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GSU View

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



October 26, 2015

Vol. 22, Issue 4

GSU Takes to Springfield



From left: President Elaine P. Maimon; Terri Winfree, President, Prairie State College; Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner; Gayle Saunders, President, Richland Community College; Bettie Truitt, President, Black Hawk College, and Tom Ramage, President, Parkland College.

President Elaine P. Maimon and the presidents of the eight other Illinois public universities met last week with lawmakers in Springfield to urge them to pass a budget for the current fiscal year. The university officials met with Illinois Senate President John Cullerton on October 20. Two days later, the university presidents were joined by the presidents of Illinois community colleges in meetings with Gov. Bruce Rauner.

President Maimon also appeared on the PBS program "[Chicago Tonight](#)" last Tuesday where she was interviewed about the budget situation. "Public universities in Illinois are an investment for the state. The fact that we have been without a budget not only puts pressure on us, but it is affecting the reputation of the state of Illinois," she said.



President Maimon joins GSU students who travelled to Springfield for a rally #SaveOur Education.

GSU students also travelled to Springfield by the busload on October 20 to join with students from all the other Illinois public universities for a rally. Students gathered at the foot of the Capitol and shouted for legislators to fund higher education. Inside the Capitol, the students met with lawmakers including Sen. Toi Hutchinson (40th) and Sen. Michael Hastings (19th), who listened as the students told them personal stories of how much higher education means to them. President Maimon met with the students between her Springfield meetings, telling them how important it is for them to be heard by the political leaders. [Watch a video of the students' trip to Springfield.](#)

With the budget situation still unresolved, those who would like to urge state lawmakers to pass a budget are encouraged to sign the [online petition](#) and share information with friends and family.

News

Citizenship across the Curriculum Discussed at Symposium

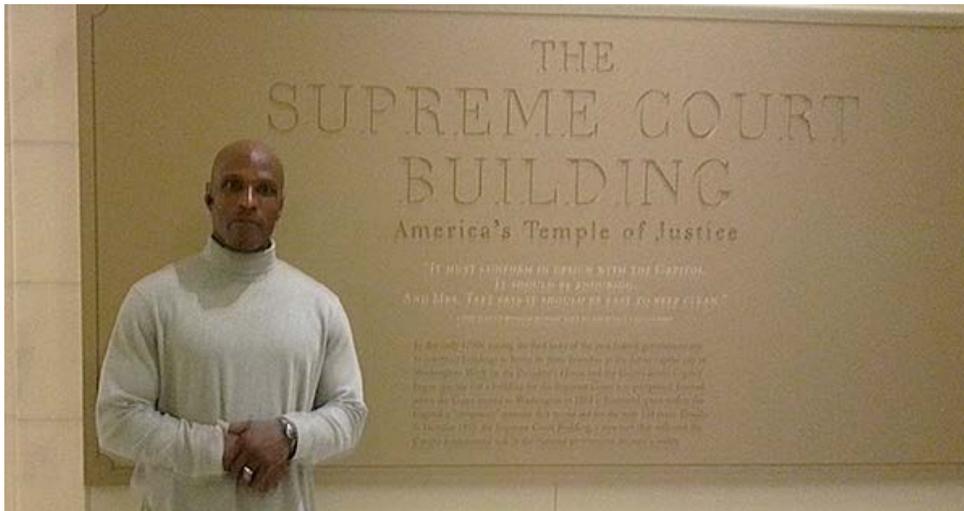


Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil was the keynote speaker at an all-campus Citizenship across the Curriculum symposium

On Friday, October 23, Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil was the keynote speaker at an all-campus symposium, which included an interactive look at how GSU can build on its already considerable work on civic engagement – in and out of the classroom. The Citizenship Across the Curriculum and the Campus Symposium was attended by administration, faculty, staff, and students.

[READ MORE on page 12](#)

Jerry Davis EI is GSU's Lincoln Laureate



Jerry Davis EI

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of [The Lincoln Academy of Illinois](#). Student Laureates are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. The 2015 GSU Lincoln Laureate is Jerry Davis EI. He and the other student laureates from around the state will be honored Saturday November 7 in a ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Accompanying Jerry at the ceremony will be, Dr. Lori Glass, Associate Professor, Social Work.

[READ MORE](#) on page 14

GSU Athletics Accepted into CCAC



The GSU Athletic Department received some great news last week when it was announced that GSU was accepted into the [Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference](#) (CCAC).

