

Governors State University

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Commencement

5-23-2021

Commencement Program: 2020

Governors State University

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2020 *GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT*



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A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Graduates,

Today, we celebrate your achievements at Governors State University's first-ever virtual Commencement ceremony.

As the university's sixth president, I joined Governors State last summer in the midst of the pandemic. Throughout this academic year, I have seen you adapt to unique and challenging circumstances in remarkable ways. While many students finished their experience entirely online, others donned masks to finish their courses in labs and studios.

Perseverance, grit, and tenacity – these characteristics are the hallmark of almost every college experience, but even more so for you, the graduates of 2021.

On behalf of the Governors State University Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, I congratulate you and wish you all the best as you take the next steps of your career or academic journey.

And to those who are joining us today – parents, spouses, relatives, and children – I thank you for your support of our graduates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl Green
President of Governors State University

GSU'S ROOTS

Governors State always was and still is a model of innovation. Founded in 1969 as an upper-division regional public university, GSU served as the premier institution for a highly motivated student population of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students. Located in Chicago's Southland, where the prairie meets the city, GSU's competency-based curriculum was ahead of its time. Transparency, intellectual curiosity, and diversity were hallmarks of its institutional identity.

That founding spirit of innovation and creativity still guides the institution today, now a four-year comprehensive university.

JAGUAR GEMS

From our accredited academic programs to our rankings for diversity and least student debt by U.S. News and World Report, Governors State University is a gem in the Chicago Southland. Our students, alumni, faculty, and staff are a source of great pride, and we honor their achievements.

Read more: govst.edu/jaguargems.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Governors State University is a hub for learning, culture, and innovation within the region. The university partners with community organizations, state and local governments, entrepreneurs, small businesses, major corporations, and economic development organizations to tackle societal challenges and advance economic growth in the region. Community and business collaborative efforts focus on realizing a shared vision for healthier and more engaged citizens, thriving economies, and a better tomorrow.



The Mace

The governor's mace, traditionally carried by the Faculty Senate President who leads the academic procession, is a symbol of the authority of the university as a degree-granting institution. The legal authority of the university is grounded in the intellectual authority of the distinguished faculty who follow in the procession.

In antiquity, the mace was a weapon used to establish the "authority" of the physically strong. Its transformation into a symbol of intellectual authority is both a tribute to and a reminder of the civilizing force of a university's teaching, research and community service functions.

Engraved on the four side-panels of the governor's mace are the seal of the State of Illinois; a cardinal, the state bird; the seal of the former Illinois Board of Governors Universities; and an inscription which reads "The governor's mace, a symbol of tradition and authority of Governors State University, dedicated to the search for excellence in the pursuit of truth, knowledge and the love of learning. Presented by Peter Levin, friend of the university, June 2, 1979."

Atop the mace is a silver rendition of the university logo. The three sides of the "triangle" symbolize the university's teaching, research and community service functions. The three lines visually suggest the shape of a rocket; reminding us both that the university was founded within days of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon and that the university is a hope-filled, pioneering community, committed to a better future for all men and women. The circle symbolizes the fact that the university is, indeed, a community. Finally, the fact that the tips of the triangle reach beyond the circle indicates the university's outreach into the region, state and nation, and its commitment to teaching, research and community service.

Order of Exercises

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 10 a.m.

College of Arts and Sciences • College of Business • College of Education • College of Health and Human Services
Dr. Cheryl Green, *University President, Presiding*

CALL TO ORDER..... Dr. David Golland, *Faculty Senate President*

WELCOME AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS..... Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*

NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Sessily Gianakos, *2021 Graduate*

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES..... Lisa M. Harrell, *Chair*

GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY..... Dr. David Golland, *Faculty Senate President*

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION..... Kayla Siam, J.D.

STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS..... Daj’za Mitchell, *2020 Graduate*

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE..... Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, *Provost*

CONFERRING OF DEGREE Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS Jill Wine-Banks

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES..... Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, *Provost*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*

CLOSING REMARKS..... Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*

Honorary Degree Recipients

Jill Wine-Banks

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa

Before the term ‘shattering glass ceilings’ existed in the national lexicon, Jill Wine-Banks made it fashionable, leaving a trail of broken shards as evidence of her female existence.

A special prosecutor in Richard Nixon’s historic Watergate case, Wine-Banks advanced gender equality as the only woman on the team seeking criminal charges against the most powerful man in the world. In her fierce pursuit of justice and representation in a male-dominated legal world, Wine-Banks fought to overcome the sexism and gender discrimination women faced, including being described as “a girl,” “a lady lawyer,” and “the mini-skirted lawyer.” Now she sees those labels as emblematic of the obstacles of the era and – winking at that patriarchal system – titled her 2020 book “The Watergate Girl.”

After the Nixon trial, Wine-Banks continued blazing trails. In President Jimmy Carter’s Pentagon, Wine-Banks served as General Counsel of the Army where she helped integrate women into the ranks and introduced them to the exclusive club West Point. Back in her home state of Illinois, Wine-Banks stepped into the Deputy Attorney General role as the first woman to do so and then took the reins of the American Bar Association as the first female Chief Operating Officer.

Outside the world of plaintiffs and prosecutors, Wine-Banks’ brilliance shone as a corporate executive at two Fortune 500 companies. In the public and nonprofit sectors, she created Chicago’s first early college program as a Chief Officer of Chicago Public Schools and continues to work with public and private boards to advocate for their missions.

With a unique perspective on two Republican presidents who faced impeachment charges, Wine-Banks now offers legal analysis, most notably to MSNBC viewers seeking a rare and informed glimpse of the intersection of politics, history, and media.

