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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



November 2, 2015

Vol. 23, Issue 1

News

Happy Birthday Dual Degree Program!



The [Dual Degree Program](#) is celebrating a birthday. In 2010, GSU launched the DDP, a unique partnership with Chicagoland community colleges that provides full-time students with an excellent pathway to earn quality, accessible, and affordable associate and bachelor's degrees.

"Five years ago, Governors State University convened the Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion. Together we created the Dual Degree Program, which has expanded and succeeded beyond even our ambitious dreams. Much of the credit goes to Dr. Linda Uzureau for her vision, commitment, and energy. While changing lives for the better in Chicagoland, the DDP has become a national model for student success," said President Elaine P. Maimon.

[Read More](#)

New I-57 Interchange Means Better Access to GSU



GSU Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Mitchell speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony October 30 for the opening of the I-57/Stuenkel Rd. interchange. GSU Director of Governmental and Community Relations Maureen Kelly (in orange) also represented the university at the ceremony.

Getting to and from GSU got much easier with the opening last week of the \$43.2 million I-57/Stuenkel Rd. project and the \$4.2 million reconstruction of University Parkway. Both projects will improve traffic flow and accessibility to GSU and the surrounding community.

[READ MORE](#) on page 19

IT's Mizera Featured in Magazine



Pete Mizera, Associate Vice President for Information Technology

Pete Mizera, Associate Vice President for Information Technology, is featured in the latest edition of [EdTech Magazine](#). EdTech focuses on tech issues faced by education leaders, administrators, and educators. In the article, published October 27, Pete talks about the recent upgrade of GSU's network to keep up with the increasing demands needed by the university. "What we have rivals large public and private universities, even some Fortune 500 companies that have substantially larger budgets," he says in the article.

"Dinner at the Prairie"



One GSU family caring for another; one family sharing its love of cooking to help nourish the bodies and feed the souls a group from GSU in need of some good home cooking. That is what will happen on Sunday evening, November 8 when Joyce Coleman, GSU's Associate Vice President for Human Resources & Diversity and Title IX Coordinator, and her husband and family will be preparing "Dinner at the Prairie" for residents of Prairie Place.

Joyce and her family will treat the students, many of whom are away from home for the first time, to a special menu of fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, candied sweet potatoes, and homemade desserts. "Cooking for them is my family's way of providing them with a meal that shows my gratitude for them being here at GSU," Joyce said. According to Betsy Joseph, Director, Auxiliary Services & University Housing, Joyce and her family want to cook the meal for the students "just because." That's the GSU spirit in action! "I think this is something that represents the spirit and caring of the GSU community," Joseph said.

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!

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.

Beginning today, the [myGSU Faculty & Staff Portal](#) is 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. If you have comments or questions, please email the [portal team](#).

ALAS Day of the Dead Celebrates Lost Loved Ones



GSU's Association of Latin American Students ([ALAS](#)) has set up a Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar in the Hall of Governors. The altar will be up through Thursday, November 5. Students, staff, and faculty are welcome to participate by bringing pictures of loved ones to room A 2133. They will be placed on the altar if space is available. Please bring duplicates of photos and not originals. The Day of the Dead is a Southern Mexican and Central American tradition, in which the gates of heaven are open November 1st (for children) & 2nd (for adults) for 24 hours, the souls are allowed to return to earth. Day of the Dead is not meant to be a sad or frightening holiday, but an uplifting time to remember loved ones who have died. This is a joyous occasion to remember the people we have lost.

ALAS members will be remembering people they have lost in their family and leaving some of their favorite foods and treats they enjoyed while they were on earth, so they are not hungry on their return to heaven.

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 by [clicking here on this link](#).

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

Buzz

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](#).

Pre-Columbian Art of Mesoamerica Open Art Class



Objects of art from GSU's permanent collection of Pre-Columbian art of Mesoamerica are currently on display in The Center for Performing Arts Box Office corridor through November 30. The collection features authentic ceramic works dating back to the Middle Formative Period (900BC).

