

Governors State University

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Commencement

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5-14-2022

### Commencement Program: 2022

Governors State University

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# *Commencement*

2022



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Photographers are requested to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony.

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**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**JB Pritzker, Governor**

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Angela Sebastian – Vice Chair**  
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**Pedro Cevallos-Candau - Trustee**  
**Anibal Taboas – Trustee**  
**Jeanine Latrice Koger – Student Trustee**



## Welcome, Jaguar family and friends, and congratulations to the Governors State University Class of 2022!

What an unusual journey we have had. COVID-19 certainly changed the educational experience we were expecting. However, you showed your resilience and perseverance and today are walking across the commencement stage to the applause of your fellow students, faculty, friends and family.

Despite all the challenges we have and continue to face, I keep coming back to gratitude. Today I want to share the reasons why I am grateful and I hope you agree.

Graduates, your achievement is a significant one at every educational level. According to a U.S. Census Bureau 2018 survey, an estimated 35 percent of Americans hold bachelor's degrees compared with 25 percent in 2000. At the advanced degree level, an estimated 13 percent of Americans hold master's and doctorate degrees compared with an estimated 8 percent in 2000.

I'm *grateful* we are moving in the right direction as a nation and a university, as more Americans are afforded the opportunity to earn post-secondary education degrees.

As we move forward, graduates please remember your achievement today is a shared one, and we should express gratitude to those who helped and supported you.

I am *grateful* for the faculty and staff members who taught, advised, and guided each of you.

I am *grateful* for the students in your program who studied with you, shared notes with you, worked on projects with you, and offered a helping hand when you needed one.

I am *grateful* for friends who lifted you up, encouraged you when you were unsure, and sent late-night texts to make you laugh when you wanted to cry.

I am *grateful* for your family who said "we will do our part" whether that meant washing the dishes so you could study, babysitting for you when you had to be in class, or reading bedtime stories when you had a paper to finish.

Please take a moment to celebrate yourself for achieving an incredible milestone in your life today.

Now that you have completed this phase of your educational journey, please think about how you will use what you have learned to serve others. And, as you move forward, don't forget to come back. I hope you continue to visit campus, stay in touch with classmates and faculty members, and find a way to give back to the students coming behind you. As new alumni, we need your energy and talents to help us provide an exceptional and accessible education to future generations of Jaguars.

Remember, GSU will always be your home.

Cheryl Green, Ph.D.

President, Governors State University



## *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.

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# Order of Exercises

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Saturday, May 14, 2022, 10 a.m.

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

PRELUDE..... Encore Concert Band  
James Shaw, *Conductor*

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

PROCESSIONAL ..... Dr. Marlon Cummings, *Grand Marshal*, Dr. Novia Pagone, Ms. Alice Keane, *Excellence Award Recipients*

“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1” by Edward Elgar ..... Encore Concert Band

CALL TO ORDER..... Dr. Marlon Cummings, *Grand Marshal*

NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Ramona Hernandez, *Student Vocalist, 2022 Graduate*

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING” ..... Marquis Parks, *Class of 2024*

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

GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY SENATE ..... Dr. Marlon Cummings, *Faculty Senate President*

GREETINGS FROM THE GSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ..... Lester Van Moody, *GSU Alumni Association*

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER ..... Jeanine Latrice Koger, *Student Trustee*

STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS..... Sonya Petty, *2022 Graduate*

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ..... Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES ..... Dr. Beverly E. Schneller, *Provost*

College of Business..... Dr. Jun Zhao, *Dean*

College of Arts and Sciences..... Dr. Jason Zingsheim, *Dean*

Name Readers ..... William Kresse – College of Business  
Dr. Christopher White – College of Arts And Sciences, *Undergraduates*  
Dr. Lara Hrycaj – College of Arts And Sciences, *Graduates*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES ..... Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*

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

RECESSIONAL ..... Dr. Marlon Cummings, *Grand Marshal*, Dr. Novia Pagone, Alice Keane, *Excellence Award Recipients*

“Crown Imperial,” by William Walton ..... Encore Concert Band

FANFARE SELECTION..... Encore Concert Band

*Sign language interpretation provided by Susan Bova.*

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.  
Closed captioning provided by AutomaticSync.

