

2015

Annual Report 2014-2015

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management



On August 24, 2014, GSU welcomed its first freshmen and resident students with fanfare - and by doing so - transformed from an upper division university that served transfer undergraduates and graduate students to a comprehensive public university.

Annual Report

2014 - 2015



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Welcome to our 2014-15 annual report, a year defined by implementation as we saw come to fruition GSU's transformation to a residential four-year institution. In its first year as a comprehensive institution, GSU enrolled 5,776 students, its largest student body since 2000, welcomed 242 students in its first freshmen class, and 201 residents in Prairie Place that included freshmen, transfers, and graduate students.

In addition to our institutional transformation, the division was also transformed with the consolidation of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management functions within one unit to promote a more cohesive pathway from admission to graduation. The expanded division revisited the Student Affairs mission to ensure it reflected the goals of the new division. The new mission statement affirms our commitment to student success, our delivery of essential learning outside the classroom focused on career readiness, leadership development, as well as active and inclusive citizenship.

This report provides information about the breadth of programs and services sponsored by our team of dedicated and talented student affairs educators and academic enrichment professionals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about this report, or if you are interested in partnering with Student Affairs in creating, or expanding programs and services for the Governors State University community.

MISSION, VISION, AND OUTCOMES

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management | Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to provide a seamless and supportive pathway from prospective student to alumni focused on personal and academic success and ensure that students are career ready and positioned to be leaders and active citizens in the community.

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management | Vision Statement

At a transformative time for Governors State University, the Division of Student Affairs will be recognized as a vital contributor in creating an inclusive, supportive and engaged campus community focused on student success.

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management | Learning Outcomes

The Division of Student Affairs aspires to deliver an innovative, comprehensive and integrated student life curriculum that promotes self-efficacy and determination, personal and professional success, multicultural competence, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Students who actively participate in Student Affairs programs and services will achieve:

- **Self-Efficacy and Determination** by constructing an understanding of self and commitment to personal responsibility, integrity and wellness that guides their decisions and actions.
- **Personal and Professional Success** by learning and applying knowledge and transferable skills to achieve personal aspirations, and professional and career growth.
- **Multicultural Competence** by thriving within diverse perspectives, experiences and environments, and building their capacity for being an advocate for equity and social justice.
- **Leadership and Civic Engagement** by deploying their knowledge and talents to improve their communities, both as individuals and by mobilizing others towards positive sustainable change.

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SELECTED FINDINGS FROM LEARNING OUTCOMES

OUTCOME:

At the conclusion of a student's involvement in the conduct process, they will have an increased self-awareness of the potential physical and psychological effects of such behavior can have on their future career, course of study, and relationships with others.

FINDING:

Of the 112 cases, some of the outcomes found were (increase awareness of the effects this process can have on my dreams; increase understanding of why rules/laws need to exist, increased awareness of family expectations) similar to this example: I have made some mistakes; but I am a better person as of today and I am going to get better as time goes on for me and my family, they are depending on me to get this right.

OUTCOME:

The Academic Recovery Program is a new initiative that promotes student learning. Through this program, students will be able to reiterate what that they have learned and apply it to their personal responsibilities. Students will also apply this knowledge to their personal aspirations and professional growth.

FINDING:

Of 239 undergraduates completing the survey, 86 percent of students had met with their advisor and 93 percent found value in meeting with their advisor. 78 percent did a study plan with their advisor and found it helpful in relation to their classwork. When asked, "How will you integrate the workshops' into your academic career?" 64 percent of responders were able to demonstrate skill sets that would increase personal growth.

OUTCOME:

As a result of participation in the Certified Executive Officers Certificate Program (CEO) student leaders should be able to demonstrate effective and essential leadership skills. Students will be able to cultivate self-awareness through identifying their leadership style, mission and personal vision and develop critical thinking skills through problem solving.

FINDING:

94 percent of the student leaders felt that as a result of participation in the CEO program they had a better understanding of how to lead with integrity and develop goals for their organization.

FINDING:

87 percent of the student leaders felt that after participation in the workshops and talking with mentors they had a better understanding of the importance of having values as a leader and articulating a vision for their organizations.