The CCAC is one of 24 [National Association of Intercollegiate Association](#) (NAIA) conferences, with a membership of colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. GSU becomes one of the few public institutions, and the only public institution in the State of Illinois, in CCAC's portfolio.

[READ MORE](#) on page 17

Outstanding Educator Thanks GSU



Lauren Musielewicz

Lauren Musielewicz teaches innovative economics lessons to her 3-5 grade students at Meadow Ridge Elementary School in Orland Park. In fact, her lessons are so clever and beneficial to students that she is being recognized this week with the *3M Outstanding Economic Educator Award*. And where did Lauren find workshops and materials that helped her design some of her engaging economic learning experiences? The [Office of Economic Education](#) at GSU.

[READ MORE on page 19](#)

New Way to Submit your News and Events to GSU View

Do you have a great story you would like the GSU community or the press to know about? Are you unsure how to submit your story or event to the *GSU View*, social media, or local press? Fear not, because there is now an easy way to submit all your news. Simply go to the new [Request for Event Promotion](#) page on the GSU website. Once there, you can decide where you want your news to be shared: *GSU View*, social media, community announcement in local press, or on the outdoor marquee. You can tell us who your target audience is and whether any pre-event announcements or follow-ups are required. Getting your story shared has never been easier!

GSU Seeking Public Comments

Governors State University is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its mid-cycle comprehensive review by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a mid-cycle comprehensive visit February 22-23, 2016, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Governors State University has been accredited by the Commission since 1975. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university:

Public Comment on Governors State University

The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web site at www.hlcommission.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by January 22, 2016

Updates to the myGSU Faculty & Staff Portal

Minor, but effective changes are coming for faculty & staff. The student portal underwent changes in 2014 to help improve navigation. Now it's the faculty and staff portal's turn.

On Monday, November 2, the [myGSU Faculty & Staff Portal](#) will be modified to help make portal content easier to find. Some of the new items include an *A to Z Index*, *Search myGSU*, and an expanded *Quick Links* section. The *My Bookmarks* section will now appear as *My Links* on the right side of the page, and the *My Week* section will be relocated to the left side of the page.

Take a few minutes to test drive all the new sections on Monday, November 2. If you have comments or questions, please email the [portal team](#).

Undergraduate Open House



GSU will host an undergraduate [Open House](#) Thursday, November 12, from 10 a.m.-2.p.m. The open house will provide undergraduate prospective students and their families with information on admissions requirements, academic programs, on-campus housing, and campus resources. There will also be tours of the campus, [Prairie Place](#) and a resource fair. Admission and financial aid counselors, academic advisors, and career service representatives will be waiting to talk with prospective students. Spanish-speaking advisors will also be available to answer questions. [RSVP](#).

Student Photographer Meets an Idol



Filmmaker Michael Moore (L) and GSU MFA student, Jason Buhalis (R)

Jason Buhalis, GSU MFA student and Student Life photographer, met one of his idols at the Chicago International Film Festival—Michael Moore. Moore was at the festival Friday, October 23 for the World Premiere of his latest documentary, "Where to Invade Next."

Jason was at the festival taking photos at the request of GSU Professor Sanghoon Lee. Professor Lee and his partner, GSU alum Mercedes Kane, were also premiering their documentary, "Breakfast at Ina's" at the festival. After meeting Moore, his publicist gave Jason a ticket to the sold out premiere.

It's Not Too Late – Join Student Senate

Last call to join the [Student Senate](#)—election packets are due Thursday, October 29. The Student Senate promotes the general welfare of GSU students through the representation of student concerns, viewpoints and interests regarding governance issues to the administration, staff and faculty. Their goal is to improve the quality of the academic and co-curricular experience at GSU and provide developmental opportunities for its members. The student senate has been busy this year with #Save Our Education, advocating for funding for GSU.