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# Order of Exercises

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Saturday, May 14, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

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

PRELUDE.....	Encore Concert Band James Shaw, <i>Conductor</i>
WELCOME AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS.....	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
PROCESSIONAL.....	Dr. Marlon Cummings, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1” by Edward Elgar.....	Encore Concert Band
CALL TO ORDER.....	Dr. Marlon Cummings, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM.....	Brave Fung, <i>Student Vocalist, 2022 Graduate</i>
BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”.....	Marquis Parks, <i>Class of 2024</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	Lisa M. Harrell, <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY SENATE.....	Dr. Marlon Cummings, <i>Faculty Senate President</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE GSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....	Kimberly Gonzalez, <i>GSU Alumni Representative</i>
INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER.....	Jeanine Latrice Koger, <i>Student Trustee</i>
STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS.....	Peter Brassea, <i>2022 Graduate</i>
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.....	Dr. Cheryl Green, <i>President</i>
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE.....	Dr. Beverly E. Schneller, <i>Provost</i>
Conferring of Degree.....	Dr. Cheryl Green, <i>President</i>
Honorary Degree Recipient, Doctor of Humane Letters.....	Father Michael Pflieger
PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES.....	Dr. Beverly E. Schneller, <i>Provost</i>
College of Education.....	Dr. Shannon Dermer, <i>Dean</i>
College of Health and Human Services.....	Dr. Catherine Balthazar, <i>Dean</i>
Name Readers.....	Dr. Colleen Sexton – College of Education Dr. Lorri Glass – College of Health And Human Services
CONFERRING OF DEGREES.....	Dr. Cheryl Green, <i>President</i>
CLOSING REMARKS.....	Tony Labriola, <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
RECESSIONAL.....	Dr. Marlon Cummings, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
“Crown Imperial,” by William Walton.....	Encore Concert Band
FANFARE SELECTION.....	Encore Concert Band

*Sign language interpretation provided by Susan Bova.*

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the Processional and Recessional.

Closed captioning provided by AutomaticSync.



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## Student Speakers

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### Sonya Petty



Sonya Petty finished her education at Governors State University remotely and looks forward to attending commencement on May 14. She is an Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDSS) major in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Petty began attending GSU in 2016. She took a break from in-class schooling and had 11 credits to complete when she decided to resume working on her degree in interdisciplinary studies.

When asked why she wanted to return at age 57, Petty who now lives and works in Durham, North Carolina, replies, “why not?”

“Anything is possible. I wish I had this energy in my youth, but I’ve been blessed to have a great career as a medical coder. I was a consultant. I’ve traveled to different countries and to remote places in the United States.”

A native of Chicago’s South Side, Petty says Governors State has a special place in her heart – especially as a non-traditional student.

“I think GSU represents a plethora of people whether you’re 18 years old, middle aged, a senior, I think GSU represents a variety of people. My story is not any different than someone who wants to start out now. You have to have the mindset to do it,” she said.

Interdisciplinary studies opens the doors to other fields.

“It gives you a variety (of choices),” she said. After taking a few years away from school, and now finishing her undergraduate degree, Petty looks forward to working on her master’s degree in public health.

“My speech is called ‘Still I Rise.’ I want to encourage our students. We have endured so much, from the pandemic to separations to whatever. No matter what happens in your life, continue to move forward with your determination to graduate in spite of situations that may happen to you,” she said.

“It’s been two years since they had commencement (in-person), so I’m super honored,” she said.

As she is delivering her speech at Commencement 2022, her 28-year-old daughter Akilah will be among the onlookers.

### Peter Brassea



Peter Brassea is the first in his immediate family to attend college. At first, he studied elementary education, thinking he’d become a teacher. But he changed to a major in social work.

“It was easy because I felt I needed a change. It was challenging for me because I was in my last semester at my community college (Prairie State),” he said. “I kind of realized I wanted to be outside of four walls. I knew I wanted to help people, a calling to help others and be there for others. That’s when I was introduced to social work and it kind of dawned on me that it’s a better option for me.”

Brassea, 26, lives in Hazel Crest. After earning his master’s degree in social work, his future is wide open.

“That’s what I’m trying to figure out now,” he said. “I’m actually in the process of applying to a few jobs. I’m not 100 percent sure I want to work right away. I’m applying to a school actually.”

He did his undergrad internship at an alternative school, and enjoyed that experience. Brassea is thinking of working in a school setting for a year before returning to college to work on his doctorate.

Brassea confessed that he is feeling a tad nervous at the prospect of speaking before so many people at commencement.

“I’ve said this year I wanted to do things that take me out of my comfort zone,” he said. “This is one of them. I’m nervous but I’m also very excited.”

Early on in his speech he will quote the famous scientist Albert Einstein, who once said, “Logic will get you from A to Z. Imagination will get you everywhere.” Brassea said that this comment resonates with him.

“That’s something personal I feel,” he said. “It’s about degrees and stuff, but it’s about the bigger picture, how you do things, how you get through stuff.”

He’s grateful that he was selected to speak at the commencement ceremony. “I want to be able to motivate at least one person in the room. Maybe a potential college student one day. Also, it’s a good opportunity for me to give back, family, professors, all the people at GSU, to say ‘thank you’ in a different way.”

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# Student Singers

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## Ramona Hernandez



For Ramona Hernandez, a graduating Interdisciplinary Studies major, singing The National Anthem at the Governors State University 2022 Commencement ceremony will be an honor—and something she’s always wanted to do.

Hernandez has been a member of the Chicago Mass Choir for 15 years. She also sings in the choir at her church, Fellowship Chicago on the city’s South Side, and says she is humbled to sing for her peers as they receive their diplomas.