FINDING:

92 percent indicated that their leadership skills had improved, based upon the ability to listen and understand other perspectives.

OUTCOME:

Upon the completion of the Strengths Finders workshop the students will be able to understand the difference between a Talent and a Strength; utilize the findings of Strengths to determine a rewarding position; increase performance in multiple areas of life such as; academics, professional setting, and personal; and implement their strengths into the interviewing process to market themselves to prospective employees.

FINDING:

There was 70 percent accuracy with the question of strengths can be used to find rewarding positions. This indicates that the majority of attendees understood that strengths can be used to assist them in finding positions that bring a higher level of fulfillment thus increasing the likelihood of overall career satisfaction. At 60 percent, over half of the students had a clear understanding of complementary partnerships, which lends to their ability to create teams that are more effective in meeting goals and objectives. In contrast, 20 percent of participants were able to identify all of the ways in which strengths could be utilized in their professional growth and development.

The Academic Resource Center strives to promote the personal growth of students and to enrich their academic experience. The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides advising for undeclared students, immunization compliance, mental health counseling, access services for students with disabilities, tutoring, and writing center services to all GSU students.

The ARC had an exciting year with significant changes. The year started with the remodeling of the ARC; the reuniting of the Writing Center; and the welcoming of freshmen. These changes have sparked growth in services and student utilization in Student Support, the Writing Center, and ARC Tutoring. To support GSU students, the Academic Resource Center has implemented a variety of collaborative efforts to enhance student success and persistence.

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Department Highlights:

- ARC implemented “Save My Semester” workshops that were held two weeks after midterm. The “Save My Semester” workshops helped students self-identify distractions and challenges, develop an action plan to get them back on track, set goals, and provided students with additional resources. Students performing below “C” level were contacted by the ARC and faculty to attend.



Yolanda Pitts, Board of Trustee Student Representative, studying hard in the Academic Resource Center.

- To enhance student persistence, the “Student Success Team,” a cross functional committee, was established. The charge of the committee was to address students’ needs, academic recovery, and to oversee the implementation of strategies to improve persistence. At the beginning of spring 2015, the Team implemented the Freshmen First Year Academic Recovery Program (FYARP) for all freshmen placed on academic probation after their first semester. 71 academic recovery students (93 percent) participated in the program. The program provided services and resources to enhance student progress. As a result, 78 percent of freshmen on academic probation raised their GPA and 50 percent of freshmen were removed from academic probation by the end of the Spring 2015 semester.
- During the AY 14-15, The Writing Center used WC Online, an online software system to schedule writing consultations. The Writing Center reported 1,108 face-to-face appointments, 632 Growl contacts, 888 Library Contacts, served 577 students through workshops, and 202 walk-in requests. The Writing Center provided additional services such as writing study tables, classroom visits, Prairie Place writing assistance, and seminars. In total, the Writing Center supported 4,159 students for the 2014-2015 academic year, this number increased compared to the 2013-2014 academic year at 3,715.
- A total of 227 students visited the ARC 897 times for tutoring in Math, Science, Statistics, Business, and TAP. Supplemental Instruction was provided for College Algebra (MATH 1423), Applied Calculus (MATH 2281) and Statistics (STAT 4720) support. During the 2014-2015 academic year, ARC tutoring supported 293 SI visits, a 26 percent increase compared to 2013-2014 academic year.

ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITING

The Office of Admissions offers assistance to prospective students and applicants in the college selection and application processes. We provide admission counseling appointments, campus tours, group presentations, and a number of recruitment events to showcase our university to students and their families. Our team works with various departments throughout the university to provide the best experience possible to future Jaguars. We were able to track 1,282 Admission Counseling appointments for the year.

We also have a team of admission representatives who work hard to provide timely admission decisions to our applicants. The Admission Processing team manages the intake of all application materials, scanning of documents, and evaluation of admission applications. During the 2014-2015 Academic Year, the Admission Processing team applied 7,727 new applications to the Colleague system, and issued 5,628 admission decisions (both admitted and denied).