Those wishing to learn more about art from this period can attend an open Pre-Columbian art class with Professor Emeritus Dr. Arthur Bourgeois Tuesday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. in D Building, Room 34180. The class will meet for about an hour to hear about the culture and the objects. The group will then walk to the CPA Box Office Gallery to look at the objects and ask questions. For more information contact

[Jeff Stevenson](#) at 708.534.4021.

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](#).

Send us Your Photos for Year in Review Compilation



We are currently collecting photos from the GSU community to use in a Year in Review compilation. Send us pictures you have taken since January 1 capturing the Spirit of GSU, whether in a classroom, at an activity, or athletic event, or even you with your friends in GSU gear. We want your photos! [Email](#) them by December 11 and you can be included in the Year in Review.

Freshman Fridays-A Great Decision Made Easy

Are you ready to start your undergraduate degree? Are you anxiously awaiting your admission? [Freshman Fridays](#) are perfect for you! Visit GSU, submit your completed application, official ACT scores and official transcript(s), and get your admission decision all in the same day. Tour our campus, meet with financial aid advisors, speak with an admission counselor, and learn about student resources. The next Freshman Friday is November 13. For [more information](#) please contact 708.534.4490 or [Register](#) today!

Are you Ready for Transfer Thursdays?



Transfer Thursday is when you visit GSU, submit your completed application and official transcript(s), and get your admission decision all in the same day. If you have earned your Associate degree or at least 45 semester hours of college coursework; have 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA and can obtain official transcripts from your previously attended institutions(s) you are ready for Transfer Thursday!

So if you are ready to complete your undergraduate degree or are anxiously awaiting your admission and want to avoid the stress, Transfer Thursdays are perfect for you! Tour our campus, learn how to finance your education, speak with an admission counselor, and learn about student resources.

The next Transfer Thursday is November 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., but are held intermittently throughout the semester. [Click here](#) to register

ALAS Tamale Fundraiser

The Association of Latin American Students ([ALAS](#)) is hosting a Tamale Fundraiser Wednesday, November 4th from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Enjoy tamales, stuffed jalapeño peppers, rice, drinks and dessert. Cash Only!

Excel, Word, PowerPoint or EndNote Workshops in the GSU Library

The GSU Library is offering workshops this week in Excel, Word, and PowerPoint for those who want to learn or brush up on their skills. In addition, there will be three sessions on using EndNote for Research Papers. All in the GSU community are welcome to attend.

Space is limited so it will be helpful to email the instructor of the workshop you plan to attend. Workshops are listed below.

Introductory Excel, Word, and PowerPoint Workshops

Wednesday, November 4, Room D2401B

Intro to Excel	10 a.m.–12 p.m.	dnadler@govst.edu
Intro to Word	2 p.m.–3 p.m.	jegolf@govst.edu
Intro to PowerPoint	3 p.m.–4 p.m.	lsmith14@govst.edu

Friday, November 6, Room D2401B

Intro to Excel	1 p.m.–3 p.m.	dnadler@govst.edu
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Using EndNote for Research Papers

Each session is limited to five attendees.

swagh@govst.edu

Tuesday, November 3

Room D2401A

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4

Room D2401C

10 a.m.–11 a.m.

Intro to PowerPoint

3 p.m.–4 p.m.