Not having her own degree has always been a thorn in her side, Hernandez says.

After graduating from high school, she earned her associate in arts at Richard J. Daley College. She wanted to continue her education at GSU, but “with life’s transitions” including working in the corporate world and raising a daughter, her education was put on hold.

Years later, she found her way to GSU after talking with friends and now feels like life’s circumstances are coming together at the right time.

“This has been a long journey for me,” Hernandez, 51, said. “I always wanted my degree but I never took the time to get it done. I was blessed to have a job. It’s kind of balanced the degree thing out, but when things happened, I said ‘I’ve got to get this degree.’”

Now, poised to celebrate her classmates with song, Hernandez’s life is hitting a high note.

“I’m so happy. I just love to sing, and this is something that’s a God moment. It just fell right in place.”

## Brave Fung



Brave Fung, a graduating Community Health major, began singing when he was a boy growing up in Colombia with his mother’s family. Now, some 30 years later, he has been selected to serenade his peers with The National Anthem as guest vocalist for the afternoon Commencement ceremony.

A non-traditional student, Fung works in the Payroll Department at GSU and says he appreciates the difference the university has made in his life.

“I’m grateful Governors State is an institution that works with people like me. Once you take that first break, most of us never go back to college.”

Fung says he plans to use his degree to help people cope with substance abuse, drawing from his own journey to recovery 10 years ago.

What he loved most about his time at GSU was learning from the talented faculty, he says. “Our professors bring real world practical experience to the classroom, and there are so many that I have come to respect and look up to.”

As he prepares to close the books on his undergraduate degree with a perfect GPA, Fung is singing praises all around. “It really is an amazing opportunity. It’s pretty awesome.”

## Marquis Parks



Marquis Parks, a Sophomore Theater and Performance Studies major, will be delivering a historic performance during the 2022 Commencement when he sings Lift Every Voice and Sing, also known as the Negro National Anthem.

Never before performed at a GSU Commencement, the historic song—over 100 years old—was a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement. For Parks, singing it during commencement will be a moment of immense pride.

“We have this tradition of singing the American National Anthem at celebratory events, so it brings a sense of inclusion knowing we can bring in the Black National Anthem,” he says. “I think the song is important to who we are—who I am, my roots, my culture and my family. So being a Black man, it’s more of an honor.”



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## *Honorary Degree Recipient*

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### *Father Michael Pfleger*



The Rev. Michael Pfleger is a social justice champion and activist who has lived and worked in underserved communities on Chicago's South and West sides for more than half a century.

In 1981, the Archdiocese of Chicago installed Pfleger as the youngest full pastor in the diocese, leading St. Sabina, Chicago's largest African American Catholic Church.

Today, the preacher is known as an outspoken and fearless advocate for social and racial justice, and anti-gun violence. Pfleger's Facebook account, which boasts more than 126,000 friends, is home to his frequent condemnations of the sale of drug paraphernalia, alcohol and tobacco advertising, and easy access to guns in communities of color, among other issues.

Creating solutions to problems plaguing his community, Pfleger has founded the Employment Resource Center, the Ark Youth Center, the Saint Sabina Social Service Center, the Samaritan House for the homeless, Saint Sabina's 80-unit Elders Village and the Beloved Community, Inc.

As part of the church's violence intervention efforts, St. Sabina hosts a youth group, Bold Resistance Against Violence Everywhere (BRAVE). In January, the church hosted the funeral of BRAVE leader LaNiyah Murphy, a GSU student who was gunned down her freshman year on the far South Side. Pfleger delivered passionate remarks about the young advocate.

For his unrelenting commitment to equality, Pfleger has been recognized nationally and by historic Civil Rights groups and change-makers, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Rosa Parks Award); the Rainbow PUSH Coalition (Keeper of the Dream); and the National Black Prosecutors Association (Thurgood Marshall Award).

In 2003 and again in 2017, Pfleger delivered the keynote address for the national Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Service, and at the request of the King Family, Pfleger was one of the speakers to eulogize Coretta Scott King in 2006.

The Rev. Pfleger received his B.A. in Theology from Loyola University, his Master of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary.

