoverviolence.org/about/> for more information.

If you are interested in joining any event during SAAM, contact a planning committee member: Emily Petkus epetkus@govst.edu, Robert Clay rclay@govst.edu, Tamekia Scott tscott@govst.edu, or Amanda Evans amanda.evans@ywcachicago.org.

Governors State University has also formed a team consisting of faculty and staff that are devoted to educating and training GSU students on sexual assault prevention, as well as Bystander Training. This team held its first meeting on Thursday, February 26. Look for future training dates as a result of this team's work and dedication. GSU is committed to creating a safer campus so all students may have brighter futures.

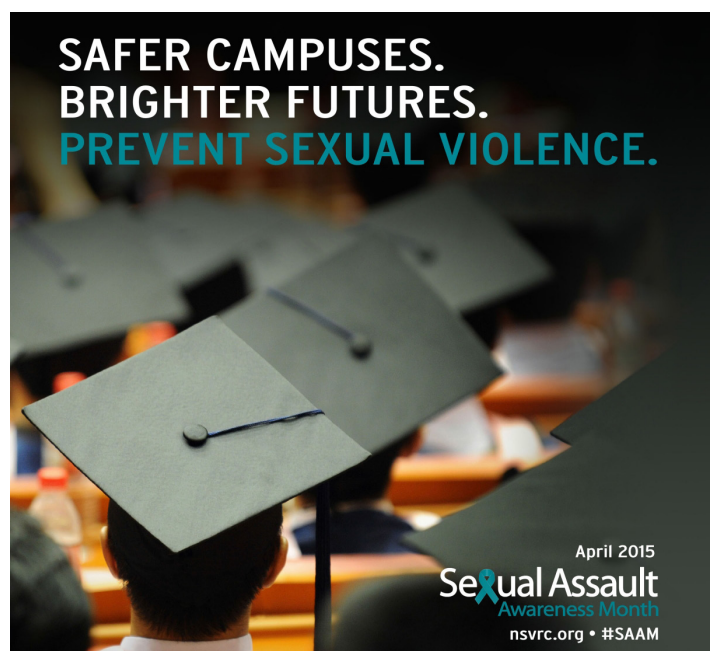
Hunting Ground, a Sundance Film Festival Documentary is Coming to GSU

On Tuesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in F1622 GSU will screen the newly released documentary "The Hunting Ground," a Sundance Institute film. A panel discussion will follow the screening of the film.

The statistics are staggering. One in five women in college are sexually assaulted, yet only a fraction of these crimes are reported, and even fewer result in punishment for the perpetrators. From the intrepid team behind "The Invisible War," comes "The Hunting Ground," a piercing, monumental exposé of rape culture on campuses, poised to light a fire under a national debate.

In a tour de force of verité footage, expert insights, and first-person testimonies, the film follows undergraduate rape survivors pursuing both their education and justice, despite ongoing harassment and the devastating toll on them and their families. Scrutinizing the gamut of elite Ivy schools, state universities, and small colleges, filmmakers Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering reveal an endemic system of institutional cover-ups, rationalizations, victim-blaming, and denial that creates perfect storm conditions for predators to prey with impunity. Meanwhile, the film captures mavericks Andrea Pino and Annie Clark, survivors who are taking matters into their own hands—ingeniously employing Title IX legal strategy to fight back and sharing their knowledge among a growing, unstoppable network of young women who will no longer be silent.

Excerpt from: www.sundance.org/projects/the-hunting-ground



Transformational Leadership Program (continued)

SHERO Women's Leadership Symposium



The SHERO Women's Leadership Symposium [S – Sharing, H –Herstory (of), E – Empowerment, R – Resilience (&), O – Opportunity]. The conference is inclusive to all genders looking to support leadership.

On Friday, November 7 eighteen students participated in the first SHERO Women's Leadership Symposium. The goal of the symposium is to inspire women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. The program provided perspectives and strategies in the areas of personal development, career development and advancement, and community engagement. The conference format included a featured presentation and breakout discussions to celebrate SHERoes and diversity. A student participant stated "I thought the symposium overall was a great training experience. I left there feeling empowered, inspired, motivated, and educated."

Certified Executive Officers



The Certified Executive Officer (CEO) Leadership Certificate Program is designed to provide student leaders of clubs and organizations effective and essential leadership skills.

