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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



October 12, 2015

Vol. 22, Issue 2

News

GSU Celebrates Family & Friends Weekend



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[Read More on page 14](#)

Campaign Urging Legislative Budget Action

As we've all heard, there is much uncertainty in the State regarding the budget, including funding for higher education. In a positive response, various groups [alumni, elected officials, students, individual employees, and employee organizations] have been communicating with legislators and government leaders making the point that state support of higher education is essential in helping provide students with a quality education and also in driving statewide economic growth.

[Read More on page 15](#)

Threat to Campus Resolved

On Friday morning a telephone message to Governors State University, warning of a bomb on campus

caused school officials to cancel classes and events for the remainder of the day. The threat, which specifically identified the university's parking lots, was considered "low-level." but university officials responded with the utmost caution to protect the safety of students and staff.

After a thorough search university police issued an all-clear for the parking areas. After employees and students left the campus police conducted a thorough search of all campus buildings. No explosive devices were found.

"I want to thank the students, faculty, and staff for their patience during this emergency. I also want to thank federal, state, and local law enforcement for their assistance," said GSU Chief of Police James McGee.

As reported in the [GSU View](#) last week, GSU ranks as the safest public university campus in Illinois according to the [Annual Security and Fire Report](#). It's the diligent efforts of the first responders and the involvement, awareness, and cooperation of the GSU community that helps make it so. Please visit the [Campus Safety](#) website for more information on safety procedures you can take.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly Announces GSU Grant



GSU was in the news this week when Congresswoman Robin Kelly announced that GSU and Joliet Junior College (JJC) each received five-year grants to expand programs aimed at strengthening student services and academic support for low-income students.

[Read More on page 16](#)

GSU, UI Cancer Center, to Address Cancer Disparities in South Suburbs

GSU and the University of Illinois Cancer Center have received a joint four-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to help both institutions conduct community-based research to reduce cancer-related health disparities in Chicago's south suburbs.

GSU's portion of the grant is in the amount of \$716,000. The co-principal investigators are Professors Rupert Evans and Catherine Balthazar of the College of Health and Human Services. "The grant will help develop a pipeline of students interested in cancer research and build our faculty's ability to pursue larger federal grants for projects that will address high cancer rates and mortality the Southland community," said Dr. Evans.

Grad Assistant is now a Hall of Famer



Matt Gentry

You have probably seen Matt Gentry in the halls of GSU. By his unassuming demeanor you might be surprised to find out that this doctoral student in the [Physical Therapy](#) program is a former two-time Olympic wrestler.

[Read More on page 17](#)

World Renowned Documentarian Gordon Quinn at GSU October 14



Gordon Quinn

A giant among American documentary filmmakers and world renowned expert on documentary ethics will be appearing at GSU on October 14 at 6 p.m. in Screening Room F1622. [Gordon Quinn](#) received an Emmy last week for his work as Executive Producer on [The Trials of Muhammad Ali](#), and his life's work extends into an array of influential social conscience films including [Hoop Dreams](#), widely regarded as the greatest documentary ever made. Mr. Quinn is Founder and Artistic Director for [Kartemquin Films](#) of Chicago. The event has been sponsored by the Committee for Intellectual Life, GSU's MFA in Independent Film program, CAS, GSU's student Media Society, and the GSU Film Series. Admission is free.

Students get a Lesson from Visiting Judge



Criminal justice students Mallory Elias, left and Dawn Ewing, right with Cook County Juvenile Justice Division Judge Colleen F. Sheehan.

Students in Assistant Professor Joao Salm's [criminal justice](#) class were paid a visit by someone who practices what the students are learning about [restorative justice](#). Judge Colleen F. Sheehan, who presides in the Cook County Juvenile Justice Division, one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country, talked with the students about the practice that emphasizes conflict resolution over incarceration.

[Read More on page 18](#)

Alumnae Educator Makes an Impression at SEA Meeting



Kesa Thurman

On October 6, the [Student Education Association](#) (SEA) held its first meeting of the semester and attendees were treated to a guest speaker who began her career in education as a student at GSU.

Kesa Thurman, who received her M.A. in Educational Administration from GSU in 2002, brought some life experience and stories to the students, who are thinking about a career in the education field. The SEA is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate students preparing for careers in education.

[Read More on page 20](#)

Intellectual Life Grants Available

Intellectual Life Grants for up to \$500 are being awarded for events that promote and increase awareness of the arts, humanities and other intellectual topics of universal interest. Possible events might include lecture series, faculty research salons, workshops, panel discussions, exhibits, presentations in local communities and field trips. The events must take place between January 19, 2016 and May 8, 2016.