# College of Arts and Sciences

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ansam Murad Abdeljaber **	Leslie Riette Clay	Latoya Renee Harris	Chloe' McSpadden
Ruqayat Amoke Adebisi Adebisin	Anitra Adviah Clayton	Jeremy James Harshfield ***	Angela Mendez
Olumuyiwa Adewale-Adelaja**	Dominique J. Clayton *	Diamond Demetria Heard	Brayden Troy Milburn
Miranda Agopsowicz	Kena M. Cowan	Austin Tyler Henson-Nash *	Kelly Eleanore Miller
Lydia N. Aguirre	Shanetta La'trice Gibbs-Myles **	Jonathan Hernandez	Lotte Marie Miller
Rolanda D. Alexander	Brandon Craig	Ramona Hernandez-Colone	Jessica Miranda
Cheri Danielle Alexander-Rather	Andrew Crawley	Julian Arthur Herrera	Victoria Michelle Misters
Siatta E. Allen	Lamar Crenshaw	Doris J. Hill	James Scott Mitchell *
JaShawna Alston	Quavies Lee Crump *	Harold Hill, Jr.	Myra Mitchell
Azaria Bianca Anderson	Ryan Cuellar **	Christen Holland	Nedir Mohammed
Shardon Anderson	Hannah Davis	Joe Hooper III	Brianne Montesdeoca
Yolande Z. Asongwe-Christopher	Nicole Evette Farrow	Colin Hovorka	Dennis Moore
Sarah Bacon	Farah Yahia Deifallah ***	Mikayla Howard	Soleil Morales *
Dalya O. Bailey	Amber Lynn Duran ***	Adam Laurence Huyser	Julie Morlan **
Steven Baker *	Ashley Marie Duran ***	Ananasia Ivory	Christopher L. Morris
Matthew Baldrige	Nicholas Scott Ebert	Alexys Jacquez	Perrion Elias Motley
Cequena Ball *	Samantha Nichole Ehlers-Rivera	John Thomas Jakstavich	Tony Vernell Muhammad
Abigail Serita Barber	Saud Elhami *	Robert E. James	Maria A. Murillo **
Aurora Basha *	Connor Enright	Chantel Laprie Johnson	Julia P. Murphy Jones **
Charles A. Beard, Jr.	Sydney Espinosa	John Christopher Johnson	Mirian A. McCormick-Nash
Rachel Reanne Beckmann ** §	Afira Kmeech Evans	Paris Johnson	LaShun Nicholson
Michael J. Becton, Jr.	Jameka Michelle Evans	Stephanie A. Johnson	Jessica Ocampo **
Gaston Beltran	Shu Fang*	Trevor Johnson *	Ruhvel Ocampo ***
Nicole Bennett	Alex James Favero **	Sashay Jones	Wilfred Ike Okoye
Tammi Bolden	Yelena Fedorchenko	Daniel Jonna	Destinee Ortiz *
Austin Patrick Bowyer	Marc Fernandez Saperas	Asad Kausar	Nicole M. Palarz ***
Megan Brady *	Jerome Ficaro *	Nathan Patrick Kehoe	Jennifer Palencia *
Gsha Branch	Samantha Fierstein **	Octavia King	David S. Pangrazio*
Jerry Wayne Brock *	Leah Elizabeth Finley *	Briana Laird	Matthew John Paske
Darsandra Marie Brown ***	Jalyn Foland **	Christine Amanda Land	Carmen E. Perry
Jenae J. Brown	T'Keyah Karenina Ford	James Joseph Langer II *	Nathan Stanley Petronzio
Velvet M. Brown	Melody Gambrel **	Carmen Alicia Leon	Sonya Lynne Petty
Leah K. Brown-Cipra **	Boluwatife Esther Ganzallo-Ashadele*	Mia Jauquise Leonard	Jakub Piton-Kubow
Rayshoun Maurice Bruce	Brianna Garcia	Keisha Renee Liggins	Candelaria Pizano
Adam John Buenger	Maclovia Garcia	Erica LoBurgio	Michelle Ponce De Leon
Shelby L. Fraser	Ollie Latrice Gillaird	Jada Naiya Simone Long	Meredith Rose Prince
Michael R. Calloway	Nicholas Gillen	Miguel Angel Lopez **	Jessica Quezada-Herrera ***
Desirée Elyse Campbell	Gianina D. Glass	Sheneka Nicole Love	Runell Zuriel Quinn
Monique Nicole Campbell	Edson Antonio Gonzalez	Rodney Madison	Mohammed Mustafa Rafati
Evelyn Susana Candelas	Carah M. Graham ***	Christopher John Mailhiot, Jr.*	La Chondia L. Reece
Kristopher Carrasco	Angelo Greene	Genevieve Margaret Marion	Veronica Reina **
Emily Carson	Josephine Greenfield	Claude Thomas Martinez ***	Isabella Rosalinda Reyes * §
Ariana Carter	Jasmine D. Griggs	Tania Karina Martinez **	Eric Dontel Reynolds
Kimelia Carter *	Jazmine A. Grisby	Maranda Marie Martinez-Brink	Jimeshia Rice ***
Patricia Carter	Kimberly K. Grooms	Michael Matejka	Kerai M. Riddle
Fernando Castel	Savannah Jean Grutzius	Caniyah Lyn Matthews	Irma Rivas Alvarado **
Brandi Castillo ***	Ashley Guliano **	Robyn Evette McCarter *	Robin Roberts-Henry
Katherine Catalano ***	Alejandra Guzman *	Shawn M. McClairn	Deandrey Robinson II
Jykaela Catron	Robert Guzman ***	Nadia Imani McFadden	Kyohn Robinson
Bryndan Sean Chaney **	Jessica Jacqueline Hale * §	Margaret McGann*	Adriana Rocha ***
Tiana Alana Clarke	Danyel M. Harper	Justin Mclaughlin ***	Shanda Rose *
	Kimberly M. Harris *	Tanisha McNeal	Paulette Roshell

\* = 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 2021.

