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GSU View

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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## News and Events

### **Michael Griffin, Shaniqua Jones Are Student Commencement Speakers**

Two graduating GSU students have been chosen to give addresses at the June 8 Commencement. Michael Griffin, of Carpentersville, will speak at the 10 a.m. ceremony. Shaniqua Jones, of Harvey, will speak at the 5 p.m. ceremony. Griffin and Jones were both nominated as speakers by faculty members and chosen as worthy representatives of the class of 2013.



Michael Griffin

Nearly a decade after being severely wounded in Iraq, Griffin is receiving his bachelor's degree in social work, committed to helping fellow veterans deal with the scars of warfare.

In November, 2004, Griffin was a U.S. Army sergeant when his unit was attacked in what he describes as a "head to head" battle. He was shot four times by an Iraqi insurgent, suffering life-threatening injuries to his stomach and leg. "I was dying," he said.

Medics flew Griffin to Germany, then Walter Reed military hospital outside Washington, D.C., where he beat the odds just by surviving. Griffin was recently awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for providing key details about the enemy's whereabouts after he was shot.

After leaving the service, Griffin enrolled at Harper College, then entered GSU's bachelor in social work program. Griffin, the father of two children, plans to pursue a master's degree in social work and eventually earn a doctorate. He wants to work with veterans at the Hines VA hospital or a similar facility, helping former service personnel deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



Shaniqua Jones

Jones is receiving a master's degree in criminal justice. She plans to pursue an Ed.D. in leadership through GSU's College of Education. She is committed to bringing the principles of restorative justice – in which offenders are kept out of the court system by taking responsibility for their actions and working with victims to repair harm – to her own community and beyond.

This year, Jones launched a pilot program in restorative justice at her local middle school in Harvey. These are especially challenging times for middle school students since social media has become a dominant force and cyberbullying is rampant, she said.

In Jones' pilot program, offenses are examined at a series of conferences. All parties are involved – the offender, the victim, school administrators, social workers and teachers, and parents or legal guardians. At the end of the year, students who have gone through the program and have not committed any further infractions are recognized with an award.

Jones' life is extremely busy both at GSU and outside the university. She is married and the mother of four daughters and a son, ages 6 to 14. She also leads her own company, Seniorita Entertainment, which books comedy shows in south suburban venues. At GSU, she is a member of the Student Senate.

## **First Counselor Education and Supervision Doctoral Graduates Receiving Diplomas**

GSU's College of Education is proud to recognize the first two graduates of the university's doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision, Dr. Ashley Rae Cosentino and Dr. Steve Hamm.

Both graduates started the program in Fall 2010 as part of its inaugural cohort and completed their studies and culminating projects in Spring 2013. Dr. Cosentino, of Joliet, focused her research focuses on attitudes toward fathering. Dr. Hamm, of Manteno, focused his research on resilience and well-being in troubled teens.

"This is truly a milestone for the College of Education," said Dr. Deborah E. Bordelon, Dean of the College of Education and Graduate Studies. "Our faculty have worked tirelessly to provide a rigorous and challenging curriculum for our doctoral students. Drs. Cosentino and Hamm have met and exceeded the high expectations we have for our students in the program. We will all join in celebrating their accomplishments at the hooding ceremony on June 6 and our Commencement ceremony on June 8."

This Counselor Education and Supervision doctoral program was recently granted accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). As a CACREP accredited program, the Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision meets the highest academic standards and prepares individuals for leadership roles in higher education, community agencies, and social services.

For further information on the doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision, contact 708.534.4840 or [www.govst.edu/coe](http://www.govst.edu/coe).

## **Counseling in the Himalayas Resumes for Doctoral Student**

GSU doctoral student Deborah Watson is currently working in in Bhutan, where she will spend three months at the National Hospital in Thimpu, the nation's capital. She is working with the National Board of Certified Counselors as part of her doctoral internship for GSU's Counselor Education and Supervision program.



Watson and colleague  
in Bhutan

Watson is pictured wearing a traditional Bhutanese garment known as a *ker*. At the hospital, she is required to wear the traditional garb.

Bhutan, a small Asian country, is nestled between India and China. It has an average elevation of 8,000 feet.

Last fall, Watson and Dr. Shannon Dermer, chair of GSU's Division of Psychology and Counseling, performed clinical and administrative work in Bhutan for two-and-a-half weeks. They were part of a group working with the Thunder Dragon Institute, an organization established through the National Board of Certified Counselors.

## **Student Artists Meet with President Maimon**



President Maimon and  
student artists

President Maimon recently had lunch with some of the GSU student artists whose work is displayed in the President's Conference Room, and outside her office.

President Maimon holds these lunches a few times a year, whenever Visual Arts Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson swaps out the artwork. She and her husband, Dr. Mort Maimon, enjoy hearing directly from the artists themselves about their work.

The student artists honored at the luncheon were Steve Simmons, Sherri Denault, and Rene Leyva. Also attending the luncheon were Stevenson and Dr. Lori Montalbano, Chair of the Division of Communication, Visual, and Performing Arts.

## **Regulating Off-Campus Use of University Property**

Procurement and Business Services is reminding the GSU community that all staff/faculty documentation approving off-campus use of equipment needs to be updated.

The private and/or personal use of university property is expressly prohibited; however, situations may arise where university responsibilities can justify the temporary use of portable equipment off-campus. Off-campus usage should be aimed at more effective utilization of university resources, not the personal convenience of the employee.