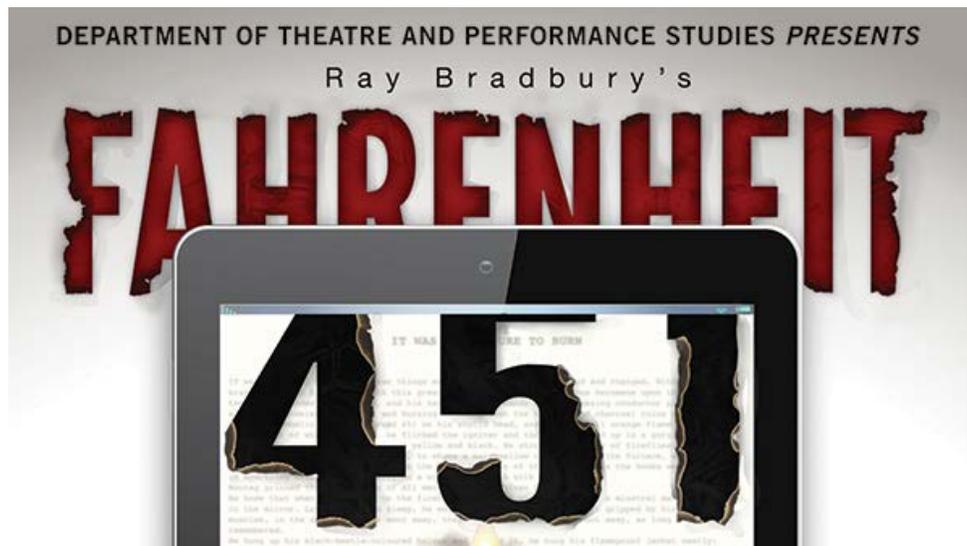
If you are a leader and believe in making a difference the Student Senate is looking for YOU!

Positions available: Freshmen, Sophomores, College Representatives, and Member-at-Large. Pick-up a packet in

Student Life or the Student Senate office. Voting for the Student Senate candidates begins November 9 - 13.

For additional information contact the Student Senate or [Student Life](#).

Tickets on Sale for Fahrenheit 451



The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies presents Ray Bradbury's [Fahrenheit 451](#), directed by Patrick Santoro. Show dates and times at the Center for Performing Arts are Saturday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for the general public and \$13 for students. [Watch](#) the promo video!

Leadership Institute seeks Nominations from Faculty/Staff



The [Division of Student Affairs](#) will be sponsoring the 4th annual Leadership Institute during the spring semester. This year, faculty and staff are being encouraged to nominate an upper division student or students whom they feel exemplifies leadership in a class, department, or organization. If you have been impressed by a student's leadership abilities [nominate](#) him or her by October 30, 2015.

Student Employee Recognition Reception

All on-campus student employees are cordially invited to attend the Student Employee Recognition Reception on Thursday, December 3, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Mingle with fellow student workers while enjoying light refreshments. All Students who attend the reception will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the GSU bookstore.

Student workers who attend at least three professional development offerings presented by the [Office of Career Services](#) will receive a Certificate of Professional Development which President Maimon will present to you

personally at the reception. Students who attend and who are eligible for the certificate will also receive an additional ticket for the drawing. You can find a listing of qualifying events on the [Upcoming Events](#) page of the Career Services website.

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 Literary 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.

Priority Registration is Underway



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](#).

Events

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.](#)

Authors to Discuss Prisons, Redemption, and Hope Oct. 29



Authors Esaun Keller (left) and Darryl Cooke (right) discuss their books at "Insights: Life Before & After Prison,"

Authors Darryl Cooke and Esaun Keller will be at GSU to discuss their books at "Insights: Life Before & After Prison," Thursday, October 29 at 5 p.m. in Room 1622. Join us for an insightful discussion with the authors about prisons, redemption, and hope. The discussion is free and open to the public. Copies of their books, "After the Bridge was Crossed" by Darryl Cooke and "Cross the Bridge" by Esaun Keller will be available at the event, and \$5 from every book sale goes to the Second Chance Scholarship at GSU. For more information, contact [Caron Jacobsen](#).

Future Educators Career Workshop

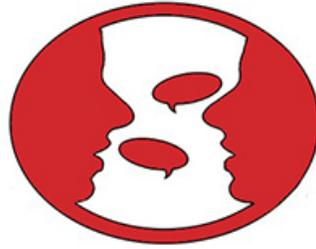
The Graduate Professional Network and [Career Services](#) will host a Future Educators Career Workshop on Monday, November 2 from 4-5:30 p.m. in D34104. The workshop is geared toward undergrad and graduate students in teaching education programs, and will have a career services component for resume/interview/cover letter advice. A local administrator will talk about making the transition from teaching to administration and tips to make that happen. This event will be very beneficial for any educators that are trying to enhance their career. The workshop is free and open to all community members, and does not require any pre-registration. Contact [Matt Gentry](#) with any questions.