The fall semester also saw the launch of the eight week long Certified Executive Officer (CEO) Leadership Program which is designed to provide student organization leaders, holding elected positions, effective and essential leadership skills. The CEO program offered three tracks for student leaders to enroll; president/vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Thirty five student leaders completed the program and the closing ceremony included a luncheon with Robert Currie, President and CEO of Community Care of Illinois. Mr. Currie discussed his personal aspirations and goals, his management style and what it took for him to become a leader. In the interactive discussion he challenged the students to think about how they would use what they learned to lead others. A participating student said "I found each one of the workshops to be informative and memorable. I am excited to have had such a great learning experience."

Inclusive Leadership Conference



Participants of the inaugural Inclusive Leadership Conference co-sponsored by Intercultural Student Affairs and Dual Degree Program.

Held on Friday, January 23, to coincide with campus wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations, the Inclusive Leadership Conference was co-sponsored with the Dual Degree Program. With a theme of "Lift Every Voice," 165 participants from GSU and five partner community colleges explored the understanding and appreciation for diverse identities amongst students through social justice education. Among other goals, the Inclusive Leadership Conference helped students understand the intersection of leadership, diversity and social justice. Among the most powerful reflections of the day, a student said, "I learned more about myself today than I have in the last 35 years."

Emerging Leaders Program



ELP participants (l to r) Trauvell Crawford, Jeremy Frierson, Ashley Palacios, Maria Villarreal, and Johnnie Ware at the closing ceremony on March 10, 2015.

Launched to serve our new student population, 12 first-year students participated in the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Emerging Leaders Program immerses freshman in a process of personal development that lays the foundation for the exploration of leadership at GSU. Students participate in workshops, activities, and discussions where they encounter various social issues, including but not limited to multiculturalism, diversity and gender roles, racism, sexism, and religious and socioeconomic issues.

Lastly, Student Affairs is thrilled to collaborate with faculty in the Counseling program to offer Principles of Peer Leadership course. In its first offering, 21 students enrolled in the course designed to provide students with an opportunity for the building of leadership skills through interactive and experiential activities. Leadership skills developed in this course include professional communication tactics, conflict and crisis management, group facilitation, and micro-counseling skills. Students will also develop a working knowledge of campus resources.

More information about the Transformational Leadership Program Series can be found at www.govst.edu/leadership

Making the Invisible, Visible: Resources for Undocumented Students

The transformation taking place at Governors State University includes recognizing the diverse student population enrolled as the community continues to expand. Serving undocumented students is one of the hottest topics in higher education. Removing the hesitation from assisting these students and understanding the best way to maximize the services we offer to them at Governors State University is imperative to ensuring a welcoming environment for all.

Serving undocumented students is not a GSU concern, but one of several state institutions. We have partnered with Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois, Western Illinois University and Northeastern Illinois University to form an Immigration Administrative Relief. The Immigration Administrative Relief Coalition is designed to provide resources and services to be shared amongst universities to ensure they are informed of policies and practices that impact undocumented students.

The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management have taken proactive steps to prepare for undocumented students. A delegation from the division attended the Higher



When you see this sign in rooms around campus, students will know that they are welcome and can get further information regarding undocumented students.

Education Access for Undocumented Students Conference sponsored by the Higher Education Civic Engagement Collaborative of Chicago (HECEC), which is an off-shoot of our earlier work with the McCormick Foundation sponsored Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Collaborative. At this conference we were able to gain greater insight on the makeup of this population and current

trends. This conference inspired us to make our next Division Day centered on undocumented students. Our speaker was Tanya Cabrera from the IL DREAM Fund. She provided insight on strategies universities can do in preparation to serve undocumented students. As a result of this a website was created that highlighted resources at GSU as well as in the surrounding communities for undocumented students. Also a dreamers welcome sign is being created that can be placed on the doors of offices university wide.

In addition, GSU plans on hosting a Community Open House in the Pilsen neighborhood. At this event GSU admission counselors and staff will speak with families in their community to demonstrate our commitment to their student's success. Following that, it is our hope in the Fall to host DACA training for the campus community at large in partnership with faculty. This will show that our efforts aren't one sided and inclusive of all who will be serving these students.

For more resources about services for undocumented students at GSU, please visit www.govst.edu/dreamer.