Approval to assign or use equipment off- campus is obtained by the user completing the FY13 [asset\\_possession\\_form.pdf](#). The form can be found on the GSU portal. Complete this form, sign it, obtain a department signature, and maintain a copy with your property control records for auditing purposes.

Make certain that your department/college has a current copy on file for any electronics or telecom, which are GSU assets.

For further information, call Procurement and Business Services at ext. 4056.

### **Librarian Awarded Back to Books Grant**

Josh Sopiartz, Assistant Professor and Librarian, has been awarded a \$5,000 "Back to Books" grant from the Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White for his project, "Veterans Resource Collection."

"My inspiration for writing this grant came from my personal experience of working with a woman whose son served in Iraq," Sopiartz said. "He had a difficult time transitioning back to civilian life. His mother mentioned that it would have been helpful to have resources available to help her son. It was this story and experiences with members of my family that encouraged me to submit this grant proposal."

The purpose of the grant is to provide resources in the library that will assist veterans as they transition from the military, to civilian life and as college students. The collection will include books, films and video on a variety of topics including career building, resume writing, and transitioning to the life of a college student. When completed, the collection will be open for all to use and will be available for circulation.

Sopiartz said he would like to see more veterans using the library. "By working with others on campus to develop this collection, it is my hope and vision that the information collected will help veterans find what they need to be successful here at GSU and in life," he said.

The collection will be completed no later than this November. Contact [Sopiartz](#) for questions or further information.

Funding for this grant project was awarded from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

### **MILE Official Named Rotarian of the Year**

Dr. Michael Townsend, a Senior Educational Consultant and Project Leader for GSU's Metropolitan Institute for Leadership (MILE), has been chosen Chicagoland Rotarian of the Year. He received the award this month at the annual district conference.



Dr. Townsend

Dr. Townsend received the award because of his committee leadership on the first Rotary sponsored Chicagoland Peace Summit, held last fall, which addressed the rising violence and crime in the city's communities. The conference drew more than 250 participants who have started working on fundamental issues within the community. City leaders, community service organizations, and clergy, as well as Homeland Security officials, participated in working panels developing solutions and strategies.

In addition to the Peace Summit, Dr. Townsend also lead the first Rotary contingent in the Bud Billiken Parade and other community parades carrying the Peace Summit message seeking change in our culture.

Dr. Townsend is a GSU graduate and received his doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University. He is a member of the Park Forest Rotary Club, which is part of Rotary District 6450. Rotary International has 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. The organization initiates humanitarian projects that address today's challenges affecting the world today, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Dr. Townsend's Rotary Peace Committee is working on the next summit. Community leaders or members of service groups interested in participating in the event can contact [Dr. Townsend](#).

### **MPA Information Session – June 17**

The College of Business and Public Administration is hosting a Master in Public Administration program information session on June 17, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Illinois State Police Headquarters – District 5, 16648 Broadway Street, Lockport. The session is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

An MPA from GSU prepares graduates for leadership positions in public and non-profit sectors. It enhances credentials and develops the skills and knowledge demanded in public sector management positions. The GSU program holds national accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

RSVPs are requested by June 10. Please contact [Ruby Williams](#) at 708.534.4391.

## **RSVP to Provost Allison's Aloha Reception**



Dr. Allison

The GSU community is invited to say “Aloha!” to Provost Terry Allison at a reception honoring his service to GSU and wishing him success and happiness in the future, on Monday, June 3, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., on the Center for Performing Arts stage.

To RSVP, contact [Penny Perdue](mailto:Penny.Perdue@gsu.edu) at 708.534.4130.

In lieu of gifts, Dr. Allison would appreciate if gifts were made to the Dr. Allison Endowed Scholarship for Creative Arts at GSU. To donate, call Gina Ragland at 708.235.7559 or visit the [Foundation website](#).

## **Father Michael Pfleger to Speak at CPA June 3**

The CBPA begins its Dynamic Leadership Lecture Series with featured speaker Father Michael L. Pfleger, on Monday, June 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts. His presentation, *Leading a Community: Advocating for the Disenfranchised*, is free and open to the public.



Father Pfleger, Senior Pastor of Saint Sabina Church in Chicago, is known for his commitment to equality and passionate stance against injustice. He has been recognized for his fight against alcohol and tobacco billboards, drugs, and racism.

His work has been profiled in the national media and he has been honored for his achievements with numerous regional and national awards.

Father Pfleger    Advance registration is not required. Everyone is welcome.

## **There's Still Time to Sign Up for Sustainable Garden**

You can watch your garden grow this summer – right here at GSU.



The University Sustainable Garden is making its debut this spring and there is still time to sign up for plots ranging from 35 square feet for beginners to 400 square feet for experienced gardeners. Planting at the garden is expected to begin next week.

GSU's community garden will give participants a chance to grow a wide variety of vegetables using fully organic methods. The university is initiating the project to empower individuals and families to make healthy choices, build a sense of community, and provide a space to grow food in a custom-designed garden.

GSU will provide water for the garden site. Gardeners must bring their own tools and seeds, and agree to follow organic gardening principles. To be eligible for a garden plot, gardeners must pay a nominal fee, from \$10 to \$20 depending on plot size, and agree to the rules and policies of the community garden. Garden plots are available on a first come, first served basis.

To apply for a University Sustainable Garden plot, contact the Facilities Department at 708.534.4515 or visit [www.govst.edu/garden](http://www.govst.edu/garden).



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