Non-Traditional Student Week

November 2-6 is [Non-Traditional Student Week](#) at GSU and Intercultural Student Affairs has a full schedule of programs and events, including a meet and greet with student leaders and campus administrators, and an Open Forum to share your experiences at GSU and ideas to enhance your educational pursuits as a non-traditional student.

Unlearn, Relearn, Learn-Censorship

UNLEARN THE MYTHS
RELEARN THE TRUTH
LEARN TO BRIDGE CULTURAL DIVIDES



Join us on Tuesday, November 3 at 6 p.m. in the library for Unlearn, Relearn, Learn. This program series will provide an opportunity for the GSU community to unlearn myths, stereotypes, and fallacies about various subject matters, relearn the truth and learn ways to shape their understanding that will aid in bridging cultural divides in the campus community. Participants will be exposed to current cultural issues as well as challenge the GSU community to realize the benefits of living in a multicultural world. The topic for this Unlearn, Relearn, Learn is Censorship. For more information call x4551 or [email](#).

Save the Date

Master of Occupational Therapy Monthly Info Sessions

The Department of Occupational Therapy will host an information session for the [Master of Occupational Therapy](#) degree program on the first Wednesday of every month, from 5-6 p.m., in Room G 157. The next session will take place on November 4. Attendees are encouraged to bring unofficial copies of transcripts. For more information, contact [Patricia Kalvelage](#).

Bradbury Biographer to Speak on Author's Works



Sam Weller

As part of the [Big Read](#) program, [Sam Weller](#), the authorized biographer of the late writer Ray Bradbury, will be on campus speaking about Bradbury and Fahrenheit 451 on Thursday, November 4 from 6-7 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. The lecture is free and open to all in the GSU Community. A book signing will follow. Weller's book *The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury* was a *Los Angeles Times* best seller, winner of the 2005 Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Biography, and a Bram Stoker Award finalist. For more information, contact [Alexis Sarkisian](#).

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](#).

Peace Corps on Campus

Have you ever thought of joining the [Peace Corps](#)? Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level toward sustainable change that lives on long after their service—at the same time becoming global citizens and serving their country. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences—and a global outlook—that enriches the lives of those around them.

On Monday, November 9, former Peace Corps volunteers will be on campus to share their stories and how you can get involved. You can find them in the Hall of Governors from 1-4 p.m. and they will also give a formal presentation in the Café Annex at 4:30 p.m.

Mindfulness Art Workshop

Creativity has been associated with improved life satisfaction, career growth, and improved relationships, among other benefits. The [Academic Resource Center](#) will present a Mindfulness Art Workshop Tuesday, November 10 at 10 a.m. in B2203 or at 6 p.m. in D34160 to engage in mindfulness practices while tapping into your creativity. You will create art that resonates, while simultaneously practicing deep breathing, stress management, and other mindfulness skills. Supplies will be provided; however, feel free to bring your own. For more information contact [Daniel Raedel](#) at 708.235.7512.

SBDC Veteran's Boot Camp



The 2015 Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at GSU is sponsoring a [Veteran's Entrepreneurial Boot Camp](#) on Thursday, November 12 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The Boot Camp continues a legacy of supporting veterans as they act in the private sector as current or future business owners. Speakers will include State Senator Tom Cullerton, as well as many business owners and professionals who will share their personal experience and advice.

Dodgeball Tourney Looking for Teams

The Alternative Spring Break Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser is set for Friday, November 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the GSU Gymnasium. Participant fees are \$5 for one person, and \$25 per 6-player team. Friends, clubs, and departments are welcome to create teams. [Registration](#) is required by November 3.

Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair

The [College of Health and Human Services](#) is sponsoring a Career and Internship Fair Tuesday, November 24 from 2-5 p.m. in the CPA lobby. Everyone is welcome—especially those in the fields of healthcare and human services. Be sure to bring resumes!

Register Today for the 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to register for the 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference. 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. [RSVP](#) before Friday, December 4. Please [email](#) or call x4551 with questions.



Facebook Posts of the Week



Response to our post Drs. Jun Zhao & Carlos Ferran from the College of Business won the Best Paper Award:

Brian Vegas Congratulations Dr. Zhao! Enjoyed having you for a professor.



Response to our post GSU's Athletics is now a member of the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference:

FaithfulWhispers Williams Go JAGUARS!

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

Governors State University

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Read More content from the GSU website follows.