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Department Highlights:

- Recruiting and Outreach, a unit within Admissions, has extended its territory over 100 miles in each direction of GSU and generated over 3,400 student prospects from the following events: 150 high school fairs, 95 high school visits, 40 community college visits, 20 community college fairs and approximately five community outreach events.
 - Campus visits and tours continue to leave a positive impression: 41 total high school visits constituted 1,465 prospective students. In addition, 158 individual students visited and toured the university throughout 2014-15.
- To welcome prospective students, Admissions launched our first Student Ambassador program. The program began with seven undergraduate students (five Freshmen, two Transfer). Their responsibilities included assisting at all events coordinated by the Office of Admissions, individual and group campus tours of GSU and Prairie Place, a weekly student blog posted on the Admissions website, and helping out in a variety of ways around campus.
 - Published first Admitted Student Booklet for all newly admitted students. This booklet provides information needed for new Freshmen, Transfer or Graduate students to take the first steps on becoming a GSU student. The final publication was a visually pleasing, informative tool for admitted students and their parents.
 - Admissions launched new Admitted Student Conferences. The Admitted Student Conferences were designed to be a one-on-one consultation with the student and their families to go over all the pertinent information needed to become a new Freshman at GSU. Sixty-one percent of enrolled students attended an Admitted Student Conference.
 - Admissions continued GSU's Transfer Thursdays to much success. Of the 451 participants, 363 (80 percent) were approved for admission.



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

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Athletics and Recreation encompasses athletics (M/W Basketball, M/W Golf, M/W Cross Country, W Volleyball), as well as sports clubs that include bowling, cricket, table tennis, and softball. The Athletic and Recreation Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The Center team is committed to improving the quality of life and fitness for all participants. The Center facilities include an Olympic style pool, racquetball court, fitness room, and gymnasium to give you the tools necessary to reach your total body wellness goals. The atrium Game Room includes an X-Box station, pool table, ping pong table, and foosball table in addition to plenty of lounge space to relax.

In addition to the student members, another 578 alumni and community members constituted 49,229 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center during the 2014-15 academic year.

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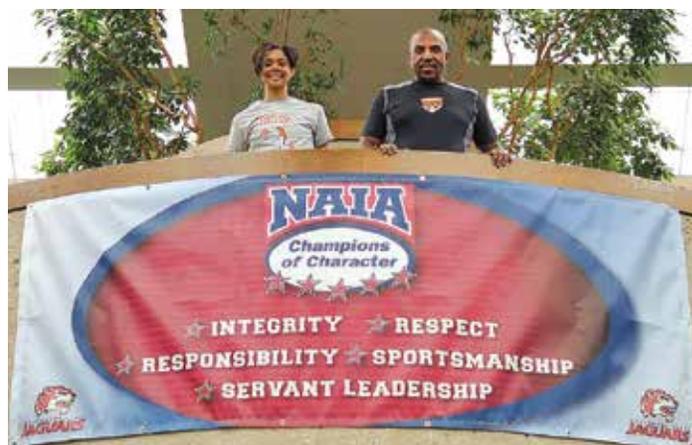
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Departmental Highlights

- Of the 49,229 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center, 30,686 (62 percent) were to the swimming pool, 25,720 (52 percent) were to the gymnasium, 30,473 (61 percent) were to the fitness room, and 4,580 (9 percent) were to the racquetball court.
- Of the 644 visits logged to the Game Room, 225 (35 percent) utilized the Billiards table, 97 (15 percent) utilized Table Tennis, 21 (3 percent) utilized Foosball, and 301 (46 percent) utilized the Xbox.
- A total of \$76,756 of revenue was generated during the 2014 – 15 academic year from membership fees and rental of the Recreation and Fitness Center facilities.



Tuesday, April 14 marked a significant milestone in the history of GSU Athletics, as the university was accepted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Pictured here are Coach La Toshia Burrell and Coach Tony Bates showing what the NAIA Champions of Character stands for.

- A total of \$13,275 of revenue was generated during the 2014 – 15 academic year from athletic events and rentals.
- GSU fielded both men's and women's basketball teams who competed against multiple colleges and universities in their exhibition season. In April, GSU was granted membership into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes, which will allow GSU to compete at a competitive collegiate level starting in the Fall of 2015. Accordingly, coaching staff was hired for men's basketball, women's basketball, women's volleyball, golf, and cross-country.
- The Recreation and Fitness Center sponsored fitness classes such as yoga, water aerobics, zumba, swim instruction, American Red Cross lifeguard training, and American Red Cross CPR courses. In total 978 students, faculty, staff, and community members enrolled during the 2014-15 academic year.