The primary audience for these events is GSU students, although the events should be open to all members of the GSU community and the region.

GSU staff and faculty, as well as enrolled GSU students with a faculty collaborator, are invited to apply using the Intellectual Life Grant Application. Events must be promoted as sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee in addition to any other sponsors.

Selection Criteria include:

- Comparative analysis between grant projects presented,
- Value to the GSU community in terms of intellectual life,
- Strategies for promoting the event,
- Completion of the event within the Spring 2016 Semester,
- Feasibility of the project based on the support of this grant plus any other sources of funding, and
- **Grant funding may not be used to compensate GSU employees or purchase hardware or software.**
- **Grant funding may not be used to cover printing costs. Please consider electronic forms of notification.**

Submissions are due October 16. [Please fill out the submission form in Microsoft Word](#) and email it to LRuetten@govst.edu. Award winners will be notified by November 6, 2015. For more information, contact [Lydia Morrow Ruetten](#).

BUZZ

Priority Registration Starts October 19



Priority Registration for intersession and spring 2016 begins Monday, October 19th. The registration order is determined based on the number of credits students have earned prior to 2015FA credits by level of the academic program.

Students must not have any registration holds (such as debt, immunizations, advisor, admissions) in order to [register online](#).

#SaveOurEducation: Join us in Springfield, October 20

Calling Clubs & Organizations, Student Groups, Honor Societies, and all Students!

The Student Senate is currently organizing students to travel to Springfield on Tuesday, October 20 as a continuation of our #SaveOurEducation. This time we are joining students from all of the Illinois public institutions as we converge on Springfield to let Governor Rauner and the legislators know that they need to invest in higher education by passing a budget. We need all students to let their voice be heard as we rally for the State of Illinois to support higher education, this issue affects every student. Join the Student Senate on the #SaveOurEducation bus to Springfield to show that GSU students support this important endeavor, our education is at risk!

To sign-up for the bus <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SaveOurEducation>

Students-Enter the Literacy Autobiography Writing Contest



Students enrolled in English 1000 this fall are eligible to participate in the Literacy Autobiography Award Writing Contest. As a required assignment in the first semester, the Literacy Autobiography assignment asks students to reflect on how writing and reading have shaped their lives.

Students enter the contest by submitting their Literacy Autobiography by February 27, 2016. Winners will be announced by the end of March and honored at a luncheon. Entries will be judged by a committee appointed by the President's and Provost's offices.

Students are encouraged to continue revising their autobiography after it has been graded - in preparation for the contest.

Awards:

- First place - \$200
- Second place - \$100
- Third place - \$50
- Honorable Mention - \$25

Awards are funded through the generosity of Dr. Elaine P. Maimon and Dr. Mort Maimon.

Gym Shoes and Cupcakes



The [Community Service Council](#) is sponsoring a used gym shoe donation drive October 5-23. Gym shoe PAIRS ONLY will be accepted in large donation boxes that will be located near the elevators across campus. The Council is also hosting a Bake Sale on Thursday, October 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

Lunch with Institutional Research

Join the members of the Institutional Research staff on Friday, October 16 from noon-1 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex for "Understanding our Enrollment, the state trends, and what GSU looks like this term." GSU keeps growing, but in what ways and what does it mean for our future? OIR staffers will discuss such pertinent issues as:

- What are our enrollment numbers for this term, how do they compare historically, and how do they compare with the rest of the state?
- What does the last three years of transformation look like from an enrollment perspective?
- What does the future hold?
- What reports and documents are available from your Institutional Research and Effectiveness office and how do you read them to understand enrollment, admissions, and classroom capacity?

Everyone is invited. Don't forget to bring your lunch! For more information, email oir@govst.edu.

Alternative Spring Break 2016-Puerto Rico



Are you interested in making a difference and volunteering during your spring break? Try going on Alternative Spring Break 2016 to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Students will be immersed into the Puerto Rican culture and volunteer their time to help the country's social and environmental issues. To find out more, attend an information session in Room A2110 on either Monday, October 12 from 3:15-4:30 p.m., or Wednesday, October 21 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Reconstructed Accepting Submissions

Reconstructed, GSU's literary and visual arts journal, is now accepting submissions for the Fall 2015 issue. All creative work is welcome, including but not limited to: original artwork, fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and photography.

Reconstructed is published both in print and [online](#). All published artists will receive a copy of the print journal and will be published on the website. To submit your original artwork, [email](#) up to six attached documents by November 2.