lsmith14@govst.edu

Friday, November 6, Room D2401B

Intro to Excel

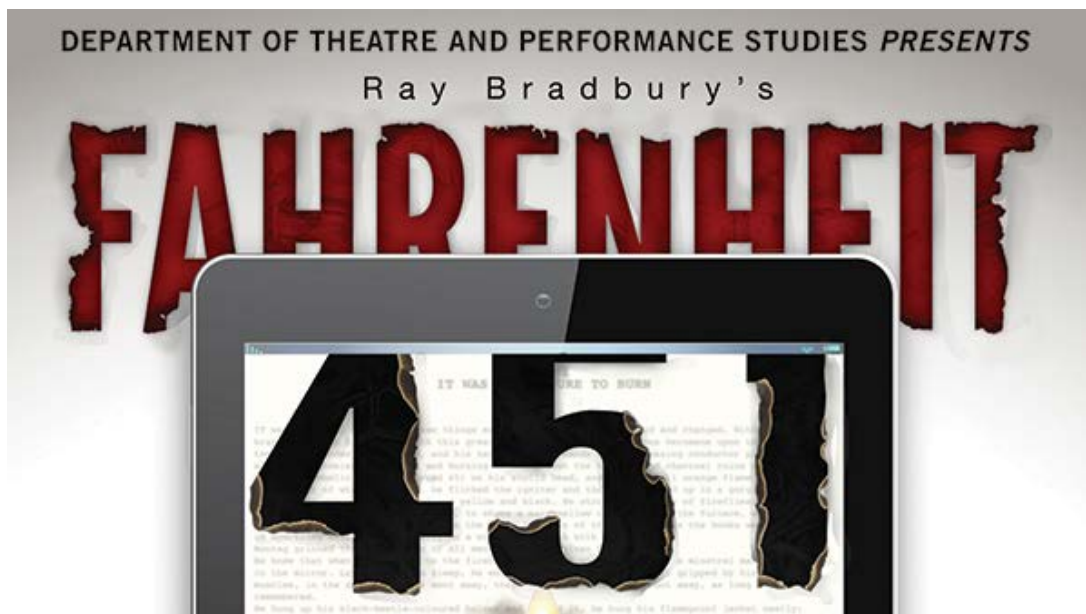
1 p.m.–3 p.m.

dnadler@govst.edu

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 today from 3-7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. At an Open Forum on Tuesday, November 3 at 5 p.m. in the Café Annex you are encouraged share your experiences at GSU and ideas to enhance your educational pursuits as a non-traditional student.

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!

"It's...On Us" National Campaign Week



On Thursday, November 12 we will be addressing the national issue of campus sexual assault in conjunction with the ["It's... On Us" National Campaign Week](#). There will be a taping from 5-6 p.m. and a pizza reception from 6-7 p.m. Seats are limited. Students must [RSVP](#) to receive attendance email instructions.

Veteran's Day Events at GSU

Veteran's Day is November 11, and the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at GSU has events during the week scheduled to help honor the university's veteran community. On Tuesday, November 10 from 2-7 p.m., all veterans who are thinking about attending GSU are encouraged to attend the Veterans Week Open House - Marine Corps Birthday Celebration in VRC - A2108. On Veteran's Day, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. the GSU community is encouraged to participate in the Veteran's Day Point-One K Race-Running with the Jaguars. "Walk, run or crawl with the Jaguars" starting in the Hall of Governors. Contact [Kevin Smith](#) for more information.

To coincide with Veteran's Day, the 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.

"Paper Tigers" Screening at CPA



The Illinois Education Association, GSU - College of Education, and the Southland Education and Health Initiative cordially invite you to a screening of the movie ["Paper Tigers"](#), Wednesday, November 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts.

The film is an intimate look into the lives of selected students at Lincoln High School, an alternative school that specializes in educating traumatized youth. Set amidst the rural community of Walla Walla, Washington, the film intimately examines the inspiring promise of Trauma Informed Communities - a movement that is showing great promise in healing youth struggling with the dark legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). [Reserve your seat](#) today.

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.

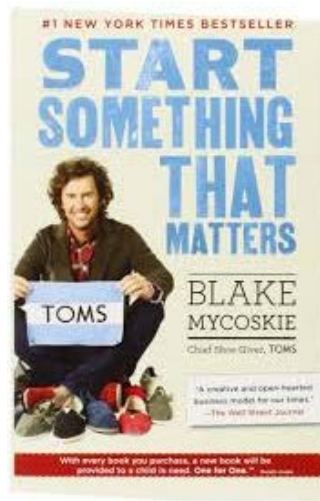
Students are encouraged to continue revising their autobiography after it has been graded - in preparation for the contest.

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.

"Start Something that Matters" Summit



Celebrate the determination of local people to have a global impact at the "Start Something that Matters" Summit on Friday, November 20, from 1:30-4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. The event is in being held as part of GSU's [One Book One University](#) activities centered on the book "[Start Something that Matters](#)" by Blake Mycoskie.



