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GSU View

University Newsletters

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## GSU View, 2012-08-16

Office of Marketing and Communications

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## News and Events

### **Convocation 2012**

Governors State University is "faced with insurmountable opportunities," President Elaine P. Maimon said at Tuesday's Convocation ceremony.

Dr. Maimon said that quote originally appeared years ago in the classic comic strip "Pogo," but that it sums up the current exciting times at GSU as the university prepares for first-year students in 2014, adds state-of-the-art science classrooms and labs, implements a dynamic Academic Master Plan, demonstrates a national model for community college transfer in the Dual Degree Program, opens its first on-campus student housing, and continues to thrive even in challenging times.

During Convocation 2012, the official start of the new academic year, President Maimon presented three Excellence Awards to faculty members, and the Gerald C. Baysore Award, the highest honor that GSU can bestow. This year's Excellence Awards were presented to Dr. Diana Galante, Associate Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Raven James, Assistant Professor in the Department of Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health; and Dr. Jason Zingsheim, Assistant Professor of Communications Studies. Dr. Larry Cross, Associate Professor in COE's Division of Education,



Dr. Maimon



Dr. Galante, Dr. Zingsheim,  
and Dr. James

was presented with the Baysore Award.

Entering her sixth year as president, Dr. Maimon said the state of the university is strong.

"Five years ago, at my installation, I articulated a vision of renewal and reinvention," she said. "GSU was founded in 1969 as an innovative university. The goal, then as now, was to take advantage of insurmountable opportunities. In 2007, I proposed extending that tradition of innovation to create a model 21st century university. In this half-decade, we have come a long way

toward that goal."

Dr. Maimon said GSU has defied conventional wisdom by promoting a high-quality pathway from community college to a university bachelor's degree while at the same time making plans for a leading-edge freshman program. Next week, 47 Dual Degree Program students will begin their junior year as full-time students at GSU. Sixteen of those students have been awarded GSU Promise scholarships; they are expected to graduate from the university debt-free.



Dr. Cross

Similarly, GSU's plans for first-year education are steadily moving forward, she said. Provost Terry Allison has invited two of the most prominent scholars on the first-year experience – John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot – to lead a symposium at GSU on October 19. The First-Year Planning Committee, led by Dr. Ann Vendrely, and the Faculty Senate, led by its president, Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, are making progress on academic plans.

Dr. Maimon said high ethical standards need to be the basis of what GSU, and all institutions of higher learning, must do. The terrible scandal at Penn State University serves as a reminder that we need to renew our commitment to strong ethical leadership, to protect the vulnerable, to create an atmosphere of trust and transparency, and to prevent bullying and harassment.

"Everyone here has a role in creating this ethical environment, and everyone must exert constant vigilance because creating an ethical environment is something that is never completed once and for all," she said. "It is constructed of our everyday awareness and actions."

During the coming year, Dr. Maimon said, the first phase of the E and F Science Renovation Project will be completed. Ground will be broken for student housing. Research will begin in labs funded through the National Science Foundation. "Improvements to GSU's facilities – from infrastructure to parking lots, classrooms to labs, technology resources to signage – have been significantly upgraded, driven by a commitment to serve students better by improving the teaching and learning environment," she said. She thanked Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu for having envisioned, led, and implemented these projects.

Dr. Maimon said GSU's positive momentum will not be impeded by the depressing financial state of the nation and the state of Illinois.

"Yes, the waters continue to be troubled, but our strong ship sails forward," she said.

## **Fall 2012 Greetings from the President**

Dr. Maimon welcomed new and returning students to GSU for the Fall 2012 semester in a letter. She encouraged student participation in the GSU community and the world beyond the campus, and noted, "You are a GSU student during a remarkable period of positive momentum."

Read [Dr. Maimon's letter](#).

## **More HELP**

To better assist student, faculty, and staff, the GSU Helpdesk will extend its hours of operation. Beginning August 20, IT assistance will be available until midnight, Monday through Friday.

At the end of the semester, the effectiveness of this pilot program will be evaluated.

Please contact the GSU Helpdesk at 708-534-H-E-L-P (4357) for IT assistance.

## **Welcome Fall 2012**

Kick off the new semester with Welcome Days on August 20 and 21, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in

the Hall of Governors. This is your opportunity to learn about departmental and student resources. Information about the Academic Resource Center, Student Life services and activities, the Recreation and Fitness Center, the University Library, and veterans' services will be available. Students can get IDs validated and TWAG will be recruiting new hosts for the show.

The Illinois Secretary of State's Mobile Services Unit will be in the Hall of Governors on August 21, from 1 to 7 p.m., providing services such as driver's license renewal and vehicle title and registration.

Student clubs and organizations will be showcased on August 22, from 11 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Getting involved has never been easier. Discover the student club that is right for you.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about community resources and services at a Community Fair on August 23. Vendors from the community will be present to provide information from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Power 92 radio station will broadcast live from GSU.

## **Webinars on Recruitment and Teaching**

There is something for everyone in two upcoming webinars sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Center for Online Teaching and Learning.

*Reaching First-Generation College Students* will be held on August 21, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The webinar is presented by AAC&U and Inside Higher Education. The discussion features the authors of *First Generation College Students: Understanding and Improving the Experience From Recruitment to Commencement*. They will talk about a range of topics from recruitment to successful degree completion and a holistic approach to serving these students.

*The Flipped Classroom: Rethinking the Way You Teach* will be offered on August 23, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The presenters will explore the types of active learning possible when lectures can happen outside of face-to-face class time. They will put the flipped model in context with what is known about how learning works in the brain.

Mark your calendars and reserve your seat. For more information, contact [Tony Labriola](#).

## **Limiting Waste**

The folks at FSI are continuing to investigate ways to decrease waste. Beginning next week, the GSU Cafeteria will now provide plastic utensils through a dispenser in lieu of pre-wrapped plastic utensils.

The dispensers offer a more durable product, less waste, and dispense each utensil separately.

## Scholarship Spotlight – Deborah Murtaugh



Deborah Murtaugh of New Lenox received the Great Lakes Bank Endowed Scholarship. She is a graduate student in the College of Education, working toward her master's in reading. She is a reading teacher at a local high school.

Deborah's goal each year is to teach her students, through the gift of reading, to be caring individuals who contribute to society and share their gifts with the world. A master's degree will help her achieve her goal.

Deborah Murtaugh



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