2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference Committee

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to serve as committee members for the 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference at GSU. The conference is designed to help students create an understanding and appreciation for cultural differences through self-awareness while encouraging them to be free of misconceptions and prejudices through social justice education. The conference is scheduled to take place Friday, January 29, 2016. Please [submit your interest](#) in serving on the committee by Friday, October 9.

EVENTS

Documentary Screening October 12



Lambda Pi Eta is hosting the premiere of the documentary film [S.O.S. Scars of the Soul](#), Monday, October 12 at 4:30 in Sherman Hall. The film features the narratives of women who have experienced rape trauma. A question and answer session and a discussion on ways to minimize the long-term effects of rape will be held led by Dr. Nefertiti Nowell, PhD, LCPC after the free screening.

Study Abroad in South Africa



How would you like to study abroad in South Africa? The GSU College of Business is sponsoring a 12-day study trip that will include visits to companies and universities, cultural activities and tourism sights. Learn more at an information session Monday, October 12 from 6 - 7 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. [RSVP](#) by October 8 or call 708.534.4930 for more details.

Stutter Support Group Meeting October 13

A new chapter of the [National Stuttering Association](#) (NSA) Support Group now meets under the sponsorship of GSU's [Department of Communication Disorders](#). The support group is open to adults who stutter, as well as their family members. The group will meet Tuesday, October 13, at 7:15 p.m. in the Communication Disorders Department, Room F-1409. Refreshments will be provided. For additional information, please contact Assistant Professor [Dr. Eileen Brann](#).

Faculty-Led Program to Thailand Info Session Oct. 15



The Department of Psychology and Counseling is returning to Thailand to sponsor a 15-day faculty-led program that will include 10 full days of workshops presented by Dr. Carlson on Counseling Across the Lifespan and Marriage Counseling. This opportunity is open to masters and doctoral students and will take place from December 5-19, 2015.

Learn more at an information session on Thursday, October 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in room C3300 or contact [Dr. Sonya Lorelle](#).

Interdisciplinary Leadership Info Session October 15

The [Interdisciplinary Leadership](#) Doctoral Program is holding an informational session Thursday, October 15, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Room G261. To RSVP for this event, contact [Carla Johnson](#). Please include your desired concentration (Higher Education Administration, Not for Profit/Social Entrepreneurship, Public Safety Administration or Superintendency) area in your rsvp email.

SAVE THE DATE

SafeZone Training October 20



A SafeZone training session for staff and faculty members ONLY will be held Tuesday, October 20 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. The goal of this program is to raise awareness about the dynamics of gender and sexual orientation while exploring different ways to embody inclusive allyship for people of all orientations, genders, sexualities, identities, and levels of being out. This program is limited to 25 participants only. For more information email diversity@govst.edu or call 708-524-4551.

Community Health Degree Information Sessions

A degree in Community Health is your ticket to the world. Whatever your interest—healthy aging,

wellness promotion, treating chronic illness—your career path in Community Health can take you in many different directions.

Meet our faculty, alumni and current students to find out more at two information sessions on Thursday, October 22: 10-11:30 a.m. in the Hall of Honors, or 6-7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

For additional information, contact [Dr. Joseph Day](#) or 708.235.7389.

Students-Learn How to Sleep



The [Student Counseling Center](#) will host an outreach event: "Sleep: Everyone Wants a Good Night's Sleep, But Nobody Wants to Put the Work In." The program will be held Thursday, October 22 in room D34170 from 11:00am-noon, and again at 6 p.m.-7 p.m. This event will focus on teaching students how to assess their current sleep health and habits as well as giving them the tools to recognize when these are out of whack. The program will include a discussion on disconfirming and confirming myths about sleep, and current trends in sleep. Contact [Gabe Becker](#) for more information.

Bachelor of Health Science in Communication Disorders

Individuals interested in learning more about the Bachelor of Health Science in Communication Disorders degree may attend an Information Session on Thursday, October 22, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the E Lounge. Additional information may be obtained by contacting [Dr. Jennifer Armstrong](#).

Strut for the Cure October 23

The [Social Work Student Organization](#) will hold its Strut for the Cure for cancer, Friday, October 23, at 7p.m. in Sherman Hall. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For Tickets, please contact [Johnsie McAuley-Davis](#) or 708.235.3997.

CASEL Workshop October 28

A workshop for education administrators hosted by Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education ([MILE](#)), will be held Wednesday, October 28 from 8 a.m. -3 p.m. in E-Lounge. "Implementing Social and Emotional Learning to Improve Student Achievement" is designed to provide the research and strategic tools needed to implement academic, social, and emotional learning throughout buildings and districts. Attendees will learn how to improve conditions for learning and student achievement.

