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GSU View

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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News and Events

New Faces at GSU

We are pleased to introduce 10 new administrators to Governors State who bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the university. Welcome to GSU!



Rhonda Brown, Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Before joining GSU, Brown was the Vice President of Development for the Joffrey Ballet. She brings more than 15 years of nonprofit fundraising and marketing experience to her role. At GSU, Brown is responsible for institutional marketing and internal and external communications and looks forward to working with faculty and staff to advance the university. She is the mother of two boys, Avery, 14, and Isaac, 7, and an exhibiting visual artist.

Rhonda Brown

Will Davis, Interim Chief Development Officer

Davis, who was named to his position in June, leads the umbrella of GSU's development efforts,

which include holistic corporate partnership, internal and external constituent management, and leading the Governors State University Foundation. Prior to joining GSU, Davis served as Senior Corporate Relations Officer for the American Cancer Society. He believes GSU has great potential in making a systemic impact in not only the Chicago Southland, but throughout Illinois and today's global society.



Will Davis

Melinda Gieseke, Controller



Gieseke started working in the Office of Financial Services and Comptroller on July 16. She moved to the area from Michigan, where she was Controller at Jackson Community College. She previously spent five years in Guatemala as the Finance Director at Christian Academy of Guatemala. Gieseke has other governmental and educational accounting experience as well. She moved to the Chicago area to be closer to family and to experience "life in the big city." She is excited to work with the accounting staff in Financial Services department and assist other departments with questions regarding their budgets.

Melinda Gieseke

Kristy Goodwin, Director of Recruitment and Outreach

Goodwin worked at Rush University in Chicago, an affiliate of Rush University Medical Center, for 13

years. At Rush, she was Coordinator for the Office of International Services and Senior Admissions Counselor and Recruiter for the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, Graduate College, and the College of Health Sciences. She also sits on the African American Advisory Committee for Cook County States Attorney Anita Alvarez, as well as other professional organizations.



Kristy Goodwin

Jonathan Lee, Director of the Office of International Services



Jonathan Lee

Before coming to GSU, Lee worked at a variety of institutions, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Prairie State College, Purdue University Calumet, and Valparaiso University. At these institutions, he worked in different areas of international education, including international campus programming, international student and scholar advising, study abroad, exchange programs, summer programs, teaching English as a second language, assisting students with cultural adjustment, and more. He is excited about the future opportunities for international programs at GSU.

Dr. Andrae Marak, Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of History and Political Science

Prior to arriving at GSU, Marak was the Head of the Division of Liberal Arts at Indiana University

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Purdue University Columbus and an associate of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University. He has published two books, *From Many, One: Indians, Peasants, Borders, and Education in Callista Mexico, 1924-1935* and *Smugglers, Brothels, and Twine: Historical Perspectives on Contraband and Vice in North America's Borderlands*, as well as articles in the *World History Bulletin*, the *Review of International Political Economy*, *Paedagogica Historica*, the *New Mexico Historical Review*, the *Journal of the West* and the *Journal of the Southwest*.



Andrae Marak

Dr. Lori L. Montalbano, Chair of the Division of Communication, Visual, and Performing Arts



Lori Montalbano

Prior to joining GSU, Montalbano served as the Chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Indiana University Northwest, and Artistic Director of Theatre Northwest. She has a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Southern Illinois University. Montalbano has published articles, book chapters, and a book entitled *Taking Narrative Risk: The Empowerment of Abuse Survivors*. She has recently co-authored a textbook, *Public Speaking and Responsibility in a Changing World*.

Lana Rogachevskaya, Executive Director, Governors State University Center for Performing Arts

Rogachevskaya comes to GSU from the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, where she rose from graduate intern

to managing director. She emigrated with her family to the United States from Ukraine in 1998. As a pianist, arts educator, and manager, Rogachevskaya combines her passion for business with her love of the performing arts. She holds an M.F.A. in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College, and a B.A. in Multimedia Communications from Bernard M. Baruch College.



Lana Rogachevskaya



Aurelio Valente

Dr. Aurélio Manuel Valente, Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Most recently, Valente served as Associate Dean of Student Development at Philadelphia University. His nearly 20 years of experience in student affairs includes functional and leadership responsibilities in residence life, student conduct, leadership development, service-learning, orientation, first-year experience, diversity initiatives, and spiritual development. Valente's research and scholarly interests include student development in the first year of college and institutional efforts to promote student success and engagement. He has published several articles regarding service learning, first-year experience and ethics in higher education in the *Journal of College and Character* and served as a contributing chapter author for the third edition of *The Handbook for Student Affairs Administration*.

James Zumerchik, Project Specialist, Facilities Development and Management

Prior to joining GSU, Zumerchik, a licensed architect, served as a Director of Architecture at a

design/build company

and as a Project Manager at architectural firms specializing in higher education projects. He has degrees in Urban/Regional Planning and Architectural Science from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.



James Zumerchik

Thanks for a Job Well Done

Courtney Kohn Sanders, Vice President of Enrollment Services and Marketing, this week thanked all members of the GSU community who helped make last Saturday's Instant Admission Day such a success.

You can read her [letter of thanks](#) to those who participated in Instant Admission Day.

Faculty Grading Workshops Next Week

All faculty members will soon enter Summer 2012 grades into the myGSU portal. The Registrar's Office is holding workshops to demonstrate the grading process. All faculty are welcome to attend one of the sessions. Sessions run approximately 30 minutes.