The Office of Career Services provides a wide range of services available to currently enrolled students and alumni. Services include individual career advising appointments, assistance with resume preparation and interview skills, and resume and cover letter critiques. In addition, Career Services coordinates job search skills workshops, customized workshops, and career fairs.

In total, Career Services served 1,709 individual client visits and sponsored 104 programs and events at which 1,792 students, faculty, staff, corporate partners and community members attended.

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Departmental Highlights

- Individual counseling sessions constitute a significant portion of the personal outreach by the career counseling staff. In total, 769 individual clients constituted 882 counseling sessions. Of the 769 clients; 598 (78 percent) were students, 70 (9 percent) were alumni members, 91 (12 percent) were members of the community, and 10 (1 percent) were employers.
- New in 2015, Career Services initiated Open Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30. In total, 827 clients were served in Career Services as walk-ins. Of the 827 clients, 563 (68%) were students, 37 (5 percent) were alumni members, 34 (4 percent) were members of the community, and 193 (23 percent) were employers.
- Career, Internship, and Networking Fairs are the most visible programmatic efforts sponsored by Career Services and served 737 job seekers and hosted 121 employers during the 2014-15 academic year. In total, four fairs were sponsored this year and included the Student Employment Fair, which welcomed 290 job seekers and 20 employers; Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair, which welcomed 117 job seekers and 33 employers; Spring Career and Internship Fair, which welcomed 330 job seekers and 62 employers; and Education Interview Day (replacing the Education Career and Internship Fair), which welcomed 25 student teachers and six school districts.
- In addition to career fairs, the department sponsored 104 programs over the 2014-15 academic year that included class visits, workshops, and presentations that served 1,792 students and GSU community members.



Student employment is making an impact! Governors State University supports the professional development of all student employees as they are a valuable part of our community and students who are highly engaged increase their opportunities to be highly successful.

COUNSELING CENTER



Members of the Occupational Therapy Club participated in the ADA Fair last summer. Pictured (l to r) are Jude Ondrus, Sarah Jasso, Saadah Ottman and Emily Reppin.

The Counseling Center provides individual, group, and couples counseling services for GSU students. The mental health needs of the GSU community are also met through outreach programming for students, faculty, and staff on a variety of mental health issues. The Counseling Center also provides services for students with disabilities.

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In total, there were 1,637 intake, individual, and group counseling sessions held and 309 participants served through mental health outreach programs during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

*Summer hours Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

After 5 p.m. appointments may be available upon request.

Do you need to contact us right away?

You can call us at: 708.235.7334 or email us at: studentcounseling@govst.edu.



Also participating in the ADA Fair, one of our community partners, Trinity Services, Inc. of Mokena. Pictured here is Denise Wirth, Clinical Therapist and alumna of Governors State University.

Department Highlights:

Counseling Services and Mental Health Outreach Programming: The Counseling Center provides individual, group and couples counseling services for GSU students. The mental health needs of the GSU campus community are also met through outreach programming for students, faculty and staff on a variety of mental health issues. Selected outreach programs/workshops held this past year: Bullying: It's not just part of growing up, What is Love?, Positive discipline: Parenting series, Operation Beautiful: Your weight is not your worth, 10 actions to boost your self-esteem today, and Simple coping skills to help deal with everyday struggles.

Disability Services: Access Services for Students with Disabilities had a total of 1,896 visits and contacts, 432 for testing accommodations and 966 faculty collaborations and consultations. The Director conducted self-advocacy workshops at each freshmen orientation this past year and was the advisor for the student club: Disability, Rights, Education, Advocacy & Membership (DREAM). This area was also responsible for wheelchair assistance for over 50 student family members at Commencement this past May.

DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Diversity Education and Leadership Development

includes the Intercultural Student Affairs (ISA) which plays a critical role in helping to create an inclusive and welcoming campus community for all. Intercultural Student Affairs goals included: 1) develop campus wide diversity awareness programs and social justice education efforts, 2) aid in the retention of underserved student populations, and 3) serve as a resource to culturally diverse student organizations.