# *College of Arts and Sciences*

Johansen Salgado Dimayuga  
 Kaleb Lee Sanders \*  
 Laura Amo Sanford  
 Daijah Sawyer  
 Anastasia Marie Schaafsma  
 Joseph Dominic Schiavone \*\*  
 Abigail Leigh Sciaky  
 Janice Elaine Scott \*  
 Lorri Elizabeth Searcy  
 Hemza Shaibi \*\*  
 Lana Mike Shareef\*\*  
 Armoni Shorter  
 Asas Siddiqui  
 Tiyen Maurice Simmons \*\*\*  
 Drew Patrick Sinclair \* §  
 Gladys D. Williams-Sistrunk \*  
 Denise M. Smith  
 Marissa Smith  
 Rhonda L. Smith  
 Michael John Soppet  
 Matthew Martin Sperlin \*\*\*  
 Courtney Marie Stevenson  
 Jacqueline Stewart  
 Emily R. Stice \*\*  
 Renee' Le'Vern Striverson  
 Robert William Frederick Strube \*\*\*  
 Kaitlyn Lorraine Stutz  
 Tamika S. Sutton \*  
 Heather Swanson  
 Allison Sweeney  
 Jason Allen Sztuba \*\*  
 Nia Simone Taylor  
 Jaclyn Ann Teske  
 La'Quita S. Thomas  
 Zhamarr Thompkins  
 James M. Thompson  
 Teana Thompson  
 Matthew Timmons  
 Octavia Tolbert  
 Emmarina Torres  
 Ron Torres \*  
 Zowie Rae-Ann Trudeau  
 Joshua Manuel Trujillo  
 Jermaine L. Tyler, Jr.  
 Matthew R. Tyrka \*\*  
 Misbah Vahora \*\*\*  
 Faviola Alma Vazquez  
 Jose Velazquez  
 Floyd E. Vick \*\*  
 Vincent Walden-Rivera \*  
 Rachael Walker

Colette Christine Walsh  
 Davida E. Wardlaw  
 Sekiyah B. Ware  
 Jourdan Veronica Watkins  
 Kenjrick Watson  
 Carla Weedon \*  
 Zachary Clay Wehling  
 Cyndi Whitaker  
 Aris Whitfield  
 Frances K. Williams \*\*  
 James Williams, Jr.  
 Alexa Rae Woodard  
 Shannon S. Wright  
 Valant Marie Wright  
 Subrine Yasin  
 Kylisa Young \*\*  
 Robin Syeeda Young  
 Gladys S. Zambrano  
 Brooke Anne Zivo \*\*\*

## **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

Nathaniel James Couwenhoven \*  
 Lawrence Darnell Davis III \*\*  
 Kathleen J. De Jong \*\*\*  
 Sylvia Dones  
 Larry Foster  
 Latia Jackson  
 Jerrold Leahy \*\*\*

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Abdul Abderrazzaq \*\*  
 Amin Abedelmajid \*\*  
 Corey Bernard Adams, Jr.  
 Kaitlin Adams  
 Ahmad Abdur-Rahman Ahmad  
 Jonathan K. Almawi  
 Ragd Althesh \*\*  
 Safana Althesh  
 Rashad Anthony  
 Ariel Alize Araiza  
 Maria Del Carmen Avalos  
 Ayooluwa Opeyemi Ayamolowo  
 Jonatan Banuelos \*\*\*  
 Patryk Szymon Barnas \*  
 Zachary Best  
 Matthew Thomas Brennan \*\*  
 Trevion Jalen Brown  
 German Burgos \*\*\*  
 Malcolm Calhoun  
 Anthony Calvey  
 Adrian Castro  
 John Catalano \*

Sarah Jane Chapman  
 Benjamin Charlton \*\*  
 Camaron D. Covington  
 Alexis Ralph C. Cuyos  
 Hilda Hisham Dahbur \*  
 Tyreale Franswan Dailey  
 Jeremy John DelosReyes  
 Jack Logan Domanski \*  
 Ali S. Elmosa  
 Anthony Errico \*\*\*  
 Jade Cierra Eskridge  
 Giovanni Flores  
 Parth V. Gondaliya  
 Reginald Granjean  
 Jason Guzman  
 Sara Ata Hamad  
 Naheda Hammad  
 Sonia Handa  
 Kyari D. Harris  
 Maggie Jo Havlin  
 Edward Richard Hebert  
 Eugene Autry Herron III  
 Peter Ho  
 Abidemi Damilola Ilesanmi  
 Yazan Jaber \*  
 Alicia Jackson  
 Seth Johnson \*\*\*  
 Parthenia Jones  
 Shanece Kierra Jones \*  
 Fatima Khateeb  
 Joseph Chester Kozik  
 Cynthia Kristufek \*\*  
 Bogumil Krupa \*\*\*  
 Somnang Lach \*  
 Olufolajimi Lawal  
 Zachary Leopold  
 Kalil Alexzander Little  
 Paul William Loveless \*  
 Mariam Mahmud  
 Christopher Ellis Mallard  
 Syed Bilal Mansoor  
 Vanessa Cynthia Martinez \*\*\*  
 Timothy Patrick Lester Moeser  
 Ian Patrick Moriarty \*\*  
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 Hussein Alaba Ninalowo  
 Rosemarie Noonan \*\*\*  
 Soji G. Obagbemi \*  
 Bernard Anukam Oparanozie  
 Lucas Peebles  
 Victor F. Reyes