For a lifetime of breaking barriers in the pursuit of justice for all – regardless of race, religion and gender – and for her continued demonstration of a commitment to Governors State University’s ideals of diversity and inclusion as well as to social justice for all students, the Board of Trustees is honored to award Jill Wine-Banks – legal scholar, author and analyst – the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. We welcome her into our community of inspirational scholars, artists, and educators.

Daj’za Mitchell

Daj’za Mitchell embodies all the qualities that make Jaguars proud. She perseveres with grit and tenacity until her goals are accomplished.

After high school, Daj’za struggled at a larger institution before transferring to Prairie State College, a partner in Governors State University’s Dual Degree Program (DDP) that provides students with a pathway to earn both an associate degree and a bachelor’s degree in just four years.

Inspired by her own success, Daj’za excelled and drew the attention of the university which awarded Daj’za the GSU Promise Scholarship, a full-tuition grant awarded to select students coming to Governors State through the DDP.

At the university, Daj’za dedicated much of her time to working as a student transition assistant with DDP and helped her peers in the Communication Disorders program as the President of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association.

For her hard work and commitment to others, Daj’za received the Global Scholar Scholarship, which covered the cost of service-learning abroad trips, allowing the novice traveler to accompany Governors State faculty on the global brigade to Panama. There, she and other students assisted with legal services, providing advice to Panama citizens with the assistance of translators.

Even a pandemic couldn’t stop Daj’za, who earned her Bachelor of Health Science in Communication Disorders degree in 2020 and began graduate school. Long-term, Daj’za dreams of helping marginalized communities overcome language and communication barriers.

College of Arts and Sciences

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Jake Abels ***	Kyriakos Dimitrakis *	Summer Sacari Jackson
Omar Ahmad Abu Rumman	Cynthia Renee Dukes	Devin Jenkins
Gabriela Acero	Morgan Elizabeth Dunn	Jada Lyric Jenkins
Dionta Lashawn Acklin	Channel Evon Durham	Irene M. Jimenez **
Evamarie Acox-Bouie	Grace Eason	Tatenesha Johnson
Olusimisola Veronica Adeyingbo	Jalyn Edwards	Cameron Jon Jones
Equalla Agee	Rick Edwards **	Kyla D Jones
Lisbet Aguirre	Dolores Jean Ellis *	Melissa Nicole Jones
Mateusz Stanislaw Antolak	Haytham N. Elyyan	Shanta J Jones
Karen Avalos **	Noah Christopher Emerson	Vinice Junior *
Rawyah Bader	Michael Alejandro Espino-Carrera ***	Moáz Kassar
Jessica Lorena Barrera	Rigo Ferreira	Matthew Joseph Kearns ***
Lakendra Bascomb	Michael P. Fitzgerald	Mary L Keel
M'Lyssa Lauryn Bauske ** §	Jennifer Irene Forbes *	Briyana Kelly
Anthony Joseph Begesha	Patricia Ann Gandy	George F. Kleopa, Sr
David Bergquist	Christina Garcia ***	Mateusz Janusz Krol
Mary Carolina Berrum-Quintana *	Adriana Garibay-Torres	Mateusz Kubacka
Franchesca Bertha **	Arturo Anthony Garza ***	Zackary Larabee **
Melody Angelis Betancourt	Brianna Garza	Marie L Larosiliere **
Andrew Curtis Bingley	Tyrese Lawrence Gipson	Robert Russell Lewis
Arkeya Blanchard	Nicole Jean Givens	Michelle Ann Lindeman *
Russell Bonds	Dylan Scott Glogowski	Devon Rochelle Lindsay *
Tanea Bowens	Vanessa Gomez	Alexander A. Liriano
Deneen M. Boyd	Hannah Elizabeth Gruben **	Sheila T. Love **
Mizani Azlza Brooks	Alexander James Guenter	Christina Marie Lovecky
Myron Jermell Brooks	Maria Del Carmen Guerrero ***	Charrae Lowery
Sabrina N. Buckner ***	James Guirguis	Jeremy Tyler Manthey *
Charles John Bunting **	Christine S. Gunn	Jessica Marquez **
Bernadette Burrage	Rachel Guthrie *	Omar Martinez *
Khadija Butt **	Eric Steven Guzzi	Kaylan I. Mason ***
Antonya Calhoun	Amani Haddad	Eric Justin McEwen
Nicole Olivia Calhoun	Rodney Malcolm Hannah ***	Kenda I. McGaughy
Candace Latrece Cassell	Kortnie Lynne Hanold	Courtney A. McGuire
Daisy Chaidez	Julian Xavier Hardy	Takiesha McKinney *
Diana Cecilia Chapa ***	Ashley S. Harrington ***	Brian John McMenamy ***
Zachary Chase	Shavontha Harris	Patrick Adrian Misiak **
Danuta Chlebek *** §	Denise Marie Harvey	Jaylon Miskel
Charles Edward Clayton Jr *	Rebecca J. Hase-Plefka *	Cassidy Marie Mitchell
Tanya Cloman	Brandon Haynes	Bianca MontesDeOca
Chequita Lasondra Cobbins	Claire E. Hays	Cristian Francisco Morales
Darion M. Collins	Courtney D. Heiskell	Matthew William Moustis ***
Michael Condich	Emilia Cristabel Herrera-Barrera	Anabel Murillo *
Matthew Joseph Contey	Natashia Alana Hilentzaris	Diane Marie Neese
Ashley Deanna Cooper	Ms Danielle N. Hill	Gina M Charles-Nelson
Miranda Danielle Cosby	Damian Donte Hines	Thomas Robert Novak *
Laura J. Crosby ***	Tyeshia Hodge	Nchekwube Obiageli Krystal Okeke
Madison Crawl	Isabella Tristan Hollingsworth * §	David Gordon Palmer
Jacqueline R. Cunningham	Nicholas Hook	Marita Antoinette Patterson
Laura Leticia Curiel	Eileen F. Hurley ***	Nick Stephano Pedergrana
James E. Daniels Jr.	Suhaid Husein *	Jonathan M. Pennington *
Lenzie Dominique Dark	Alex James Hutnik ***	Ilce D. Perez *
Monica Del Valle	Andrea Hyche-Moore	Mr Jake T. Perrella
Melissa Delarosa-Gonzalez *	Joe Iannucci	Robin Elaine Phillips **
Michael Aaron Demetrakis	Ananasia Ivory	Amy R. Plesniak
Joshua Edward Diaz	Pamela Rachelle Jackson	Kierra Pope
	Promise Cierra Jackson	Brittany Prate

* = Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude

*** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program

Academic honors awarded to undergraduate students only.