Governors State University welcomes Student Ambassadors



The Office of Admissions is excited to announce the Student Ambassador program. Student Ambassadors will be responsible for providing weekly tours of the university to prospective students and their families, guiding large group tours visiting campus, writing a weekly blog about GSU Admissions as well as what's new on campus, and assisting with the various events hosted by the Office of Admission. The events hosted by the Office of Admission include Open House, Transfer Thursdays, Freshman Fridays, and Admitted Student Conferences. We are excited to have the Student Ambassadors join our team this Spring 2015 Semester!



Please help us congratulate Jonathan Cruz, Marcin Kuruc, Terrence Cook, Gabriella Pierre-Louis, Justin Smith, Ashley Palacios, and Breanna Stovall.

If you would like the Student Ambassadors to assist with an event you may be hosting, please contact Lise' Schneider at lschneider@govst.edu.

Black Women Rock, a Celebration of our ROOTS



Doria Scott, nominated for Philanthropist award this year, is accompanied by Michael Alexander.



Ms. Ashieka Daniels, who was the recipient of the Artist Award, posing on the Red Carpet.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS

Philanthropist
Ms. Rosanne Harris

Advocate
Dr. Phyllis West

Entrepreneur
Ms. Theresa Banks

Legend
Ms. Deveda Francois

Scholar
Dr. Rashidah Muhammad

Artist
Ms. Ashieka Daniels

Rising Star
Ms. Christiana Harris

“Black Women Rock” (BWR) celebrates the outstanding achievements of Black female students, faculty, and staff at Governors State University and community members in surrounding areas. Inspired by BET’s Black Girls Rock, BWR aims to empower women to pursue their personal aspirations, encourage women to support others who are making positive strides and enlighten women on tools for success.

This year’s Black Women Rock was expanded into a two-day intergenerational experience comprised of a resource expo on Friday, February 20th and the 3rd Annual awards show on Saturday, February 21. This year’s theme was “A Celebration of Our R.O.O.T.S. ROOTS is an acronym for Royalty Opulence Origin Triumph and Significance which reflects the identity, beauty and legacy of Black women. ROOTS remind us to honor the contributions of Black women throughout the diaspora past, present and future.

The Resource and Vendor Fair provided an opportunity for local business and agencies to sell products and showcase their services for women and the general campus community. The Resource and Vendor Fair is also served as an African American Marketplace for Black History Month. There were 21 vendors for the inaugural event.

This year the Awards Show began with a Red Carpet event that was open to all community members in the Hall of Governors to network and congratulate nominees that featured music by Legacy Band and artwork by Solomon Adufah. Will Davis, VP of Finance was the master of ceremonies and Amy Hilliard, President of Fashion Fair Cosmetics was the keynote speaker. The Awards Show also featured performances by Ayodele Drum & Dance Company, Kandace Walker, Blake Martin Productions and Arkia Jhikae.

The Awards Show had 227 guests and honored women in seven categories; Arts, Scholar, Activist, Philanthropy, Entrepreneur, Legend and Rising Star. The Rising Star Award is presented to an extraordinary high school student and/or transfer student. This award has inspired the Black Women Rock Scholarship. The Black Women Rock Scholarship is a new endeavor to be awarded in Fall 2016. The Black Women Rock Scholarship will be open to all African American female first-year and transfer students with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater. In addition to having a stellar academic profile, the candidate should have a documented background in civic engagement.

The committee members for Black Women Rock were Alicia Battle, Karen Caesar-Smith, Dennis Dent, Ashley Floyd, Noreen Heidelberg, Taneisha Palmer, Marshelle Sanders, Sheree Sanderson, Jackie Small, Daniel Vergara, Tammara Winn, Mirabel Wiryen and Joshua Young. Sponsors for Black Women Rock included the GSU Foundation, Katula’s Thanks a Bunch Florist, Beverly & Associates and Jeanne Franks.



Ms. Christiana Harris, a junior at Marion Catholic High School, accepting her award for Rising Star.



Ayodele Drum & Dance Company

Register now for new “Academic and Career Decisions” course this fall

Governors State University welcomes COUN 2100, Academic and Career Decisions to the fall 2015 course roster. Taught by GSU’s very own Career Development professionals, this course will guide students, by way of self-discovery projects and career assessments, to identify strengths and interests. Students will learn exploration techniques to define and clarify career plans, as well as gain decision-making skills and occupational knowledge through career planning activities.