Judy Servita \*  
 Pramveer Singh  
 Matthew Jon Smith \*\*  
 Des Sosa  
 Ugis Hugh Sturnieks  
 Timothy Jordan Statler \*\*  
 Elizabeth Marie Stevens \*\* §  
 Lourdes Torres Garcia \*  
 Lino A. Vargas  
 Muhammad Zamet  
 Mariusz Zielinski \*\*  
 Krzysztof N. Zubek

## **MASTER OF ARTS**

Aubrey Simpson Adams  
 Adan S. Alvarado  
 Antonia K. Banks  
 Andrea C. Boler  
 Jordan Clayton-Taylor  
 Stephanie Denise Craine  
 Delia Cuellar-Gallegos  
 Jennifer Irene Forbes  
 Julius L. Haule  
 Horace M. Howard  
 Zachary Brendan Hyman  
 David T. Jones  
 Mark Anthony Koswenda  
 Kwame Kwakye  
 Ricca Louissaint  
 Erica Lynnee Mitchell  
 Markia Tashae Moore  
 Nerxhivane Ramadani  
 Manuel Reza  
 Catherine Anne Romanowski  
 Lisamarie Scott  
 Sarah Elizabeth Shoaf §  
 Ann M. Smith  
 Daniel Scott Truffa  
 Domenek Lache Williams  
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 Phillip Emanuel Richardson  
 David Roberson  
 Megan Elizabeth Smith  
 Jeremy Wiss  
 Heather Marie Cox

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## *College of Arts and Sciences*

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### **MASTER OF SCIENCE**

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 Poojitha Reddy Arekatla  
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 Abena Asante  
 Cameece Ballenger  
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 Yasmin Jamal Dayeh  
 Sunil Kumar Devarakonda  
 Lakshmi Urjitha Dhadigam  
 Jeevan Kumar Dodda  
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 Naveen Naidu Gavara  
 Sanjana Ghanta  
 Sharvari Ginnaram  
 Sailajaswini Gopathi  
 Preetham Gorenkala  
 Sahithi Gottimukkula  
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 Mohammed Hamed Hussain  
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 Junaid Ahmed Iqbal  
 Mounika Kadumu  
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 Shashank Kolthuri  
 Raghava Komakula  
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 Upender Reddy Kuntiyellan-Nagari  
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 Krishna Murthy Muddhana

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 Shane E. Senyard  
 Asghar Shahid  
 Amy Shaw  
 Chandana Reddy Simuni  
 Harman Singh  
 Akhil Sirimalla  
 Sumanth Sirimalla  
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 Venkata Sivateja Tanneru  
 Manasa Tripuraneni  
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## *College of Business*

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# College of Education

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Kalyna Brumfield  
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Gina Elizabeth Burlison  
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Zachary Cappos  
Marla Itzel Cardenas  
Zaira Carvajal  
Ines Castaneda  
Jessica Castro  
Simitria Chambers-Ebbele  
Lashanna Clark  
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LaChe Crayton  
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# College of Education

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Sharva Hampton-Campbell  
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Myiti Sengstacke-Rice  
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Rossana Sierra-Swiech  
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# College of Health and Human Services

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Ahmad Ezaldin  
Mathew J. Good  
Ellen Elizabeth Goodwin  
Taylor Symone Guyton  
Ana Laura Guzman  
Lalaine Halum  
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Arisa James  
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Humberto Pina  
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Siva Rama Sowjanya Bangi  
Charuna Sri Chapuri  
Prudhviraju Hatkar  
Mohammad Naveedh  
Nigam Bopanna  
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Yetunde Ayoade  
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Charlene Hall  
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Raegene Hankle  
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Nwachukwu Enyidiya Nkechi  
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Felicia Owokonu Odo  
Philomena Chioma Okonkwo  
Deborah Oludemi  
Mary Nkemakolam Ovoh  
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Mariyama James  
Kathleen Ann Zablocki

## MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Lisa J. Barboza  
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Melanie Clavelle  
Alyssa DalPolo  
Tiffany Lancee Dean  
Melanie Norma Fitch  
Alexis Ganzer  
Vanessa Gomez  
Dawn Rankins  
Mary Sarah Huffman  
Moteq Huffmon  
Noora Jebreal  
Veronica Jordan  
Emily Nicole Kennell  
Morgan Danielle Langer  
Derrick Lamont Love  
Kathleen Marie Lundy  
Alaa Ismaill Mahmoud  
Samantha Murphy  
Valentina Nkwo  
Rachel O'Shea  
Jasmen Neshay Paul  
Karina Ramos  
Jamal Rashard  
Savannah Alicia Regis  
Renee Marie Reimer  
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Angela M. Taylor  
Aveece Branch-Wesley

Ceneice Williams  
Kristina M. Zandi

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Evelyn J. Kammin  
Georgina G. Lopez  
Maria Ruth Mangonon-Barnes

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Shaban Beiram  
Saural Bhatt  
Cody Bornemann  
Cody Brinkman  
Victoria Angela Buffone  
Andrea Bultema  
Alicia N. Carpenter  
Emily Elizabeth Carstens  
Kristin Catalano  
Julio Crisostomo  
John Michael Deir  
Lauren Fleming  
Aaron Fullerton  
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Brittany Gail Hancock-Brown  
Kimberly Marie Hayes  
Bertin Jaimes, Jr.  
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Clare Michelle Kramer  
Michal Kuczek  
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Mohammed Mahmoud  
Marin R. McElroy  
Matthew Conor McTague  
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Denis M. O'Callaghan  
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Steven Thomas Paul  
Alexandra Rubi  
Joshua M. Schien  
Tyler Richard Siebert  
Jonathan Thomas Sydlowski  
Jamie Vetterli  
Atra Warda

\* = 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 2021.

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# *Commencement Marshals*

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## **Grand Marshal**

Marlon Cummings - President, Faculty Senate

## **Marshal Coordination Team**

Tim Harrington, Division Chair, Marshal Coordinator  
David Conrad, Assistant Professor, Associate Marshal Coordinator  
Brenda Hannigan, Assistant Marshal Coordinator

## **College of Business**

Katherine Carl, Assistant Professor  
Carlos Ferran, Full Professor  
David Green, Full Professor and Division Chair  
Olumide Ijose, Full Professor and Division Chair  
Gökçe Sargut, Associate Professor  
Michael Trendell, Senior Lecturer  
Steven Wagner, Full Professor

## **College of Arts and Sciences**

Valerie Cronin-Fisher, Assistant Professor  
Michael Hart, University Lecturer  
Walter Henne, Associate Professor  
Stephen Hyzny, University Lecturer  
Richard Manprasio, Assistant Professor  
Rashidah Muhammad, Full Professor  
Angela Thompson, Associate Professor  
J. Christopher Tweddle, Associate Professor

## **College of Education**

Ahmet Can, Assistant Professor  
Sasha Cervantes, Associate Professor  
Danel Koonce, Associate Professor  
Shaalein Lopez, Assistant Professor  
Timothy Pedigo, Assistant Professor  
Lisa Pennington, Assistant Professor  
Leonis Wright, Assistant Professor  
Amy Vujaklija, Assistant Professor

## **College of Health and Human Services**

Jessica Bonner, Department Chair  
Anjali Buehler, Assistant Professor  
Joseph Day, Associate Professor  
Angel Evans, Assistant Professor  
Nicole Koonce, Associate Professor  
James Munz, University Lecturer  
Nafees Qamar, Assistant Professor  
Phyllis West, Director, Social Justice Initiative

# – 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.

## 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.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Color</b>
GSU Honors Program	Medallion	Gold

## University Honors – for undergraduates only

<b>Honor</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Color</b>
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

<b>Society</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Color(s)</b>
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

<b>Dual Degree Program Partner</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Color(s)</b>
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
Waubonsee Community College	Cord	Maroon and Black and White

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# *Academic Regalia*

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

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## *The Cap*

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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.

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## *The Gown*

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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.

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## *The Hood*

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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:

<b>Degree Programs.....</b>	<b>Color</b>
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 Ph.D. ....	Royal Blue
Counselor Education and Supervision Ed.D. ....	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

# Faculty

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Stuart Adamson  
Adjunct Professor

Benjamin Almassi  
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Amanda Athon  
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Oscene Barrett  
University Lecturer Senior Status

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Adjunct Professor

Sayoni Bose  
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Janet Brewer  
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Mary Bruce  
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Leanne Cambric  
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Adjunct Professor

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Xiaoyong Chen  
Full Professor

Xin Chen  
Assistant Professor

Daniel Cortese  
Full Professor

William Craig  
University Lecturer Senior Status

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Donald Culverson  
Full Professor

Natalia Ermasova  
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Kristina Gray  
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Margaret King  
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Lynette Elmes  
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# Faculty

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Ravneet Kaur  
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Luther King  
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Professor