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

Department Highlights:

- Organized and initiated efforts for cultural heritage program including, but not limited to, Latino Heritage Month, LGBT History Month, Black History Month and Women's History Month with over 75 programs and 3,215 participants.
- Partnered with faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences to implement the SafeZone Program, a training program designed to raise awareness about the dynamics of gender and sexual orientation while exploring different ways to embody inclusive allies for people of all orientations, genders, sexualities, identities, and levels of being out. Coordinated three SafeZone Trainings with faculty, staff, and students being certified.
- Led efforts on Undocumented Students that included partnering with Enrollment Management to create services for Undocumented Students; hosting Spring Divisional Day on Undocumented Students; sponsored co-curricular program with Social Work department with 112 participants and appointed to represent Governors State University on the Universities Immigration Administrative Relief (IAR) Effort by President Maimon.
- Developed the GSU Male Success Initiative, an enrichment program that focuses on employing strategies to assist in the retention and graduation of male students, particularly men of color, that was launched in fall 2015.
- Developed programming for first generation students as the new home of the Student Enrichment Program that was re-envisioned for 2015 as First Matters. First Matters hosted five workshops with 37 participants.



DDP Orientation of Spring 2015.

The Dual Degree Program is a unique partnership between GSU and 17 Chicagoland community colleges that provides full-time students who have earned between 12-45 college-level credits hours with an excellent pathway to earn quality, accessible, and affordable associate and bachelor's degrees. In addition, DDP provides transition services and programs to DDP students who choose to attend GSU. DDP students have nothing to lose and everything to gain by enrolling in this free program.

In total, 227 students were newly enrolled in DDP this year. Seven hundred fifty students who were ineligible for DDP were referred to GSU Admissions to explore transferring to GSU. To date, 286 students have transferred to GSU through DDP. During 2014-2015, over 65 DDP students graduated from GSU.

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Web: www.govst.edu/ddp

Department Highlights

- Ninety four percent of the DDP students who have completed their Associate Degree and enrolled at GSU have graduated, transferred, or are still enrolled and pursuing their degrees.
- The DDP staff was completed with the hire of two new Transfer Specialists (Kyrie-Eleison Kirkland and Cheryl Turrise) and the new DDP Coordinator of Peer Mentoring and Transition Programs (Tiesha Walker).
- During the spring 2015 semester, DDP enrollment at partner colleges has increased 44 percent. Participation in the DDP peer mentoring program has increased 15 percent.
- Overall, DDP students enrolled at GSU have an average GPA of 3.3. GSU Promise Scholarship recipients have an average GPA of 3.6. DDP Honors Scholarship recipients have an average GPA of 3.9.
- Between September 2014 and June 2015, the DDP Peer Mentors coordinated 10 monthly community service projects. 166 DDP student volunteers worked over 500 hours and served over 1,000 people in the Chicagoland area. Service projects ranged from throwing a 'senior prom' at an elderly nursing facility to planting sustainable crops in a community garden.

FINANCIAL AID AND REGISTRAR

The **Office of Financial Aid** is tasked with processing and awarding federal, state, and institutional aid to students based on eligibility. Further, it exists to assist students, faculty, staff, and prospective stakeholders in the understanding and management of financial aid awards and process. In the 2014-15 academic year, Financial Aid processed over 6,000 student files and transmitted nearly \$60 million in funds for 2014-2015 from federal, state, institutional, and external sources. Below are the total amounts for a few of the types of aid received by students to assist with college expenses.

	Amount	Percentage
Federal Pell Grant:	\$7,669,647	13%
State of IL MAP Grant:	\$3,000,939	5%
Institutional Waivers/Scholarships:	\$2,153,371	4%
Veterans Grants:	\$1,292,872	2%
Federal Perkins Loans:	\$320,469	1%
Alternative Loans:	\$538,367	1%
Federal Direct Loans:	\$43,508,434	74%
Total:	\$58,484,099	

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Department Highlights:

- Implemented FA-Link which allows students to use their financial aid to purchase books at the GSU Bookstore.
- Implemented electronic notification of FAFSA receipt, missing information, and financial aid award letters.