The workshop will be presented by Ruth Cross, Senior Illinois Consultant for the Collaborative on Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, (CASEL). Ms. Cross brings significant experience working in defining and aligning best practices for effective SEL in public school districts. [Register online](#).

S.H.E.R.O. Women's Leadership Symposium



Please join us for the 2nd Annual S.H.E.R.O. (Sharing Her story of Empowerment Resilience & Opportunity) Women's Leadership Symposium to facilitate students' professional leadership development on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

This year's theme, **E3: Empower, Enrich, Engage** will inspire and encourage attendees to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. Participants will gain a greater understanding of their own approach to leadership and identify personal leadership strengths that contribute to one's advancement. The symposium will include a luncheon, keynote, and breakout sessions open to all women and women-identified community college students, GSU undergraduate and graduate students interested in a day of professional development and networking.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the online [registration form](#) by October 16. If you have any questions, contact [Jessica Specht](#) or [Kyrie Kirkland](#).

Institutional Review Board Process Workshop

Learn about the Institutional Review Board Process at GSU at a workshop Thursday, November 5 from 11 a.m.–noon in Room G262. The purpose of this workshop is to educate people who submit IRBs on what needs to be included, where resources can be located, and how the process works at GSU. For more information, contact [Ebony Jones](#).

Facebook Posts of the Week



Response to our post Illinois Issues: State Hopes to Lure Adults Back to College:

CeCe Singleton I still feel that GSU has the non-traditional student in mind; it's one of the many things that drew me to the campus. I'm a married 34 year old woman and a part of the 2019 freshman class. I'm enjoying my experience here for the most part and have been expressing that to my close friends and family. Even my husband is considering GSU in his future.



Response to our post Congresswoman Robin Kelly Announces five-year grants for GSU and JJC:

Jamelia Toya Hand Whohoo!!!!

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



Governors State University

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Read More content from the GSU website follows.

GSU Celebrates Family & Friends Weekend

October 12, 2015



What a weekend! GSU's Annual Family & Friends Weekend started with a spirited Pep Rally on Thursday, October 8 and continued through a lively Student Variety Show on Saturday night. In between, there were fun events for everyone!

The weather was perfect for the "Run, Walk, Stroll, Roll," a non-competitive, go-at-your-own-pace look around GSU's grounds.

Kids' events like the Stuff-a-Bear workshop were all around during Saturday's activities. The kids also enjoyed Story Time Wonderland in the GSU Library; Open House at the Family Development Center; Face Painting; a Photo Booth; a Caricature Artist, and Magical Balloons. There was also a screening of the movie "Minions."

On Saturday night, the Student Variety Show hosted by Comedian "Just Nesh," showcased just how truly talented our students are.

Be sure to check out Student Life [photo gallery](#) for all the great Family and Friends Weekend pictures.

Campaign Urging Legislative Budget Action

October 12, 2015

As we've all heard, there is much uncertainty in the State regarding the budget, including funding for higher education. In a positive response, various groups [alumni, elected officials, students, individual employees, and employee organizations] have been communicating with legislators and government leaders making the point that state support of higher education is essential in helping provide students with a quality education and also in driving statewide economic growth.

As examples:

- The public university presidents have [sent a letter](#) to the Governor and legislative leaders, urging them to end this stalemate.
- On October 22th the university presidents will meet with the Governor.
- Public university students, parents, alumni, and community members are signing a [change.orgpetition](#) urging Governor Rauner and legislative leaders, and sending tweets of support linked to the petition using the hashtag [#fundhighered](#).
- Delegations are traveling to Springfield to lobby their legislators. On Tuesday, October 20, students and alumni will rally at the state's capitol.

To learn more about how GSU's alumni and students are participating in the campaign, contact [Sharon Garey](#) or [Sheree Sanderson](#).

Congresswoman Robin Kelly Announces GSU Grant

October 12, 2015

GSU was in the news this week when Congresswoman Robin Kelly announced that GSU and Joliet Junior College (JJC) each received five-year grants to expand programs aimed at strengthening student services and academic support for low-income students.

GSU has been selected to receive a Title III grant of \$1.99 million over five years under the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). The grant will fund the Center for the Junior Year. The program is under the direction of Deborah E. Bordelon, PhD, GSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The goal of the CJY will be to assist students in making informed choices about majors and careers. Students entering their junior year, whether from GSU, one of the 17 partner community colleges, or any other college or university, will meet in specially designed cornerstone courses in each major.

The Title III grant will help strengthen GSU's student services and academic support. "The CJY will improve the transition of native and transfer students into the junior year and the major, increase the retention of all students, especially underrepresented students, and improve rates of students' successful attainment of the baccalaureate degree," Bordelon said.