For Commencement, cumulative GPA calculated through Fall 2019.

College of Arts and Sciences

Mallory Eileen Price ***
 Megan Virginia Rademacher **
 Dawn L. Raetz
 Esteban Ramirez
 Faith Ramirez ***
 Samantha Lyn Rapson
 Peter Martin Raymond
 Ashanti Linda Reese
 Dominic Xavier Ricobene *
 Micheline Rizzi ***
 Shellee Roberson *
 Deirdre Lynne Roberts ***
 Christopher S. Robison
 Jacqueline Rodriguez
 Jalyssa Keisha Rodriguez
 Patricia A. Rogers
 Katherine Elizabeth Rosenberg
 Ciara Rounsaville
 Eboni Rucker *
 Timara Lachelle Rucker **
 Moriah Rudd
 Karla L. Runnels
 Kristiana Russell * §
 Regina Russell-Blue
 Christina Marie Rylander
 Ana Larissa Samaniego *
 Areej I. Samara ***
 Antonia Nicole Sanders **
 Deanasia Lynnette Sanders
 Gloria Hurt-Sanders
 Adriana Sandoval *
 Victoria Sarabia *
 Robert Joseph Scheve
 Greyson Scott Schunke
 Christian Lee Scott
 Syed Azhar Shafi
 Radana Shanahan *
 Quon Parris Salaam Shaw
 Alexander P.h Shea
 Sarah Elizabeth Shoaf *** §
 Rebecca Silic ***
 Claudya Louise Skalski * §
 Alexis Lerayne Smith
 Anthony C. Smith
 Ashley Nicole Smith
 Ashley D. Smith
 David Darcell Smith
 Dana E Solatka *
 Elizabeth Noemi Solis
 Matthew Spatz *
 Vanity J. Spruill
 Edna Standors
 Gabriel Maxwell Stanley
 Wanda Stephen
 Jada N. Stewart-Clark
 Carley Maureen Sullivan ***

Ellis Anthony Sutton, Jr.
 Natalie Taborska ***
 Serena Concetta Taveggia
 Hydeia Thomas
 Lissette Torres *
 DeMario D. L. Tribett
 Daniel Vanderpool
 Elidia Vazquez **
 Michael Velesovsky **
 Roberto Villagomez
 Amber Wallace *
 Kerby Sh'Nae Elizabeth Wallace
 Justin Ward
 Darylsha Washington
 Tiffany Latrice Washington
 Swandra Wells
 Sonya Y. Whirl *
 Ms Vada Wiley
 Kyle Kimiko Williams
 MV Williams
 Justin Stacy Winston
 Awad Yafai
 Jasmine Sharie Young
 Rhonda Denise Young

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Taylor Ann Mezo *
 Kenya Cree Moffett-Garner **
 Kayla Salinas **
 Tyler N Santor
 Crystal Thorns ***

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Yehya Almatary
 Sabae Anderson
 Angela Lauren Antos
 Lizbeth Aranda
 Amy M. Armato **
 Larry Armstrong
 Agim Bal ***
 Myles Barbee
 Paul Wesley Barnes
 Sean V Batkiewicz ***
 Amanda Bopp *
 Kristopher W Bradshaw
 Amber Sherrell Brooks
 Barry Du-Witt Cheeks
 Kristen Chismudy ***
 Marcin Chowaniec ***
 Terrence Tysean Cook
 Sean Patrick Costa
 Ethan Matthew Davis ***
 Clarissa Dean *
 Tyler DeMoraes ***
 Nathan D Eagle **
 Mohamed Elmatari
 Sachen Taylor Emery

Torrionna Evans
 Sheldon Deshawn Foster
 Blake Allen Fullriede ***
 Rick Anthony Garren *
 Michael A Goldyn *
 Eric Gomez *
 Shannon Cornell Gordon *
 Timothy Joseph Grazulis **
 Ramiro Nicholas Guzzino *
 David J Halek
 Omar Hamdan **
 Garrett John Hannett
 Elie Hawa
 Ahmed Issa **
 Genardas Janonis *
 Kaci Alexis Jazo
 Brandon Fernando Juarez
 Willard Bryan Keil *
 Jeremy Charles Keltner
 Mark Elliott Klippenstein ***
 Suzanna Christine Lemmon ***
 Conrad Lesiak
 Dayne William Longtin
 Norbert Lusung
 Annesha Catrell Martin
 Deisy Mascote
 Robert Richard Mattison IV
 Precious Mckenzie
 Nicholas Miller
 Bridget Ann Nee ***
 Ulrich Mathurin Ngouoko *
 Jennifer Nguy
 Samantha Helen Nolan *
 Ahmad Omari *
 Mousa Omari
 Brendan Michael Paquette
 Ishita Patel **
 Kishan S. Patel **
 Pranavbhai Patel **
 Tejas P. Patel
 Nicholas Joseph Pehlke
 Ahmed Rasoul
 Natalie Helene Rejowski ***
 Jan Daniel T. Reyes
 Sherry Lee Rodriguez *
 John Anthony Rosales Jr.
 Joshua Stephen Russell
 Benjamin Joseph Rycraft
 Sydney Sanchez
 Mitchell Schultz **
 Steven N. Scott Jr.
 Taylor Simmons *
 Erikas Sineokis **
 Natalia Strezo
 James John Taliano Jr
 Martrell C Thompson