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Joyce Sligar  
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Monique Smith  
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Bridgette Spann  
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Shirley Spencer  
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Christopher Spiel  
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Nicole Stotts  
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Joann Tomosieski-Peters  
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Catherine Tymkow  
Full Professor

Serena Wadhwa  
Associate Professor

Christiane White  
Adjunct Professor

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Michell Zemsky Dineen  
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Assistant Professor

Lily Morgan  
Public Services Librarian

Michel Nguessan  
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Cynthia Romanowski  
Associate Professor

Joshua Sopiartz  
Full Professor

Elizabeth Sterner  
Assistant Professor

Dennis Swanson  
Interim Dean

\*Deceased



# Acknowledgements

We are beyond thrilled to welcome everyone to our 2022 Commencement Ceremony. This time-honored tradition celebrates the collective efforts of graduates, their families, faculty, staff, and special guests to achieve significant academic goals. Here at GSU, we never tire of this day and what it represents.

Like our graduates, this day is the culmination of many hours of hard work, strategizing and planning. This year is especially significant because it symbolizes and demonstrates the resilience of our entire Governors State University community.

We celebrate alongside our exceptional, skilled, and confident graduates as they transition to the new designation of proud GSU alumni. Their continued success as responsible citizens in our global society continues to make us proud to be a part of this distinguished community.

This grand ceremony is possible because of the energy, time, and effort of our staff, faculty, volunteers, business partners and vendors. Their helping hands hold noble character and dedication to the students, graduates, and University.

As the Commencement Officer, I want to thank the following departments, business partners and vendors for their exceptional involvement in today's events.

President's Office	Academic Colleges	Facilities Development and Management
Provost's Office	Academic Advisors	Information Technology Services
Registrar's Office	Center for Performing Arts	Arena Food Service
Commencement Advisory Committee	Center for Student Engagement and Intercultural Programs	GSU Bookstore
Commencement Planning Committee	Department of Public Safety	Tinley Park Convention Center
Institutional Advancement	Marketing and Communications	Tinley Park Police Department
University Events Office	Student Affairs	Village of Tinley Park
		A Multitude of Vendors

My deepest gratitude to the host of volunteers, staff, faculty, alumni, students, business partners and vendors for their commitment to the values and mission of GSU. Our biggest cheers to our graduates. We applaud their success and look forward to their continued achievements!

Honored to serve,



Karen Caesar  
*Commencement Officer*  
*Governors State University*

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**National Anthem**  
**Star Spangled Banner**

Francis Scott Key

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

**Black National Anthem**  
**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land  
Our native land



## WELCOME TO THE GSU ALUMNI FAMILY!

As GSU Alumni, you represent the very best the University has to offer. You join a network of over 57,000 individuals, many located in the greater Chicagoland area. Uniting as alumni exponentially expands your reach, influence and opportunities for success through networking, professional development, and mentoring.

As a graduate of GSU, the Alumni Association is your organization. It's a place built to support and catalyze your success, both personally and professionally.

Here's how you can get the most out of your membership:

### **ENGAGE** with GSU

Engage as a mentor, volunteer leader, or host for GSU interns. Engage in Career Fairs as an employer or as one seeking employment. Engage in volunteer opportunities by participating in your favorite Alumni Club or guest speaking at events where you share your GSU experience.

### **ADVOCATE** for GSU

In your personal and professional networks, advocate for GSU by encouraging others to attend, promote, and support your Alma Mater. Using your voice to highlight GSU to your community can strengthen GSU's visibility and influence. These important conversations create more opportunities for you and current and future students.

### **GIVE** to GSU

Give financially to areas most influential to your success at GSU. Give to areas that interest you. Give to areas that will provide an enhanced experience to future students. Give to areas that recognize excellence in and out of the classroom. Give to areas that break down barriers to an exceptional education. Give to areas that will make a measurable impact on the southland and beyond. When you give back to GSU, you are investing in our mission to offer an exceptional and accessible education.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The expectation is not for everyone to give the same amount, but simply, for everyone to give some amount annually. As a new graduate, if you give \$50 a year for the next five years, you and your classmates could create a \$250,000 legacy at GSU. Begin your journey of support GSU students by giving today:



The Alumni Association and generations of GSU alumni congratulate the Class of 2022 and welcome you to this new distinction of Alumni. We are proud of you and look forward to partnering with you to influence and impact the next 100 years of future Jaguars!



**Save the dates!**

**GSU's 53rd  
Birthday Celebration**

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**July 13, 2022**

Alumni and Friends, please join us on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 as Governors State University commemorates 53 years of excellence and innovation with a day of fun and family and an evening of music and revelry at our annual Day of Celebration.

The entire community will come together for a free “family reunion” at Park Forest for *Main Street Nights* – part of a free summer concert series.

Visit [www.govst.edu/celebrate](http://www.govst.edu/celebrate) for more details.

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**Homecoming Week  
October 16 – 23, 2022**