Students will acquire the skills necessary to research and explore occupations and gain experience. Please note, this course will not advise a student to pursue a particular major or career path; rather, it will teach them the skills needed to make an informed and rewarding decision.

The COUN 2100 course is a 2-credit hour hybrid course; classes will meet at GSU’s main campus as well as through online discussion. If you’re interested in obtaining more information, call the Office of Career Services at 708.235.3974.



Graduate Professional Network Announces Student Co-Chairs



Graduate Professional Network Student Co-Chairs, Matt Gentry and Diana Basmajian

The Graduate Professional Network is charged with improving graduate student culture at GSU. We accomplish this task by providing programs that enhance the learning experience of our graduate student body, by providing networking opportunities to further graduate student careers, and by supporting scholarly activities to promote professional development. We also advocate for the needs of our graduate student population by serving as a liaison to the university administration.

Meet Co-Chair Matt Gentry:

Matt is a first year Physical Therapy student who hails from Grants Pass, Oregon. Matt is dedicated to the Graduate Professional Network because he wants to help GSU graduate students have more opportunities to succeed in school and in their career after. He completed his undergraduate degree at Stanford University and loves to coach kids in wrestling and spend time with his wife and 9 month old son. Matt welcomes your input on how to help GSU at mgentry@student.govst.edu.

Meet Co-Chair Diana Basmajian:

Diana is a first year Occupational Therapy student from Schaumburg, Illinois. Diana’s goals for the Graduate Professional Network are to provide more resources for graduate students to build their network. Diana is also involved at GSU as Vice President of the Student Occupational Therapy Association. She is passionate about building awareness on keeping good health and taking care of every aspect of your environment. She welcomes your feedback at dbasmajian@student.govst.edu.

Attention Governors State University students and alumni, the Experience Hub has changed to

Jobs for Jaguars!



Students and alumni will now be able to explore job and internship opportunities, RSVP for career related events, and share their resume with employers recruiting at GSU, all from the new and improved Jobs for Jaguars online system. The look has changed but your log in remains the same!

GSU offers Alternative Service Trips during Spring Break



(top to bottom, l to r) Dominique Hunt, Illinois Campus Compact VISTA Taneisha Palmer, Cherish Brown, Coordinator for Campus Programs Dennis Dent, Jurane Culbreath, Ashley Riddle, Marie Penny, and Lauren Sanders.

The Civic Engagement and Community Service Center (CECSC) partnered with Break a Difference to organize the first out-of-state Alternative Spring Break, which took place from March 15-21, 2015 in San Francisco, California. Break A Difference is a nonprofit organization with the mission of propelling young leaders on a trajectory of lifelong service by providing immersive community impact opportunities across the globe through alternative break programs. Six students and two faculty members from GSU travelled to the west coast to assist in youth development and instructive activities to support enriching education for youth in the Bay Area.



ASB in Chicago at the Pacific Garden Mission, founded in 1877, is a homeless shelter and rescue mission located in the South Loop.

The Civic Engagement and Community Service Center also hosted its second Alternative Spring Break Service Day on March 18, 2015. This event was led by Dean of Students Dr. Aurelio Valente, Assistant Dean of Students Sheree Sanderson, and the Community Service Council. Students volunteered at Pacific Garden Mission. Pacific Garden Mission, founded in 1877, is a homeless shelter and rescue mission located in the South Loop of Chicago. Students assisted in efforts around the shelter as it pertains to day-to-day operations of the shelter.

Participants shared their adventures on twitter by using #GSUASB



National Volunteer Week 2015

National Volunteer Week, April 13-18, 2015, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. This week is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change – discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.

The Community Service Council and the Civic Engagement and Community Service Center will host a week of events dedicated toward encouraging the GSU's community to understand the important community service and ways they will be able to give back to their local community. Here are the events.

Monday, April 13

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Hall of Governors, Noon

Come celebrate those who have humbly contributed to the GSU and local community.

Tuesday, April 14

Community Blood Drive

Game Lounge (near Gym), 3- 7 p.m.

In collaboration with SOTA join us as we partake in an activity that will save lives.

Contact the Community Service Center to sign-up.

Wednesday, April 15

Why Should I Give Back?

Classroom D2441, 3:30 p.m.

Come have a discussion with influential GSU faculty and staff members about the world of civic engagement and its importance.

Thursday, April 16

Pay It Forward

D2443, 3 p.m.

Come enjoy a movie selection and refreshments as we discuss the importance of helping others.

