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GSU View

University Newsletters

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY



TRANS4MATION



Countdown to Trans4mation Day

It's all coming together. Years of planning and Big Ideas are taking shape. On August 22 Governors State becomes a four year university. And the countdown has started. Yesterday was early check-in for the new residents of Prairie Place. Today is the first day of Early Start.

Between now and a week from Friday there are some key dates you don't want to miss:

Aug. 14	New faculty orientation**	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Aug. 21	Transfer/Grad. student orientation*	noon – 5 p.m.
Aug. 21	New international student seminar*	9 – 11:30 a.m.

TRANS4MATION DAY – AUGUST 22

Final freshman orientation	9 a.m. – noon
Dual Degree Program BBQ**	11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
President's Lunch for freshmen and their families	11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Ice Cream Social	1 p.m.
Convocation	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Prairie Place ribbon cutting and reception	4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

*students only

** invitation only

Welcome Early Start

We have waited a long time to extend a warm welcome to our first freshman class. What started as a Big Idea blossomed into what is sure to become a beacon of academic excellence. Your presence today is the product of several years of great thinking by people who had one goal in mind: Your success. The GSU experience is unlike any other across the country. The Early Start program is designed to ignite your love of learning and to ensure that you find yourself surrounded by all the tools you need to thrive.



Follow a few simple rules and you will find yourself walking with cap, gown, grin and pride at the Tinley Park Convention Center in 2018.

- Let experts be your guide.
 - Allow the expertise of your faculty guide you.
- Be present.
 - Attend every class and engage in the community.
- Take advantage of us.
 - Services at GSU are designed to help you succeed. Tutoring, writing Center, Veteran's services, counseling, disability services (and many more) are here to serve you.
- Surround yourself with success.
 - Seek out the experience of successful students. Peer Mentors, Resident Assistants, Tutors and Student Leaders have established themselves as leaders among leaders.
- Make the choice to succeed.
 - College is fun. We want you to jump in with both feet. Laugh a lot. Eat some pizza. Get on the Metra and experience something new downtown. But first, make the choices that will move you forward in your life. Get good sleep. Go to class. Eat healthy food (most of the time). Avoid procrastination. Learn to learn.
- Just ask.
 - Jonas Salk, the doctor who discovered the polio vaccine, said "What people think of as the moment of discovery is really the discovery of the question."

At GSU we hope you discover yourself and ask a lot of questions along the way. Welcome to your new home away from home. We are honored you selected GSU and look forward to having you as part of the family.

Check Out the *MYGSU* Portal Navigation Redesign

Last Friday some small, but important changes appeared when you logged into the *MyGSU* portal. As you used the menu, you likely noticed it was easier and friendlier. These changes are the result of some hard work by the Portal Redesign Team.

The whole campus got involved

Last April the Portal Redesign Team went into action. First step: they created and sent a survey to all faculty, staff and students asking for recommendations and comments about many aspects of the portal. Results: a large percentage of the respondents said the portal was hard to navigate and thought it could be more user-friendly.

In early May, a request went to all faculty, staff and students asking for focus group volunteers to work on the portal menus and simplify navigation to make the site more user-friendly. Each focus group created a new menu structure for the portal. (Many thanks to the volunteers!) Then, in June, the focus groups' recommendations went to all faculty, staff and students asking them to pick the best option for the menus. The winner is the menu structure you see now.

Next step: Making the portal mobile friendly.

The Portal Redesign Team is at work on this improvement. Look for progress reports coming soon. If you have any questions or comments, contact us at portalredesign@govst.edu

More MyGSU PortalNews

Currently students do not have access on the portal to detailed student account information. That's about to change. With the installation of "Student Finance Self Service" in the portal, students will be able to view more detailed information. Final testing is underway, so look for an announcement of this portal improvement soon.

Hire a Student: Work-Study works for everybody

Employing students can help the whole GSU community – students, faculty and staff.

Faculty and staff, you can learn the ins and outs of the Federal Work-Study Program and employing students through program or directly through your department. An information session will be held on August 13, from noon to 1 p.m., in B2203. You'll hear everything you need to know about the hiring process, student eligibility and expectations of the program.

The August 13 information session is jointly sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Career Services. To learn more about the session, call ext. 4480. Or to learn more how student employment can lead to student success click below to read this white paper by Noel-Levitz: https://www.noellevitz.com/documents/shared/Papers_and_Research/2010/StudentEmployeeSuccess.pdf

Campus Community Campaign SUPER HERO Winners Announced

Dean Beth Cada of CHHS and Professor Tony Labriola of CAS, DLMD are this year's winners of the personal parking spaces for the FY13-14 Campaign. Congratulations to these great Campaign supporters!

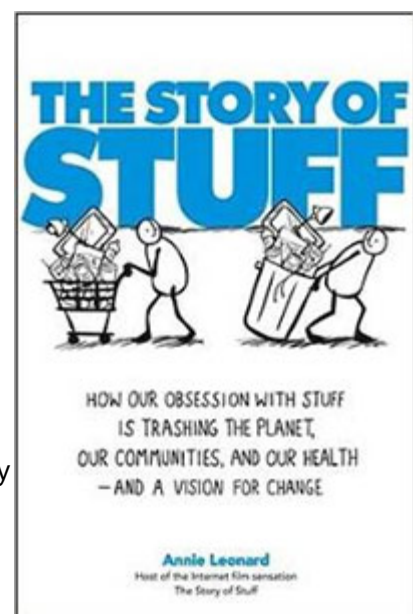
The FY14-15 Campus Community Campaign will kick off soon, with details and dates to come.

"The Story of Stuff": The latest selection for OneBook: One University

As the whole campus reads together in the OneBook: One University program, we find much to share. Or in the case of "The Story of Stuff", lots to give away.

"The Story of Stuff" highlights the fact that people living in America often have too many possessions. Author Annie Leonard raises the reader's awareness about the impact of possessions by sharing her many experiences and pointing out how having too much stuff can have a negative impact on our health. She says too much of what we have is toxic, and we don't share it very well.

"As Chair of the Intellectual Life Committee, which is responsible for selecting and coordinating programming for the OneBook, One University FY 14: The Story of Stuff, we are hopeful that by embracing the messages in this book our entire GSU community will learn more about improving our [sustainability](#)," said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the



GSU Library. In addition, through the many collaborative events that will be planned in association with this book, we seek to enhance our [civic engagement](#) and [global citizenship](#) by becoming more aware of the impact that each of us has on our planet."

To learn more, visit "The Story of Stuff" website at www.storyofstuff.com. "Then let us know how you are dealing with your STUFF by visiting www.govst.edu/onebookone," Ruetten said.

Submit Your Nomination for the Baysore Award

The Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Award is presented to the GSU employee who most fully demonstrates the following four qualities so consistently and fully embodied by Dr. Baysore during his eighteen-year service to the university:

- absolute integrity
- total competence
- generous dedication
- unfailing civility

The Baysore Award will be presented by President Maimon during Convocation on Friday, August 22, 2014.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, August 15, 2014.

This award is given only when a candidate meets the strict qualifications as listed above. Nominators are encouraged to devote special time and attention to their written nominations. The length of the nomination is not as important as the quality, but enough information should be included so that the committee can make an informed decision.

You can submit your written nominations via email to pperdue@govst.edu.



Governors State University
1 University Parkway,
University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
+1 (708) 534.5000 | Copyright © 2014