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 *** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program
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College of Arts and Sciences

Nathan Scott Utter
Karolis Vaicius *
Hayley B. Vasil
Mohmad Subhaan Vhora
Gabriela Bianca Villarreal
Devonte Walter Walker
Justin Welch **
Aaron K. West
Nathaniel Scott Westerhoff *
Angel Yanez
Ivan Zavala Salazar *
Wiktor Zubrzycki *

MASTER OF ARTS

Ashiana Kelone Caprice Allen
Hope Lynn Coleman
Shonda F. DeVasher-Williams
Tilon Mathis Foreman
Jamise N. Frazier-Funches
Ami J. Henderson
Candice Natalie Ibaceta Ramirez
Ashley Tuburan
Bianca Melissa Jimenez
Cherinicole Anita, Uvalda Lardino
Angela Deborah McDowell-Richards
Ricardo Repuerto Munoz
Elizabeth Neris
Traci L. Ores
Shanton Modupe Oyenuga-Hinton
Helena N. Rachal
Michael Richard Rosario
Brandy Ann Sacino

Stephan Stewart Shaw
Sabrina E. Slocum
Brian Sharif Stanley
Dawn Marie Sterning
Jason C. Vignone
LaShaunda T. Williams

MASTER OF FINE ART

Candi Helsel-Wilk
Nickolas Randy Ware
Kristine Nicole Weidenhoefer

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jennifer Lynn Bonbrake
Lisa Lanette Brown
Robert J. Mason, II
Brian Sharif Stanley
Alan R. Swinford

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Kranthikiran Reddy Ada
Yaser Adnan Fnu
Mustafa Ali
Syed Asgar Hussain
Scott Lee Bennett
Eric James Brossman
Daisy Chaidez
Sanjay Gorantla
Abhinav Sreekar Gunnala
John David Jennings
Venkata Prashanth Kainkaryam

Mohammad Khan
Vijayakumar Lachireddy
Sunil Kumar Mendu
Abdul Basith Mohammed
Ejaz Ahmed Mohammed
Mohammed Moinuddin
Sri Anupama Mudunuri
Harshavardhan Nuvvala
Timothy W. Okrey
Michael Ailende Omongbale
Sravya Reddy Patlola
Matthew R. Perry
Sri Datta Pola
Suraj Ram Ravuri
Imran Hussain Razvi
Goutham Reddy Reddy
Matthew Ruffatto
Sai Sujith Sadum
Gabriela Sanchez
Stephanie Rachel Sather
Lisa E. Schwarz
Sarah Siroy
Christopher Jan Skobel
John V. Stechly
Sunkari Rahul Alwardas
Hameed Uddin Syed
Deeba Ayoob Syeda
Vineesha Tharikonda
Nganba Thounaojam
Abel Torres
Francisco Eduardo Vasquez
John Wesley

College of Business

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Muhammad Abusbaiha
Larry Acevedo
Adenike Adekahunsi
Jowan Ali **
Rachel Allen *
Katelyn Andersen
David Edward Anderson *
Steven A. Anderson
Gregory Dean Bahr
Sean Barry
Rebecca Victoria Boyd
Shane Briscoe *
Christal A Burton
Lauren Taylor Callahan
Emilio C. Castañeda
Robin Lynette Chaney-Jones
Brian Clark **
T'Kyla Clayton
Keshaundra Cooks-Wilson

Latia Monique Cooper
Rejino Diaz
Kevin Dignan
Joshua David Draksler ***
Miranda Lynn Dutour
Melissa Dykstra *
Mr Wiam T. El Halabi *
Dustin John Essington ***
Kerelous Y. Fahmy **
Helen Fishbeck *
Ricco Foster
Daniel Frias
Brian Andrew Fritz *
Gina Gailiute
Johnnie Hartline *
Tracy Hicks
Marshall D. Holsapple ***
Abdallah Hisham Jaber
Steven Alexander Jakob
Leonel Bladimir Jaramillo
Jonathan Dewitt Jefferson

Jai Jerom *
Cordera Brian Jones
Sarah Jopek **
John Kehoe *
Alex James Kowalski
Brittany Marie Kubitz **
Liz Victoria Lamilla **
Tiffany Laos
Kleo A. Lawhorn
Jillian Mone't Lee
Kailah R. Lewis *
Brandon J Lilly
Mary Mack
Joseph Mangiaracina
Narmeen Manna
Justin Marcinkowski
Cade Edward Martin ***
Eureka Arcelle McDonald
Larissa Marie Mclemen
Matthew McNeil
Sarah Marie Meyers *

College of Business

Angela Denice Miller *
Lester Van Moody III
Eric Emil Niewinski *** §
Eduardo Novoa
Ryan O'Malley
Rollie Opalacz *
Alexandra Ortiz
Marshall Romell Perry
George Nicholas Pitsoulakis
Jacob Plevell
Latefah Poole
Nicholas Alexander Pruitt
Reem Rafati
Calvin Rodgers
Timothy A Rodgers
Jennifer Romania
Erik Joel Rosales-Gomez *
Nicholas Sandoval
Jamil Shalabi
A'dajahnae Smith
Rianna Lashaun Thompson
Daniel Vallejo **
Alecia Mercedes Walker
Kim Denice Warren
Teresa Marie Washington
Tatiana Wegrzyn **
Jessica Williams
Loren L. Williams
Natalie Williams

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Bader Abuyousef
Mohamed Alqaiti
Mohamed Alqaiti
Abdulrahman Awadh Alqaiti
Margaret Elizabeth Andres ***
Adriana Arellano
Diana Azam