Thea Polancic



Harry Rhodes

Presentations by local experts whose efforts have made a positive impact in the lives of others will be featured. The keynote address, "The Heart of the Matter," will be given by Thea Polancic, founder and executive director of the Chicago Chapter of [Conscious Capitalism, Inc.](#), and advocate for the power of business as a force for good.

Also at the event, Harry Rhodes, executive director and co-founder of [Growing Home](#), Chicago's leading organic agriculture social enterprise focused on empowering people and communities, will present "Sustainability and Social Justice: Social Enterprise, Transitional Jobs and Community Development."

Additional speakers include [Criminal Justice](#) Adjunct David Deeds presenting "Combating Human Trafficking" and Shaniqua Jones of the [Office of Continuing Education](#) presenting "Implementing Restorative Justice."

GSU to Celebrate International Education Week



Prepare to be impressed by the diverse and rich culture that surrounds us. GSU will offer a colorful mixture of dance, food, and exchange of knowledge during [International Education Week](#) November 16-20. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S Department of State and the U.S department of Education to celebrate and promote international education and exchange all around the world. If you have any questions, stop by the [Office of International Services](#) in GMT 168 or contact [Amy Schoenberg](#) at 708.235.7157.

Events

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.

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](#).

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 Wednesday, 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.

Save the Date

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.

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.

All Nursing Programs Information Session: BSN, MSN, DNP & FNP Certificate



Students interested in learning more about any of the Nursing programs offered by the [College of Health and Human Services](#) are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday, November 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at GSU (location to be announced).

Prospective students will have the opportunity to obtain information about the RN to BSN program, the various Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Family Nurse Practitioner program. To RSVP for the Information Session, contact [Kelly Robinson](#), or 708.534.4035.

Fall Vendor and Craft Fair

Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the annual Fall Vendor and Craft Fair, Thursday, November 19, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Shoppers can beat the Black Friday crowds and shop for one-of-a-kind gifts, arts and crafts, and unique creations. The Vendor Fair is free and open to the public. Refreshments are available for purchase. The fair is sponsored by the GSU

[Civil Service Senate](#). Interested vendors and crafters are encouraged to participate. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call (708) 235-7559 or [email](#).

Don't Miss Chévere de Chicago



[Chévere de Chicago](#), the city's leading Latin/Jazz/Funk/Blues Band, will be at the Center for Performing Arts Saturday, November 21 at 8 p.m. Composer, virtuoso pianist, and master harmonica player, Howard Levy, will perform with his long-time comrades in a night filled with Latin inspiration. The band will also welcome five Latin dancers and special guest Grammy-nominated Trumpeter, Victor Garcia (of CALJE, Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble). [Tickets](#) are just \$28. Order tickets by phone at 708.235.2222 or in person at the CPA Box Office. Groups of 10 or more, students, seniors and patrons who purchase a flex package of four or more shows are eligible for discounts.

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!

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.

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.

Sports

Basketball Home Openers Highlight the Week in GSU Sports

It was a rough week for GSU sports as the women's volleyball team went winless and the men's and women's basketball teams lost their first home games of the year.

The [women's volleyball](#) team traveled to North Park University October 28 and despite putting up 34 kills, 29 assists, 51 digs and 5 blocks, the Jaguars lost in straight sets, 25-21, 26-24, 25-18. Home cooking didn't help the team in its October 29 match against Indiana University North Central. Despite a team-high of 5 kills and 15 digs from Hayley Wacker and 13 digs and three blocks from Briana Clark, the Jaguars lost, 25-13, 25-21, 25-18. The team is at home against Clarke University Friday, November 6 at 6 p.m., and against Judson College Saturday, November 7 at 1 p.m.

The [women's basketball](#) team dropped its home opener to Clarke University 57-46 on October 28. Guard GeLina Webb led the team with 12 points and 4 assists. Guard Naihla Williams contributed 10 rebounds for the Jaguars. The women are home against Robert Morris University-Chicago on Wednesday, November 3 at 5 p.m.