Saturday, April 18

American Diabetes Association presents...

Diabetes Expo 2015

GSU Volunteers Needed

To register, go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DiabetesExpo2015>

A place for students to live, and to lead!

Now that GSU has on-campus housing, there are a number of new opportunities for students to take on leadership roles. The first group of Resident Assistants and a Graduate Assistant (Assistant Residence Hall Director) are preparing to close out a successful first year in Prairie Place. The student staff members in University Housing serve as role models, community builders and helpers and are instrumental in creating a strong community in Prairie Place that supports student success.

2014-15 Resident Assistants

RA's: Aja Curry, Charlé Williams, Lauren Sanders, Desmond Warren, Courtney Herschberger; Assistant Residence Hall Director: Dorian Harris



University Housing Staff Spring 2015: (Left to Right): Desmond Warren; Lauren Sanders; Aja Curry; Courtney Herschberger; Dorian Harris (ARHD); Charlé Williams.



PP Hall Council (Left to Right): Jeremy Williams; Karista Smith; Felice Kimbrow; Arnett Lewis; Nekia Driver (Missing)

2014-2015 also saw the creation of the Prairie Place Hall Council. The Prairie Place Hall Council is a student-run organization that strives to enhance the life of residents, promote community, and provide a voice for residents within the Prairie Place residence community.

President – Felice Kimbrow
Vice President of Administration and External Affairs – Jeremy Williams
Vice President of Finance – Arnett Lewis
Program Coordinator – Karista Smith
Marketing Coordinator – Nekia Driver

University Housing Welcomes New Face:

Joshua Baker is the new Residence Hall Director in Prairie Place. Josh joined GSU's Auxiliary Services & University Housing team on December 1, 2014. Josh received his Master's degree from Western Illinois University in May 2014. While at WIU he served as an Assistant Complex Director. Josh also worked as a Summer Camps/Conferences intern at Colorado Mesa University before coming to GSU. As an undergraduate at Carthage College in Kenosha Wisconsin Josh served as President of Student Government and worked as a Student Ambassador. He also served as the President/Director of the Wisconsin United Residence Hall Association from 2010 – 2011. You can reach Josh by email at jbaker6@govst.edu or by phone at 708.235.7118



Residence Hall Director Joshua Baker

Applications
are now open for
Summer and Fall
housing!



Enrollment Growth spurs more student organizations!



Anime/Video Club Members from l to r: Elan Davis, Emmuel Trammell, Patrick O'Leary, Evan Nave, Hannah Buryk (consultant), Joshua Turner, Jeremy Nelson, and Jim Thompson (consultant).

Student Life Welcomes New Student Organizations

Active student organizations are at a core of a vibrant campus life. Up from 60 student organizations in 2012, currently Student Life sponsors more than 80 registered student organizations and honor societies. Registered student groups each have a specific mission and purpose, and are created based on student interests and passions. This year alone, Student Life is pleased to welcome seven new clubs and organizations — Anime/Video Game Club, Comic Book Club, Gender and Sexuality (GNSX Club), Indian Student Association, Political Science and Debate Club, Prairie Place Hall Council, and the Transformation Gospel Choir.

A full list of student organizations can be found at www.govst.edu/studentlife.

Anime/Video Game Club

Pictured above, the group seeks to educate GSU students and faculty about the growing and expansion of anime; its history and importance to popular culture. Their aim is research career opportunities that are associated with drawing, creating games, and characters. This group is affiliated with the Associated Anime Clubs of the Midwestern Colleges.

Comic Book Club

A group of GSU students who share interest in discussing, trading, and celebrating the comic book culture. This group will fundraise to create a catalogue of comic books to be shared with students, staff, and faculty campus wide. They will host open discussions on upcoming editions, and welcome those who are interested, and intrigued by comic books.

Gender and Sexuality (GNSX Club)

Research based organization that seeks to promote awareness, understanding, and acceptance of a genders and sexualities across cultures. They promote equality, and professional development.

Indian Student Association

A group of students on a mission to celebrate, and educate the campus community on Indian Culture, through history, fashion, food, and traditional customs. These students are committed to sharing their heritage with GSU and beyond. This group is open to all students, who have an interest in learning more of the Indian Culture.

Political Science and Debate Club

This student group will provide an interesting and engaging venue for intellectual discussion on current events, politics, popular culture, and the like. This club will host monthly discussions that are open to all.