Melissa Bedwell
Dani Jetaun Berrien *
Michael Robert Brady
Joanna Cardenas
Christopher Coppola **
Jared Dante Dandridge *
Vivian Natalie Diaz
Yezen Hakam Dib
Deon Jamal Dunnorm
Gloria Gallegos
Hamad M. Hasan
Takeda Dashea Hill ***
Joanna Barbara Janik **
Pamela Denise Johnson
Robert Morgan Jonas
Hamza Jumah
Kendall King
Vicki G. Kocian
Meghan Kropp ***
Christopher Mark Murray **
Brandee Nicole DeGrado
Noe Rios Navarro
Heather M Nelson **
Adam Odeh **
Isaac Orr
Osasu Osaghae
Sandra Perez Alfaro ***
Jesus Alberto Ramirez-Guerrero
Laura Marie Rovak ***
Jose Salazar
Eman Samra
Analind Serna
Amanda Kay Spayer ***
Alan Austin Taylor ***
Brenee Toney
Phuc Tran *
Nicholas James Wilson
Jeff Youngbrandt

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Anthony Austin
Tiffany Burnham
Lauren Chelsea Cantillo
Vincent Contreras
Bradley Dunbar
Porshia S. Greenwood
Amy C. Hildeman
Peggy A. Horton
Steve Kositzky
Scott M. Kowalski
Jonathan Lopez
Shanelle Monique Martin
Alicia Mattocks
Kimberly Katherine Nason
Alexander Oberman
Paris J. Payton
Aaron Michael Ritter
David D. Shelton
Matthew Patrick Shine
Jennifer N Smith

MASTER OF SCIENCE

James G Butcher
Jessica Marguerite Fansher
Tiffany Nicole Freeman
Maribeth Hampton
Kyle Homan
Olivia Ing
Sharif Kittaneh
Abdullah S Mahmoud
Erika Noble
Joseph D Ponton
Kimberly Salvador
Theresa M Storer
Dion Wiley
Jessica C. Willis

College of Education

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Areen Abu-Romman
Tan Adams-Westmoreland ***
Diana Alicia Aguirre
Emma Susan Ahrens *
Chauncia Akins
Michael R. Alsen
Jasmine Alvarez
Jennifer Ann Andel ***
Eman Khatib **
Jocelyn Ayala
Nuria Balovski *
Sevdia Balovski
Natika S. Banks *
Ashley Chaurice Basham

Denise Beanland *
Jessica Beckmann
Casey Berg
Lashonda J. Black
Molly Blitstein ***
Brandon Carlos Bogue-Varea
Maegan Boldin ***
Miyah L Booker
Sarah Jean Brandt ***
Vanessa Brinker
Cory Marcel Brooks
Celia Anne Brunzic
Kelela Cain ***
Kevin Christian
Shannon Kiera Cluff *
Aja Cochran *

Tamara L. Coleman *
Keelin Agnes Crotty ** §
Hailey Mae Czerwinski ***
Ariana Denise Dampier *
Mona Darwish
Crystal Ann Del Rio
Donald Anthony DeMicheal
Humberto Diaz De Leon
Mary Shirley Dore **
Ragad Elayyan
Lorena Flores *
Julisa Guadalupe Garcia ***
Claudia Garibay
Beverly Daishawn Gayden **
Emmie Wanda Geijer *
Candice Shantel Gibson

* = Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude

*** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program

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College of Education

Jonathan Develt Gilson
Diamond Dollie Goodwin
Laura L. Hamm ***
Muhammad Nizar Hasan
Ayat Hassan *
Candace Henning
Denise Hernandez
Ameen Eddie Hussein
Randy T. Jasien ** §
Megan Louise Jobin
Diamond Johnson *
Jahiyla Johnson
Tyanna Marie Johnson *
Zahua Joudah
Kathryn Irene Keblusek *
Drew Michael Kestel *
Nesreen Khalil
Daniel J Kirby
Brandon Kyle ***
Kelsey Margaret LaBuda *
Karynthia T. Little **
Cindy Lucas-Lewis *
Jaclyn Maria Lukjanowicz **
Marwa Lukyana *
Maggie Maestre ***
Destiny Marisol Mangano **
Emma Lynn Manietta ***
Holly Marquis **
Courtney Nicole Martin
Maria Theresa Martinez **
Paris L. Maxwell
Charity L. McGee
Jenna McGill
Micah McMillan
Kathleen A. Meany
Guadalupe Mercado ***
Kailen Miller
Abigail Grace Mitchell **
Haneen Mohammad
Casandra L Molina
Claudia Musa ***
Teresa Nicholson
Victoria M. Nienajadlo
Mohammed Hussam Nofal
Sivana Nolan
Alexandra Nylander
Karli Olszowka *
Abby Sue Osback *
Loren E Patton ***
Yahaira Natalie Pedroza *
Savanna Alexa Petric ***
Kitana Regine Radcliff *
Yasmin Ramos ***
Kelly L Richardson *
Terrance Robert Rogers ***
Amy Romero
Shari H Schneider ***
Kayla Nicole Sepe
Sakeenah Aneesah Shakir ***

Neda Shalabi ***
Elizabeth Marie Shirk *** §
Candice Irma Janice Short
Jamileh Shuaibi ***
Michelle Smith
Nicole Sorice *
Matthew Stern
Hannah Alexandra Tanis
Loubna Tawil *
Kia Cyntrice Taylor
Joy E. Thomas
Silas Tyrone Thomas
Tiara Thomas
Veronica Torres *
Ryan Tucker
Shay Shadow Tyler **
Abraham Van Heest
Jeanette Villanueva *
Kylie Volz ***
Michaela Anastasia Wascher-Disney **
Amber Melinda Watson
Kyle A. Wheeler
Tyrice Demitrius Wheeler
Jessica Taylor White *
Brandon Lavell Williams Sr. ***
Josh Ruppel Wilson ***
Rachel Marie Winters *
Kaitlyn Nicole Zalkowski ***
Lenawadia Jamal Ziada
Anastasia Sophie Zubeck *** §