Citizenship across the Curriculum Discussed at Symposium

October 26, 2015



Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil was the keynote speaker at an all-campus Citizenship across the Curriculum symposium

On Friday, October 23, Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil was the keynote speaker at an all-campus symposium, which included an interactive look at how GSU can build on its already considerable work on civic engagement – in and out of the classroom. The Citizenship Across the Curriculum and the Campus Symposium was attended by administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Musil is Senior Scholar and Director of Civil Learning and Democracy Initiatives at the [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#), and has authored *“Civic Prompts: Making Civic Learning Routine Across the Disciplines,”* which “addresses the undergraduate major as the next frontier of civic learning.”

During her presentation, Dr. Musil said the 1947 President’s Commission on Higher Education described what the overall goals for higher education should be:

- Education for a fuller realization of democracy in every phase of living.
- Education directly and explicitly for international understanding and cooperation.

- Education for the application of creative imagination and trained intelligence to the solution of social problems and to the administration of public affairs.

She said in 2012, *A Crucible Moment*, a joint project with the U.S. Department of Education, The Global Perspectives Inventory, Inc., and the Association of American Colleges and Universities, “picks up the baton of these three cornerstone goals for higher education. The national report is grounded in the teaching experience of faculty, the research about the impact of civic learning and democratic engagement on students and the community, and a deep conviction that without higher education embracing fully its critical civic mission, U.S. democracy will be put at risk.”

A Crucible Moment describes four dimensions to look for:

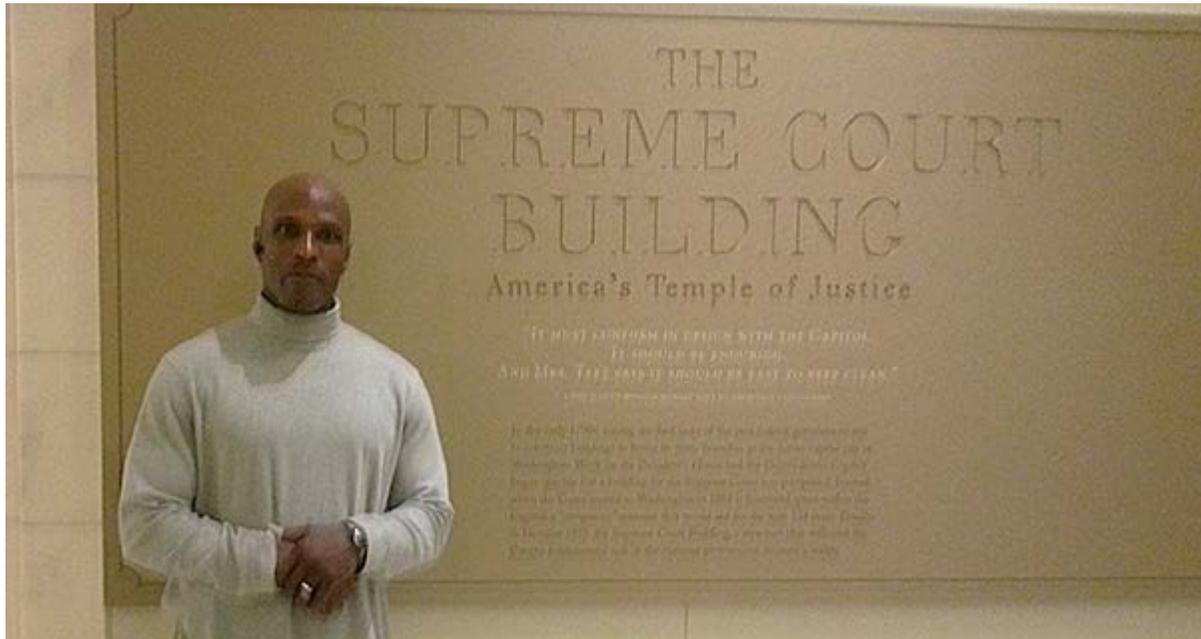
- civic ethos governing campus life
- civic literacy as a goal for every student
- civic inquiry integrated within the majors and general education, and
- civic action as lifelong practice.

Throughout the day, attendees discussed ways they could individually and collectively make a difference in the world of GSU and take action in each of the four specific areas in *A Crucible Moment*.