Chris Huang, Registrar, helps a student register for classes.

The mission of the **Office of the Registrar** is to provide exceptional, student-centered service, delivered with integrity and care, to make life easier for the GSU community. One of the objectives of our office is to make processes more efficient. This often means implementing new technology to make things easier for our students.

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Department Highlights:

- Implemented the online graduation application which allows students to apply to graduate and pay the graduation fee online. Over 1,200 students have applied to graduate online during the 2014-15 academic year.
- Launched electronic transcript delivery through the National Student Clearinghouse. This solution is touchless and enables students to send official transcripts anywhere in the world, with a valid email address.
- Implemented the Emergency Self-Service form online so that students could provide to GSU emergency contact information and missing person contacts through the myGSU portal.

NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Office of New Student Programs and Cohort Advising provides academic preparation and support for students from the point of enrollment until they transition to their chosen majors. Services provided to freshman, transfer, and graduate students include orientation, academic advising, leadership development, major selection, and academic pathway development.

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Department Highlights:

1. Coordinated four Transfer and Graduate Student Orientation sessions for 425 transfer students, 267 graduate students and 44 guests during the 2014-15 academic years.
2. Welcomed our first 242 freshmen and 211 families over with six summer orientations. This full day schedule included a highly interactive schedule with an early arrival program featuring private tours of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.
3. Selected first group of 10 Peer Mentors serving our first-year students as part of the Student Success teams assigned to each of the three cohorts. Peer Mentors serve as group leaders, contacts between various departments, peer educators and positive role models.
4. Completed the fourth installment of the "Six Week Survey" in an effort to improve the new student experience for both transfers and first-year students. This survey was sent to all first year and transfer students who were admitted in Fall 2014. There was a 15.8 percent response rate for transfer students and 26 percent response rate for freshmen students.
5. Hosted two NODA (National Orientation Directors Association) Interns during Summer 2014, one was a current graduate student at Ohio University and the other began graduate studies at Illinois State University after completing the GSU internship.



Meet our 2015 ROAR Leaders! Getting ready to ROAR! (Resources, Orientation, Advising, and Registration) Front Row (l to r): Brittany Smith, Justin Smith, Ju'Juan Day, Nekia Driver, Jontae Rutledge, Dionna Gordon, Delia Cherrington, Jessica Love-Jordon, Damian Alvarez; Back Row (l to r): Juan Gutierrez, Chris Seaton, Kevin Green, Derrick Brown, Briana White, Jeremy Williams, Andrew Head, and Dominique Hunt.



Jaguar Jump Major Network Debuts to Serve Sophomores! Apifani Grillier discusses picking a major with Community Health staff. College Signing Day will take place during Spring 2016 welcome week. This will be a unique event, the first of its kind, and will start a great new tradition at GSU.

The Office of Student Life supports and enriches the Governors State University educational experience through student involvement in its programs, student organizations and services. Students are empowered through interaction in self-initiated or planned activities with fellow students, faculty members, and staff.

Student Life sponsored 105 programs and events with a total attendance of 11,360 students, faculty, staff and community members, and serviced 22,583. Student Organizations sponsored 64 campus events with a total of 5,073 students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance.

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Departmental Highlights

- Eight new student organizations, and two honor societies were recognized growing our student organizations to 81. Newly recognized student organizations include: Trans4mation Gospel Choir, Animate, Improv Comedy Club, Political and Justice Debate Team, and the Pi Alpha Alpha honor society.
- GSU's inaugural Family & Friends Weekend was launched on October 9-12 and welcomed more than 700 students, families and alumni to campus. The weekend included a Spirit Rally that introduced GSU's new mascot, Jax the Jaguar to campus-wide fanfare.
- Notable student leader accomplishments: Governors State University students named Top in the Country in the US Cyber Challenge participation. Student Senate, developed #SaveOurEducation advocating against budget cuts to higher education funding.



This year, at the Student Leadership Banquet, we introduced the Elaine P. Maimon Award. It is designed to celebrate the accomplishments of a president of a student organization. The nominees have demonstrated leadership through service to their club, and dedication to their club members and mission. The inaugural recipient of the Elaine P. Maimon Award for 2015 was Mirabel Wiryen, President of the International Culture Organization.