Grad Assistant is now a Hall of Famer

October 12, 2015



Matt Gentry

You have probably seen Matt Gentry in the halls of GSU. By his unassuming demeanor you might be surprised to find out that this doctoral student in the [Physical Therapy](#) program is a former two-time Olympic wrestler.

Now, Matt has another honor to go along with representing Canada in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012. Later this week, he will travel back to Stanford University for induction into the 2015 Class of the Stanford Athletics Hall of Fame. Matt received his bachelor's degree from Stanford in Human Biology in 2005.

While at Stanford, Matt became the only wrestler in school history to ever be NCAA champion, when he went 42-0 and was named Pac-10 Wrestler of the Year in 2004. He was a three-time team captain for the Cardinal and also won 64 consecutive matches, which is a school record. "I am honored and humbled to be inducted into the Stanford Athletics Hall of Fame and am very excited to travel

back to Stanford this weekend for the ceremonies. I am very grateful for all my coaches, teammates, and family who made my athletic career so successful."

In addition to his Olympic feats, Matt also has won three national titles (2006, 2007, 2011) and two Pan American Games bronze medals (2007, 2011).

At GSU, Matt is a graduate assistant working on graduate student programming initiatives. He is also the Graduate Council student representative and is the Chair of the GSU Graduate Professional Network.

Matt said his wrestling experiences have served him well in his new endeavors at GSU. "Wrestling is such a physically and mentally demanding sport, and the life skills and character building the sport taught me has helped me in all areas of my life, whether as a student, as a graduate assistant in the [Career Services Office](#) under Darcie Campos, as a coach to kids, and as a husband and father for my family," he said.

Students Get a Lesson from Visiting Judge

October 12, 2015



Criminal justice students Mallory Elias, left and Dawn Ewing, right with Cook County Juvenile Justice Division Judge Colleen F. Sheehan.

Students in Assistant Professor Joao Salm's [criminal justice](#) class were paid a visit by someone who practices what the students are learning about [restorative justice](#). Judge Colleen F. Sheehan, who presides in the Cook County Juvenile Justice Division, one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country, talked with the students about the practice that emphasizes conflict resolution over incarceration.

Judge Sheehan is an advocate of the approach that often employs methods such as "peace circles" that bring together affected community members, including the victim and the offender. The focus of this approach is to help young offenders understand the real harm that resulted from their actions, to take responsibility for these crimes, and commit to repairing the damage they inflicted on others.

For Interdisciplinary Studies student Dawn Ewing, who plans to attend law school after graduation, the judge's insights were eye opening. "She gave me a different perspective. With all they see, you think maybe a judge wouldn't be so caring about an individual. But Judge Sheehan wants to see something better for society than just incarcerating people," she said.

Restorative justice also encourages the community to be part of the solution and restoration efforts. Judge Sheehan shared with GSU students her responsibility for acting together with the police of Cook County, developing circles of peace and also her Bridging the Divide project, which helps build relationships between youth, law enforcement officials.

For criminal justice student Mallory Elias, who plans to become a probation officer, Judge Sheehan's visit had her thinking about how people who are incarcerated should be treated. "She made us realize that some of the youths that are in trouble never learned right from wrong. The judge believes that everybody should be treated as equals and that we need to understand each other."

Alumnae Educator Makes an Impression at SEA Meeting

October 12, 2015



Kesa Thurman

On October 6, the [Student Education Association](#) (SEA) held its first meeting of the semester and attendees were treated to a guest speaker who began her career in education as a student at GSU.

Kesa Thurman, who received her M.A. in Educational Administration from GSU in 2002, brought some life experience and stories to the students, who are thinking about a career in the education field. The SEA is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate students preparing for careers in education.

Thurman is the Director/Mentor at the [Golden Apple Foundation](#), as well as a past recipient of the Golden Apple Scholarship. Prior to her work there, Thurman was a teacher and principal with the Chicago Public Schools, and she gave the aspiring teachers in her midst some advice. "Remember why you are here right now. Remain true to who you are as a teacher and recognize the motivation you have right now to teach. Our children's lives are at stake and you are on the front lines."

Thurman told the students the SEA and other professional organizations "have your back" and will help

them in their careers. "Take advantage of the associations early on. They are a worthwhile investment because you are investing in yourself. Consider yourself to be a life-long learner. The professional affiliations will help you do that."

She noted that while teaching is hard work, there is no greater profession, and that the students are "in the right place to become great" at GSU. "I knew very early on in my life that I wanted to become a teacher. This is a great place to learn this profession. GSU is truly a hidden gem," she said.