- Participants also discussed such questions as:
- How can we contribute to creating a civic ethos governing campus life?
- How can we foster civic literacy as a commonplace norm for all of us at GSU?
- How can we integrate questions about wider public issues and consequences within the major and across campus life, including responsibilities as GSU employees?
- How and where can GSU encourage more opportunities to practice various forms of civic action?

Jerry Davis EI is GSU's Lincoln Laureate

October 26, 2015



Jerry Davis EI

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of [The Lincoln Academy of Illinois](#). Student Laureates are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. The 2015 GSU Lincoln Laureate is Jerry Davis EI. He and the other student laureates from around the state will be honored Saturday November 7 in a ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Accompanying Jerry at the ceremony will be, Dr. Lori Glass, Associate Professor, Social Work.

Jerry is a currently a Bachelor of Social Work student in the [College of Health and Human Services](#). Upon graduation in 2016, he will pursue a Masters in Social Work with a concentration primarily toward Families and Children. He is a champion for social justice — working with the traumatized, socio-

economically deprived, and marginalized populations indicative of the inner cities of Chicago where he was raised.

Jerry has utilized his personal and professional experiences to illuminate and champion holistic solutions to injustice. He has presented at various events across the country, including the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Dallas Texas, the Social Work 20th Annual GSU Student Research Council, Kennedy King College Re-integrative Justice, GSU forum on Mass Incarceration/Re-Integrative Justice and the role of Higher Education, and at Columbia University in partnership with the Center For Justice.

The Lincoln Laureate honors individuals whose contributions to the betterment of mankind have been accomplished in or on behalf of the State of Illinois, or, whose achievements have brought honor to the state because of their identity with it, whether by birth or residence, or by their dedication to those principles of democracy and humanity as exemplified by the great Illinoisan whose name it bears. It is to honor senior students at each of the four-year, degree-granting institutions in Illinois for overall excellence, in both curricular and extra-curricular programs.

“Being named the Lincoln Laureate is truly an honor because I do what I do from the heart and to receive such recognition is awesome. To be recognized and not allow ego to divert me keeps me humble and grateful to know that my work is not in vain and I am not in this by myself. There are a host of ingredients that led me to this point: experience, family, mentors, teachers, colleagues, and friends. Therefore I share this moment and carry on the legacy of those whose shoulder I stand on for social, economic, and political justice for the oppressed and marginalized citizens of this great country who have no voice. This is truly a high honor and I have to take time to absorb it. It is my belief that on the day of the ceremony that moment will be mine and words could not describe it, I have had some moments on this journey and I cherish each transition. I am humble and grateful for favor, grace and mercy from God,” he said.

Jerry is active within numerous organizations at GSU—he is specifically proud of the work he has done within Generating Hope (where he is a founding member). Generating Hope is a student organization created to support, advocate for, and empower GSU students who have been impacted by mass incarceration. For almost 16 years, Jerry was trapped in a cycle of destruction—jail, prison and the streets were his life, until an event occurred that changed him forever. While in prison on his birthday in 2010, Jerry learned that his daughter was murdered. Jerry left prison a month after the killing of his daughter, determined that her death would not be in vain, and vowing to make social injustice the cause he would now dedicate his life to.

Jerry began Generating Hope with Dr. Glass and colleagues Terry Banies, Darryl Cooke, and Patricia Miller. What started out as a support group, he said, turned into a movement. “The importance of this movement coincides with my purpose, ‘I just want to help somebody,’ and GSU laid the foundation to continue my work. Dr. Glass, Dr. Phyllis West, Dr. Gerri Outlaw and other professors encourage and support our endeavors including a host of colleagues, community, and definitely our family members. This year we challenged the new admissions application policy which added to it the question, ‘Have you been convicted of a felony,’ known as ‘THE BOX.’ GSU is a great school and the spirit of this school is unprecedented in my worldview, notwithstanding the diversity in my opinion. Generating Hope met with President Maimon, Provost Bordelon, and Dean Valente to discuss this injustice. Our voices were heard by the administration, and out of the meeting, we created allies and will work together to add to

the atmosphere, richness, and Spirit of GSU," he said.

GSU Athletics Accepted into CCAC

October 26, 2015



The GSU Athletic Department received some great news last week when it was announced that GSU was accepted into the [Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference](#) (CCAC).

The CCAC is one of 24 [National Association of Intercollegiate Association](#) (NAIA) conferences, with a membership of colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. GSU becomes one of the few public institutions, and the only public institution in the State of Illinois, in CCAC's portfolio.