- More than 200 students participated in third annual Leadership Awards, and Maribel Wiryen received the first Dr. Elaine P. Maimon award for outstanding "President of an Organization." Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) was honored as the club of the year, and the Trans4mation Gospel Choir received new club honors at the Annual Leadership Awards Banquet. sStephany Sigler was awarded the Lincoln Laureate.
- In its second year, the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service experienced growth in its programming sponsoring 1,135 service hours, valued at \$80,162.50. Notable service initiatives include 1st Alternative Spring Break in San Francisco, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and supporting the long-standing annual Rebuilding Together initiative.



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

Student veterans have likely made sacrifices and faced hardships unknown to most students. For this reason, the Veterans Resource Center, established in Fall 2012, supports student veterans in their transition between the military and civilian environment, and helps ensure that student veterans can thrive at GSU. The VRC serves as a central resource for information or assistance, whether it is regarding their VA benefits, GSU related topics, or civilian matters. Equally important, the VRC is also a welcoming space where student veterans can network with each other.

In total, GSU enrolls just over 330 veteran students, of which approximately 60 percent receive aid requiring certification for various state and federal programs. An additional 40 dependents of veterans were certified through the Veterans Resource Center.

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Departmental Highlights

- GSU held its third Veterans Appreciation Week from Nov. 9 – 14, centered around Veteran’s Day Celebrations. The week kicked off with GSU’s participation in the annual Richton Park Veterans Day Parade hosted by VFW Post #311, a seminar entitled “Transitioning: Are Veterans Failing College?” in collaboration with the Social Work Program, and continued with two events sponsored by The Intellectual Life Committee; “Where Soldiers Come From” and Footprints of Veterans - Veterans from St. Leo’s Residence. The week also included the Veterans



The SALUTE (Service – Academics – Leadership – Unity – Tribute – Excellence) Veterans National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held in Engbretson Hall on May 1, 2015. Eighteen inductees were presented with their honor cord, coin, and certificate by Illinois State Senator Michael Hastings, Illinois State Representative Al Riley, President Maimon, and Provost Bordelon.

Entrepreneurial Boot Camp sponsored by the Small Business Development Center and a Missing Soldier Brunch concluded a very successful Veterans Appreciation Week. There was a presentation on veterans housing initiatives by representatives from The Department of Veterans’ Affairs Supportive Housing Program.

- The newly established Veterans Advisory Council comprised of GSU student veterans, faculty and staff will meet regularly to share resources and ideas of how to best serve our student veterans and their dependents here on campus. The advisory council focuses on getting a better understanding of who our student veterans are and establishing a system of best practices to meet their many needs as they transition into college and out into their respective careers.
- A group of 25 student veterans participated in the second induction of SALUTE Honor Society which represent the foundations; Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, and Excellence.

TITLE IX UPDATE



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.

Title IX Update: In early 2015, an interdisciplinary team was created and named Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP). The team's purpose is to plan, educate, train, and monitor any and all events pertaining to the prevention of sexual assault on campus. ASAP has met regularly since its inception, planning events and scheduling trainings on the prevention of sexual violence for the upcoming academic year.

There were several new developments this past year in regards to prevention of sexual violence on campus. In October 2014, Elaine Pasqua, a nationally known speaker on sexual assault was at GSU to present her program, "An Unheard Voice," to over 100 participants. Elaine has spent the past 17 years traveling to campuses across the county to educate students on the emotional impact of sexual assault.

On March 31, 2015 over 50 people attended a kick-off event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) that also served as a historic signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago/ South Suburban Center in Chicago Heights and GSU. The MOU authorizes the YWCA to provide the GSU campus community with trauma informed services to survivors of sexual assault on a 24/7 basis. The rape crisis hotline is 708.748.5672. This MOU also details confidential crisis intervention, advocacy, and training provided by the YWCA staff to GSU students, staff, faculty and administrators. The first training conducted by the YWCA was for 15 ROAR Orientation Leaders/Peer Mentors and interns on June 23, 2015.



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.

Visit the updated Title IX page at:
www.govst.edu/titleix
And visit the Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) website at:
www.govst.edu/asap