Prairie Place Hall Council

The governing body of the GSU residence hall. They are a student run organization that strives to enhance the life of residents, promote community, and provide a voice for residents. They are recognized as a branch of the Student Senate.

Transformation Gospel Choir

Established to life the spirit of the GSU community through songs of inspiration. This group is not religiously affiliated, and open to singers at all levels. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 4 p.m. in Sherman Recital Hall. They are hoping to host a concert in the Fall.



Veteran Resource Center welcomes new Coordinator and Student Veteran Assistants



Kevin Smith

GSU's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is the single point of contact for all military and veterans services and concerns. The VRC strives to ensure the academic success of GSU student-veterans. Any student utilizing VA education benefits must work with this office as part of their registration and enrollment while attending GSU.

The new and expanded hours for the VRC are:

M, W, TH, F – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesdays – 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The VRC is under the leadership of Kevin Smith, Interim Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel, and the office staff includes Lillian Jackson, Anwar Billups, and Philip Ong – all are students and veterans of GSU. Our motto at the VRC is “veterans helping veterans!”

Kevin is a nine year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and 2013 GSU Alumni earning his B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Humanistic Communication. Currently, Kevin is pursuing his M.A. in Communication and Training at GSU.

Prior to accepting his new role as Interim Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel, Kevin served as the Interim Recruitment Coordinator at GSU's Office of Career Services in 2014 and he currently serves as the Testing Administrator for the Regional Office of Education #24. Kevin's past corporate experiences in sales, marketing, and training include AFLAC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and First National Bank of Omaha.

Veterans Resource Center features GSU student veterans.

GSU student **Philip Guller Ong** is a veteran who served 3 years in active service in the US Army, and is currently serving in the Army Reserve. He is studying Psychology, focusing in Forensic Psychology.

Anwar Billups served eight years in the US Army. He is committed to helping veterans apply for and receive their educational benefits. He is pursuing a B.A. in Healthcare Administration, in which he plans to serve again as a Healthcare Administrator. He says, “It's been a delight to serve my fellow Veterans; let's stay fast, tough and efficient. Hooaha!”

Lillian Jackson, assistant to the Veterans Military Coordinator, family of an Army Veteran. “I count it a privilege to work with great men and women who were willing to pay the ultimate price for our freedoms and way of life.” Lillian is currently a Graduate Student in Communication studies.



Philip Ong



Anwar Billups



Lillian Jackson

Veterans Affairs Upcoming Events

- VA Readjustment Counseling Service on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2 – 4p.m. in the VRC from April through July 2015.
- VA Disabled Veterans Outreach on the 1st Thursday of every month from 1:30 – 4 p.m. in the VRC.

Student Life Fall 2014 Snapshots



Program Council Member Keyana Marshall feeding Jax at the Late Night Breakfast during week of finals.



Members of the International Culture Organization and the International Dance Club participated in the International Fashion Show held on March 11, 2015



Members of the Community Service Council (l to r) Emily Metzger, Trauvel Crawford, Isabella Parise, Jeremy Frierson, Illinois Campus Compact VISTA Taneisha Palmer, Arnette Lewis, Dionna Gordon, and Critisha Ashley helping out at the Hunger Banquet on November 19, 2014.



Orientation Leaders getting ready for the January Transfer/Graduate Orientation!

Save the Date: Upcoming Spring 2015 Events

April 10

Relay for Life

Athletics and Recreation Center, 6 p.m. – Midnight

April 13 - 18

Volunteer Week

Visit www.govst.edu/service for a schedule of events

April 16

2015 Spring Career and Internship Fair

CPA Lobby, 2 - 5p.m.

April 22

#SaveOurEducation Rally

Sponsored by Student Senate in Springfield
Bus leaves GSU at 8 a.m. Sign up now!

www.surveymonkey.com/s/SaveOurEducation

For new, updates, and complete calendar of events, visit:
www.govst.edu/campus_life/

April 25

Rebuilding Together-Home Improvement Community Service Project

Join us by registering at

www.surveymonkey.com/s/RebuildingTogether2015

April 30

Late Night Breakfast

Hall of Governors 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

April 30-May 8

Library Jam

May 1

SALUTE Veterans Honor Society Induction

Engbretson Hall, 5 p.m.

May 1

Leadership Awards Banquet

Hall of Governors, 6 p.m.