MASTER OF ARTS

Rheann Elise Ruth Adams
Jaclyn Adema
Tierra Aikens
Courtney Albert
Constance Valencia Alexander
Susan Anewalt
Nicole Renee Aulet
Nicholas Barclay
Laura R. Baricovich
Kristie Danielle Barraco
Mathew David Becker
Tiffany J Bennett
Charissa Berrini
Bradley M. Bochenek
Michelle N. Brennan
Abigail Christine Brooks
Deona Brooks
Clayton M Brown
Sara D. Brown
Darren Edward Bryant
Karla R. Canady
Takiya LaNiece Caradine
Lorenzo J. Carr
Michel Antonia Carter
Jessica Carufel
Vereniz Cervantes-Llamas
Scott L Chandler

Steven George Charnot
Amy Marie Citlau
Tanzy Clemons
Kristin Cobb
Jonathan Coronel Cruz
Meghan Elizabeth Domanszky
Rachael Dovgin
Ronisha Juanita Dubose
Anna Aleksandrovna Elagina
Victoria Engel
Lauren Marie Enright
Ijeoma Nnennaya Ezeji-Okoye
Patricia A. Fee
Ms Janine K. Ferguson-Marshall
Rebecca Ferrebee
Nicole Fosle
Cheryl Y. Franklin
Verneisha Gair
Laura I. Garcia
Emily C. Gibson
Ollie Mae Gill
Cerialia Jacquell-Cheree Hampton
Kerry Marie Hampton
Rosa E. Harris
Emily Jane Hartl
Courtney Jo Hilt
Deanne Maureen Holste
Edward M. Hotwagner, Jr.
Stacy Lee Hunter
Ashley M. Jackson
Tajmar D. James
John Joseph Jensen Jr.
Ajsia Nichole Jones
Rana Judeh
Kelli M. Juodikis
Michael Kilcran
Alisha Meshell Kirkwood
Jeremy A Lannan Sr.
Lynsey M. Lattyak
Vania Patrice Long
Donna Lynch
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Bonnie Clarice Martin
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James J. Ramazinski
Gina M. Reist

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College of Health and Human Services

Ellen Ann Richkus
 Sharlynn A. Roan
 Pietro Cesare Sansone
 Jeffrey Lopinsky Schmidt
 Samantha Taylor Schuldt
 Ruth Shannon
 Irina Nicole Sheppard
 Hannah Slattery
 Hayley Marie Stamper
 Raymond Joseph Sullivan
 Erin Swillum
 Brenda Taylor
 Nina Rowan Trlak
 Sarah Elizabeth Vickery

Diana M. Voith
 Nichole Renee Whitten
 Deaira Williams
 Kimberly Yvette Wilson
 Lashonda R. Worthly
 Kathleen R. Yanke
 Sara Youssef

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 Monica Cuellar
 Jamie Marie Elkhoury
 Diana Rodriguez Hardison
 Christine Y. O'Keefe
 Phillip Reginld Price

Nicole Lynnette Ratliff
 Miles W. Thomas

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

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 Tracy Bibbs
 Sadé Marie Dunn
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 Aisha Shaintae Kessee
 Emily Ann Petkus
 James Robert Rink
 Brenda Mae Ross
 Luis San Roman
 Jacob Santhouse
 Loren Camille Williams

College of Health and Human Services

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 Aishana Elicia Bolden
 Reyonna Renee Burpo
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 Abrar Gazawneh
 India Belancia Glesper
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 Verna M. Grooms
 Maram Hamad
 Renia Hamilton
 Bianca Sarah Hampton *
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 Jeanelly Ibarra
 Harpreet Kaur
 Justin Kooinga ***
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 Dasheka Patrice Moore
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 Madeline Butzbach
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 Tamar Kylea Clark *
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 Luz De La Rosa **
 Melanie Joy Dean
 Allyn Chua Divinagracia
 Hector Cirilo Duenas Jr.
 Ahmad Ezaldin
 Sara Deck
 Aya Fniech
 Mary Katherine Goad *** §
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Noor Ata Hamad *
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 Alexandria Arielle Williams

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College of Health and Human Services

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Tianna Williams
Jessica Joanne Zduniewicz **

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Brigid Barton
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Christina Wiafe Boahema
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Taylor Dee
Candace L. DeWit
Oluabo Edogiawerle
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Paulette McKinnis
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Alexandra Katherine Wurz

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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Sara Ann Schied
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Wyshawnda Wells
Ashlan Marie Wicks
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Clara Alexandra Rojas
Briana Narcissi
Karissa Lynn Nelson
Christopher Rafacz
Ellen M. Rukavina
Lizandro Sanchez
Neel Soni
Diana Ahtziri Trujillo Torres
Wei Hua Wang

Academic Regalia

During the commencement ceremony, students and faculty wear academic costumes indicating the wearers' degrees, colleges/universities, and fields of study.

The Cap

The black mortarboard type is the most common cap worn. Degree candidates wear cap tassels that are black and white, the university colors. Colors worn by the faculty vary according to their fields of study.

The Gown

Gowns are of three kinds. The bachelor's gown is relatively simple, with lines falling straight from a fairly elaborate yoke. Its distinguishing characteristic is the long pointed sleeve. Braided silken cords are worn by students who have achieved special scholastic recognition. The master's and specialist's gowns have sleeves with a back end extending down below the knee in a crescent shape. The doctoral gown is an elaborate costume with velvet panels down the front and around the neck and three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves.