Grading Workshops will be held in the Academic Computing Lab, Lab D2430:

- Monday, August 6 at 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 7 at 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 8 at 2 p.m.

Faculty members will also receive the Faculty Guidebook to the myGSU portal from the Registrar's Office via e-mail.

Our Children, Our Responsibilities

Dr. Christopher Ann Robinson Easley, associate professor of management, will discuss her new book, *Our Children, Our Responsibilities: Saving the Youth We are Losing to Gangs*, today on KABF-FM, a community radio station in Little

Rock, Arkansas. She will appear on the Literary Nation program today from 12:30 to 12:45 p.m. The program will stream live on the Internet at www.kabf.us.

Robinson-Easley's book offers a well-designed, multi-disciplinary strategy for the future. Robinson-Easley, who specializes in organization development leading to systemic change, guides the reader through the social, psychological, and theological dynamics for a step-by-step whole systems change model addressing challenges in the African American community and youth gravitating to gang environments.

Orientation Targets Success at GSU

Student Life has been working for months on the first Orientation sessions at GSU. We hope this becomes a model program for introducing students to GSU.

Orientation for new GSU students on Thursday, August 16 and Saturday, August 18 will provide an introduction to student resources, services, and programs that will lead to a successful college experience.

Undergraduate Orientation is August 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts. Graduate Orientation is August 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, also in the CPA. The on-campus orientation is required for all new students -- graduates and undergraduates. New students must register for Orientation at <http://mygovst.govst.edu>.

Orientation features a welcome by President Elaine P. Maimon, an overview of services available to students, an ITS overview, and breakout sessions in respective colleges. Information tables for more than a dozen university units will be set up to give further information on services available to students. Thank you in advance for your participation.

For more information on Orientation, call [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 4552.

Orientation Volunteers Needed

The New Student Orientation Committee is looking for faculty, staff and student volunteers for the New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 16 (for undergraduates) and Saturday, August 18 (for graduate students). Volunteers are needed to help as welcome ambassadors and with

setup, serving, registration, and clean-up on both days.

Please contact [Karen Caesar-Smith](#) at ext. 6360 by Friday, August 10 to sign up or for additional information.

Discounted Great America Tickets

The GSU Alumni Association just made this weekend's trip to Great America even more fun. If you are planning to enjoy the thrills of Great America on Saturday or Sunday, August 4 or 5, use the Alumni Association discount code to purchase your tickets for only \$29 each.

The code is only valid for online purchases and is available for August 4 or 5 only. Enter the discount code *gsualumni2012* to receive the discounted price.

Walk for Recovery

Put your feet to good use and take a walk. The GSU Addictions Studies Alumni Club and the Alumni Association are sponsoring the Walk for Recover on September 22. This event celebrates National Recovery Month. The Recovery Walk is a two- mile walk around the GSU campus and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

In addition to the walk there will be door prizes, refreshments, music and entertainment, and a resource fair.

Featured speakers include Peter Palanca, GSU senior lecturer in addictions studies and Executive Vice President and COO of TASC, Inc.; Theodora Binion, Director of the Illinois Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; Dr. Groove, inspirational spoken word artist; and comedian Tommy Connolly.

Admission is free and there is no charge to participate in the walk. Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m.

To register online and to be entered to win a special door prize, visit www.govst.edu/alumniwalk.

For more information or to sponsor this event, call Alumni Relations at 708.534.4128.

Explore the World in New Courses

Undergraduate students will have some exciting new courses to choose from this fall as they fulfill general education requirements or investigate new major or minor areas of study. The new Anthropology and Sociology bachelor's degree program is offering its first series of courses this fall. All students are welcome, regardless of degree program.

In ANSO 3100 Gender and Sexuality, students will analyze ways in which humans create and enforce gender and sexuality norms. In SOC 3200 Social Inequalities, inequality is examined to understand how it affects our life chances. SOC 400 Sociology of Booze and Butts explores the importance of alcohol and tobacco on shaping norms, values, beliefs, rituals, and culture.

For more information about these courses and the new Anthropology and Sociology bachelor's degree program, contact Dr. Daniel Cortese, faculty advisor.

Bid Adieu to Summer Hours

Effective on Monday, August 6, all GSU employees who participated in summer hours should begin working a five-day work week at 7.5 hours per day.

Baysore Nominations Due by Tuesday

President Maimon will present the Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Award at Convocation 2012 on Tuesday, August 14. The Baysore Award is awarded annually to a GSU employee who most fully demonstrates four qualities consistently and fully embodied by Dr. Baysore during his 18 years of service to the university.

They are:

- Absolute integrity
- Total competence
- Generous dedication
- Unfailing civility

Nominations for the Baysore Award must be received by Tuesday, August 7. Nominations should explain how the employee includes the above four qualities on a day-to-day basis at GSU.

Please send your written nominations to [Penny Perdue](#).

One More Weekend for Legally Blonde

Legally Blonde: The Musical, the 2012 production of the Southland Theatre Ensemble (SLATE), is a bona fide hit. You have two more chance to see a production that is pure, joyous fun at GSU's Center for Performing Arts.

Final performances of this high-energy show are Saturday, August 4 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, August 5, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at the Center for Performing Arts box office. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for students and can be purchased at the Center's website at www.centertickets.net or by calling the box office at 708.235.2222.



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