The [men's basketball](#) team fell to Clarke 72-49 in its home opener October 28. Center Deon Thomas had a game-high 13 rebounds and 6 blocks for GSU. On Saturday, October 31, the men traveled to Elgin to take on Judson College. Despite freshman Deon Thomas' double-double of 21 points and 13 rebounds, the Jaguars lost an overtime thriller 91-86. Sophomore Jalen Miller added 16 points in the loss.

Facebook Posts of the Week



Response to our post Authors Darryl Cooke and Esaun Keller discuss their books at "Insights: Life Before & After Prison":

Kimberly Washington They were very good last night!



Response to our post OK, GSU. Let's see those Halloween costumes!:

Del Lara Her first Halloween! GSU Alumni!



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.

Happy Birthday Dual Degree Program!

November 02, 2015



The [Dual Degree Program](#) is celebrating a birthday. Five years ago GSU launched the DDP, a unique partnership with Chicagoland community colleges that provides full-time students with an excellent pathway to earn quality, accessible, and affordable associate and bachelor's degrees.

"Five years ago, Governors State University convened the Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion. Together we created the Dual Degree Program, which has expanded and succeeded beyond even our ambitious dreams. Much of the credit goes to Dr. Linda Uzureau for her vision, commitment, and energy. While changing lives for the better in Chicagoland, the DDP has become a national model for student success," said President Elaine P. Maimon.

In the beginning, DDP agreements were signed with community college partners in the region-Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College. Since then, the program has grown to 17 college partners, including the City Colleges of Chicago.

In those five years, 360 DDP students have attained their associate degrees and transferred to GSU (starting in 2012); 103 students have graduated (beginning in 2014); 94 percent have graduated, transferred or are still enrolled at GSU. "We have surpassed my wildest expectations," said Dr.

Uzureau, GSU's specialist in community college alliances.

Uzureau said the future of the DDP is bright, as there are currently 431 students currently enrolled at GSU partner community colleges. The candidates, she noted, have never been stronger. "The student essays were a joy to read: compelling personal stories; commitment to academic achievement; involvement in campus activities in a meaningful, not just resume-filling, way. The recommendation letters from community college faculty and staff were strong. Many noted that the student being recommended was one of their top—if not the top—students in their program. Scholarships will be awarded to students from each of our "big five," as well as two students from CCC."

The program's pledge to attract more—and more highly qualified—community college transfer students, is being fulfilled. "The reward is witnessing this kind of success, especially with the many first-generation, low income students we serve," Uzureau said.

New I-57 Interchange Means Better Access to GSU

November 02, 2015



GSU Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Mitchell speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony October 30 for the opening of the I-57/Stuenkel Rd. interchange. GSU Director of Governmental and Community Relations Maureen Kelly (in orange) also represented the university at the ceremony.

Getting to and from GSU got much easier with the opening last week of the \$43.2 million I-57/Stuenkel Rd. project and the \$4.2 million reconstruction of University Parkway. Both projects will improve traffic flow and accessibility to GSU and the surrounding community.

The Village of University Park hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 30 attended by GSU's Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Mitchell and GSU Director of Governmental and Community Relations Maureen Kelly. U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly (2nd), Illinois Rep. Anthony DeLuca (80th), and University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington were among the 15 elected officials and representatives from state, county and local agencies who spoke about their involvement with the project and what it means

to the region.



University Park Mayor Vivian E. Covington cuts the ribbon to officially open the I-57/Stuenkel Rd. interchange on October 30.

The I-57/Stuenkel Rd. project includes a new bridge over I-57, 1.3 miles of construction of a new interchange including new interchange ramps, pavement reconstruction and widening, new culverts, stream relocation, striping, traffic signals and other related work on I-57 at Stuenkel Rd. /University Parkway. "This new construction will make it easier for GSU students and staff to get to the university from I-57 as well as I-80," Mitchell said. "Providing students with easier access and reduced travel times to GSU is critical."

The project from Central Ave. to Cicero Ave., includes 0.71 miles of pavement widening, resurfacing, storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalks, traffic signals, and a multi-use path through the largest industrial park in Illinois. "Better transportation is the key to economic success. This interchange will help people trying to get to GSU and represents a turning point for University Park," Kelly said.