The Hood

The official colors of the college or university from which a degree is conferred are represented in the lining of the hood. For each field of study, there is a corresponding trim color. While each program of study has a specific color, some programs display the same color. The repetitive color reflects the college (ex. Addictions Studies and Communication Disorders graduates earn a Master of Health Science for which the hood color is Salmon Pink). The trim colors for doctoral and master's hoods are as follows:

Degree Programs.....	Color
Accounting.....	Drab
Addictions Studies.....	Salmon Pink
Analytical Chemistry.....	Golden Yellow
Art.....	Brown
Business Administration.....	Drab
Communication Disorders.....	Salmon Pink
Communication and Training.....	White
Computer Science.....	Golden Yellow
Counseling.....	Light Blue
Counselor Education and Supervision.....	Light Blue
Criminal Justice.....	Navy
Early Childhood Education.....	Light Blue
Education.....	Light Blue
Educational Administration.....	Light Blue
English.....	White
Environmental Biology.....	Golden Yellow
Independent Film and Digital Imaging.....	Brown
Interdisciplinary Leadership.....	Light Blue
Health Administration.....	Salmon Pink
Management Information Systems.....	Golden Yellow
Mathematics.....	Bright Gold
Multicategorical Special Education.....	Light Blue
Nursing.....	Apricot
Occupational Therapy.....	Slate Blue
Physical Therapy.....	Teal
Political and Justice Studies.....	White
Psychology.....	Light Blue
Public Administration.....	Peacock Blue
Reading.....	Light Blue
School Psychology.....	Light Blue
Social Work.....	Citron

– Honors Cords, Medallions, and Stoles for Commencement –

The medals worn by some graduates symbolize their completion of the GSU Honors Program.
The stoles or cords worn by some graduates symbolize their membership in an honor society or the Dual Degree Program.

Honors Program – for undergraduates only

Honors Program graduates complete a rigorous academic curriculum including an honors capstone with the goal of promoting leadership and personal development for the betterment of the students, the university, and the local and global community.

Program	Recognition.....	Color
GSU Honors Program	Medallion.....	Gold

University Honors – for undergraduates only

Honor	Recognition	Color
Cum Laude.....	Cord	White
Magna Cum Laude	Cord	Silver
Summa Cum Laude.....	Cord	Gold
Lincoln Laureate.....	Medallion	Gold

Honor Societies – for students who are members of these Honor Societies

Society	Recognition	Color(s)
Alpha Eta Society (Allied Health).....	Cord.....	Green
Alpha IOTA Sigma (Interdisciplinary)	Cord.....	Blue and White
Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice).....	Cord.....	Royal Blue and Gold
Alpha Sigma Lambda (Adult Learners)	Cord.....	Burgundy and Antique Gold
Beta Gamma Sigma (Business).....	Cord.....	Royal Blue and Gold
Chi Sigma IOTA (Counselors).....	Stole.....	Blue and White
Kappa Delta Pi (Education)	Cord.....	Green and Purple
Lambda Pi Eta (Communication)	Cord.....	Crimson and Cream
Phi Alpha (Social Work)	Stole.....	Blue and Gold
Phi Theta Epsilon (Occupational Therapy)	Cord.....	Navy and Gold
Pi Alpha Alpha (Public Administration).....	Stole.....	Light Blue and Gold
Psi Chi International (Psychology)	Cord/Stole.....	Dark Blue and Platinum/Platinum
SALUTE Veterans.....	Cord.....	Red, White, and Blue
Sigma Tau Delta (English)	Cord.....	Red and Black
Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing)	Cord.....	Purple
Tau Sigma (Transfer).....	Cord.....	Burgundy and Gold
Student Senate (Student Governance)	Stole.....	Black and White
Upsilon Phi Delta (Healthcare).....	Cord.....	Blue and Red
Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science)	Cord.....	Maroon and White

Dual Degree Program – for undergraduates who entered GSU through the Dual Degree Program

Dual Degree Program Partner.....	Recognition	Color(s)
City Colleges of Chicago	Cord	Light Blue and Black and White
College of DuPage	Cord	Green and Black and White
Harper College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Joliet Junior College.....	Cord	Purple and Black and White
Kankakee Community College	Cord	Red and Black and White
Moraine Valley Community College.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
Morton College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Prairie State College.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
South Suburban College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Triton College.....	Cord	Maroon and Black and White
Waubensee Community College.....	Cord	Maroon and Black and White

Dual Degree Program Graduates

Dual Degree Program graduates received distinctive cords for their academic regalia that intertwine GSU's colors — black and white — with the colors of the student's community college. These students have participated in the Dual Degree Program throughout their associate and bachelor's degree programs. Braiding these colors together symbolizes the partnership and shared goal of the community college and GSU; working together to help these students achieve academic success.

Investing In You

Now one of Governors State University's alumni, you represent the best of GSU. The GSU Foundation wishes you success in the next chapter of your life and personal and professional gratification in your future. Your story is GSU's identity. Your achievements reflect GSU's triumph, and our success enhances your accomplishments.

Today, we invite you to accept the pledge to invest in GSU for a minimum of \$250 paid over the next five years. This collective gift from each of you leaves a legacy from the Class of 2020. Every commitment matters. Please take action and make a difference.

Visit www.govst.edu/donate to make your donation. For more information, please call Lauren Healy at 708.534.8390 or email lesolato@govst.edu. Donors will be recognized on our website.

GSU Alumni Association

The Alumni Association connects graduates with each other, as well as to professional development, networking, and social and volunteer opportunities. As a graduate of GSU, the Alumni Association is your organization. Your engagement in the association can help make it what you need it to be for your success, both personally and professionally.

As GSU alumni, you represent the very best the university has to offer. Please advocate for GSU in your personal and professional networks, and encourage others to investigate opportunities to attend and/or support your alma mater. We welcome your return to campus and encourage you to volunteer as a mentor, leader, or lifelong learner, and join one of our growing alumni clubs.