Presidents from all 15 conference schools attended the meeting and voted unanimously to accept GSU after a short presentation by President Elaine P. Maimon, Athletic Director Tony Bates, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Aurelio Valente, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Deborah Bordelon.

"Governors State University is proud to be accepted into the CCAC. We admire CCAC's integration of academics and athletics and its strong commitment to the student-athlete. On behalf of the entire GSU community, I want to thank the CCAC presidents for inviting us to join this distinguished Conference," said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon.

GSU AD Bates said he looks forward to the competition being in the conference will provide. "We are

excited to be in one of the toughest conferences in the country, both on and off the court. We hope to continue the CCAC tradition of classroom intellect and hard play in many years to come."

The announcement comes as both the men's and women's basketball teams get set to tip-off their home openers this week. The women will play Clarke University Wednesday, October 28 at 5 p.m., and the men will take the court against Clarke at 7 p.m.

Last week, the men's junior varsity basketball team started its season with a 99-59 victory over Trinity Christian College on October 21. The women's squad opened its season with an 86-26 road loss to Indiana University-South Bend on October 24.

In women's volleyball action, the Jaguars defeated Indiana University Northwest on October 22 in straight sets, 25-18, 25-21, 25-17. Junior Hayley Wacker finished the game with 12 kills, 3 assists and 12 digs while freshman Erika Halverson put up 6 kills and 13 assists. The match was dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness with players and spectators encouraged to wear pink items of clothes.

The men's and women's cross country teams wrapped up their seasons at the Sauk Valley Cross Country Invite in Dixon, Illinois. Junior Richard Gray led the men with a time of 34:12 in the 8K race. Freshman Terrell Littles finished in 35:52, and senior Steven Scott finished in 42:58. On the women's side, sophomore Dominique Hunt broke the Jaguars 5K record with a time of 25:40. Assessing the first year programs, Head Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach Kevin Kredens said, "I am happy with our performance this year. We have learned what adjustments that we need to make to come stronger than ever."

Outstanding Educator Thanks GSU

October 26, 2015



Lauren Musielewicz

Lauren Musielewicz teaches innovative economics lessons to her 3-5 grade students at Meadow Ridge Elementary School in Orland Park. In fact, her lessons are so clever and beneficial to students that she is being recognized this week with the *3M Outstanding Economic Educator Award*. And where did Lauren find workshops and materials that helped her design some of her engaging economic learning experiences? The [Office of Economic Education](#) at GSU.

When Lauren started attending Office of Economic Education workshops, she was teaching first graders and apprehensive about teaching economics to children that age. "Once I started attending the workshops at GSU and gathering the curricular materials, I kind of got hooked," she said. "I could see that the lessons were really about decision-making and not just money and the stock market. That's when I started implementing the lessons in the classroom."

One of the first classroom activities she participated in was the Economics Concepts Poster Contest in which students illustrate one of six economics concepts for a chance for their drawing to appear in a statewide poster. Her students regularly earn regional and state awards for their insightful drawings. "GSU does a great job in letting teachers across the region know about the contest and the students really enjoy it," she said.

Lauren also designs her own classroom projects such as "Chocolate Economics" and the Region-omics

Unit that challenges students to create their own business and approach investors in a "Shark Tank" simulation. "The 'Shark Tank' idea developed as an extension of materials I received from GSU. Retired business owners come to my class for 4th grade enrichment students and act as the 'sharks.'"

As she became more of a regular workshop participant, Office of Economic Education Director Sheryl Szot Gallaher asked Lauren to facilitate the breakout sessions at the workshops for Kindergarten-2nd grade teachers, advocating for others to include economics in their classwork. "We teach teachers how to teach economics to kids," Lauren said. "Because teachers have so much on their plates already, many times they are worried they won't have the time or resources to teach another thing, but we tell them the economic lessons can be embedded into what they are already teaching."

Lauren is excited to be receiving the Outstanding Economic Educator Award and is looking forward to continuing her association with GSU "It really has been wonderful. There are so many materials offered through the Office of Economic Education. I most definitely owe a big thank you to this organization for its guidance and support," she said.

The award will be presented at the Econ Illinois annual Economic Education Day and 3M Educator Awards Luncheon held at the Union League Club of Chicago on October 27. It honors educators who have a sustained history of commitment and service to economic education by providing leadership for economics in their school or the community, showing evidence of professional growth in economic education, and having affected student achievement or growth in economic understanding.