The Alumni Association and generations of GSU alumni are proud to welcome the Class of 2020 to its ranks.

Congratulations and we look forward to seeing you soon! Visit www.govst.edu/alumni for more information.

Stay Connected

The memories you have made as a Jaguar will not only last you a lifetime—they will add to the collective story of the university's alumni.

Use the social media hashtag #GovStateGrad to share the culmination of the journey to your degree on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Twitter.

Faculty

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Luz Acosta
Visiting Professor

Stuart Adamson
Adjunct Faculty

Joseph Addison
Professor Emeritus

Jacqueline Andrews
Adjunct Faculty

Kayed Akkawi
Assistant Professor

Benjamin Almassi
Associate Professor

Emmanuel Alozie
Full Professor

Nana Amponsah
University Lecturer

Reynolds Andujar
Assistant Professor

Carmen Armstrong
Adjunct Faculty

Andre Ashmore
Adjunct Faculty

Mohammad Ashraf
Adjunct Faculty

Amanda Athon
Assistant Professor

Allen Babiarz
Adjunct Faculty

Richard Baisa
University Lecturer, Senior Status

Courtney Barden
Adjunct Faculty

Oscene Barrett
University Lecturer

Robert Belin
Adjunct Faculty

Robert Bell
Adjunct Faculty

Uriah Berryhill
Adjunct Faculty

Michael Blomarz
University Lecturer

Sayoni Bose
Assistant Professor

Janet Brewer
Assistant Professor

Yvette Brown
Full Professor

Mary Bruce
Full Professor

Leanne Cambric
Associate Professor

Nixon Camilien
Adjunct Faculty

Darcie Campos
Adjunct Faculty

Mary Carrington
Division Chair

Joshua Carron
Adjunct Faculty

Kristen Ceballos
Adjunct Faculty

Edwin Cehelnik
Professor Emeritus

Javier Chavira
Full Professor

Neng-Shin Chen
University Lecturer

Xiaoyong Chen
Full Professor

Xin Chen
Assistant Professor

Julie Chrones
Adjunct Faculty

Daniel Cortese
Full Professor

William Craig
University Lecturer

Valerie Cronin-Fisher
Visiting Instructor

Donald Culverson
Associate Professor

Karen D'Arcy
Professor Emeritus

Stalynn Davis
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David Deeds
Adjunct Faculty

Shauna Donovan
Adjunct Faculty

Stacy Eckert
Adjunct Faculty

Christen Embry
Adjunct Faculty

Natalia Ermasova
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Elliott Fackler
Assistant Professor

David Felix
Adjunct Faculty

Joseph Field
Adjunct Faculty

Richard Fox
University Lecturer

Dianna Galante
Full Professor

Eddie Gamboa
University Lecturer

Donald Gardiner
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Alexandra Glumac
University Lecturer

Diane Gohde
University Lecturer, Senior Status

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Chris Greiner
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Lorri Jenkins
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Rosemary Johnsen
Professor/Associate Provost/AVP Academic Affairs

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Tracy Jones
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Vincent Jones
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Shelly Kumar
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Mark Kundla
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Dan Lambert
Adjunct Faculty

Tony Labriola
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Mary Lanigan
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Liam Lanigan
Assistant Professor

Angela Latham
Full Professor

Sang Lee
Full Professor

Daniel Leib
Adjunct Faculty

Larry Levinson
Professor Emeritus

Heng Li
Assistant Professor

Ya Lu Lin
University Lecturer

Faculty

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Jagan Lingamneni <i>Professor Emeritus</i>	Shukmei Oh <i>University Lecturer</i>	Winfried Rudloff <i>Professor Emeritus</i>	Cherise Stone <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>
Alex Liu <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Kenneth O'Keefe <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Carrie Ruetschlin <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	George Sweiss <i>University Lecturer, Senior Status</i>
Erik Lovell <i>Visiting Professor</i>	Akiko Ota <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Lauren Ryba <i>University Lecturer</i>	Paula Swisher <i>Assistant Professor</i>
Oleksandr Lysenko <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Nadezhda Oussenko <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Agha Saadat <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Andrius Tamulis <i>Associate Professor</i>
Ryan Mahoney <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Novia Pagone <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Donald Sachnoff <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Xueqing Tang <i>Full Professor</i>
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Laura Mannion <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Michelle Palaro <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Joao Salm <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Angela Thompson <i>Associate Professor</i>
Richard Manprizio <i>University Lecturer</i>	Milan Panic <i>University Lecturer, Senior Status</i>	Patrick Santoro <i>Associate Professor</i>	Robin Thompson <i>University Lecturer</i>
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GSU's Birthday/Day of Giving • July 14, 2021 ***Save the date!***

Join us on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, as Governors State University commemorates 52 years of excellence and innovation with an evening of family, music, and revelry at our annual Day of Giving Celebration*.

The entire community will come together for a free “family reunion” in Park Forest for *Main Street Nights* – a free concert featuring Kaben Kafö – Djembe Drum Ensemble and Mucca Pazza. The July 14 celebration is an event that marks the founding of GSU with a Day of Giving to continue a legacy of education. This year also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the university’s Center for Performing Arts.

Conceived as a bold, new model to transform lives through education in Chicago’s south suburbs, GSU opened the same week the U.S. sent Apollo 11 to the moon. Today, GSU is a full-service, four-year university celebrating 52 years of education, service, and commitment to its mission to be an “intellectually stimulating public square.”

We advance our mission through high quality programs supported by best practices, made possible in part by the generous the support of our donors.

In honor of GSU’s 52nd birthday, please join us on Wednesday, July 14. And please consider donating \$52 or more to commemorate the university’s anniversary and to support future GSU students.

Visit www.govst.edu/donate to donate. For more information, please call 708.534.4105.

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