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GSU View

University Newsletters

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11-16-2015

## GSU View, 2015-11-16

Office of Marketing and Communications

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



November 16, 2015

Vol. 23, Issue 3

## News

### President Maimon to hold Three Chat Events this week



President Elaine P. Maimon will be meeting with groups of students and faculty and staff this week to talk about the state of the university, the state's budget uncertainty, and any other topics attendees wish to bring up.

All faculty and staff are invited to have hot chocolate with the President: Wednesday on Tuesday, November 17, at 10 a.m., in Engbretson Hall. RSVP's are not required but would be appreciated. RSVP to [pperdue@govst.edu](mailto:pperdue@govst.edu) or x4130.

Students have two opportunities to meet with the President. On Wednesday, November 18, at 6 p.m. in E Lounge and on Thursday, November 19, at 6 p.m. in the great room of Prairie Place. No RSVPs are required.

“We realize that people have concerns and questions about the budget and we want to encourage an open dialogue. These three meetings will allow us to have a real conversation. I welcome questions and suggestions and am looking forward to hearing what you have to say,” said President Maimon.

## For Veteran Entrepreneurs, the Sky’s the Limit



*Calvin Young of Sky Farmer was one of the 120 attendees at the Veteran’s Entrepreneurial Boot Camp November 12.*

Calvin Young has an idea. He wants farmers to be able to see distressed areas in their crops while sitting in their living rooms. For Young, who has served in the Illinois Army National Guard for 21 years, the idea has bloomed into a business called Sky Farmer, and he came to GSU to find ways to make it a success.

[READ MORE](#)

## International Students Travel Many Paths to GSU



*GSU Computer Science student Keerthi Sinkara.*

When she went to her first Halloween party in the U.S. last year, Keerthi Sinkara didn't realize she was about to change her life, but that is exactly what happened.

[READ MORE](#) 'cb'dUj Y&\$

## Restorative Justice Awareness Day, November 18



*Dawn C. Ewing*

In her first Criminal Justice class, Dawn C. Ewing overheard students talking about Restorative Justice (RJ). Dawn, who will graduate in December with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, did some research on RJ and made the connection that grief impacts how people respond to life.

[READ MORE](#) on page 23

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## Thanksgiving Weekend Shuttle Schedule



Please note that the GSU Shuttle will be operating on a Holiday Schedule over the Thanksgiving Weekend. The [shuttle schedule](#) is available online.

## Food Drive Needs Donations



Please bring your nonperishable food, toiletries, and personal care items for the Food Drive for the GSU Food Pantry. Collection bins are located at the C, D, and F entrances during the month of November. The Food Drive is sponsored by the GSU Chapter of Lambda Lambda, UPI 4100, and [Student Affairs](#).

## Attend an Excel, Word, or PowerPoint Workshop in the GSU Library

The library is offering workshops in Excel, Word and PowerPoint.



All three workshops will be offered on Wednesday, November 18 in Room D2401B in the library. The schedule is as follows:

\*Intro to Excel: 2 - 4 p.m., [dnadler@govst.edu](mailto:dnadler@govst.edu)

\*Intro to Word: 5 - 6 p.m., [jegolf@govst.edu](mailto:jegolf@govst.edu)

\*Intro to PowerPoint: 6 - 7 p.m., [lsmith14@govst.edu](mailto:lsmith14@govst.edu)

Space is limited, please email the instructor to let them know if you will be attending or if you have any questions.

## Study Abroad Fair

In celebration of International Education Week, the Office of International Services is hosting a [Study Abroad Fair](#) in the Hall of Governors on Tuesday, November 17 from Noon-4:00 p.m. Representatives from various organizations including the Passport Agency will be on campus to showcase their offerings. There will also be a series of presentations during that time in the Hall of Honors.

Students interested in finding out about the scholarships, fellowships, and awards geared toward Undergraduate study abroad opportunities and Graduate Program of Studies overseas should visit the Prestigious Scholarship Table at the Fair. Students will find the right program for their career goals and how to write an excellent scholarship essay. They will also be placed with a representative who can lead them through the scholarship process from start to finish.

## Spring, 2016 Intellectual Life Grantees Announced

The Intellectual Life Grant Committee has announced the grantees for the Spring 2016 semester. The mission of the Intellectual Life Committee is to expand the intellectual opportunities available to the GSU community and South Suburbs; to contribute to the enhancement of intellectual pursuits, and to increase the growth of and participation in intellectual endeavors.

The Spring, 2016 grantees and their programs are:

- Elizabeth Johnson – **Has the Playing Field Been Levelled: Which Side are You on?**
- Sonya Lorelle – **The Intersection of Culture and Mental Health: Perspectives from Bhutan**
- Andrae Marak – **Rethinking Brazilian Race Relations in the Era of Affirmative Action**
- Lori Montalbano – **Lessons from the Eagle Mentoring Program, 2009-2015**
- Daniel Nearing – **In the Game**
- Patricia Robey – **Leveraging Diversity in School and in Life**
- Linda Uzureau, Rupert Evans, Robert Clay, and Roshaunda Ross – **In My Father's House**, featuring Che Rhymefest Smith
- Ellie Walsh – **Celebrating Women's History: Women in the Mexican Revolution**

"We received more than 20 grant applications, which is an unprecedented number. We had quite a difficult time making our selections because the quality of programs, events, and activities was outstanding," said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library and Chair of the Intellectual Life Committee. "We can look forward to a very engaging spring semester with all of the programs that will be scheduled. On behalf of the Intellectual Life Committee, I would like to thank all who applied and encourage those who did not receive grants to apply again."

For more information about the Intellectual Life Committee, please contact Lydia at [lruetten@govst.edu](mailto:lruetten@govst.edu).

## Café Menu will have International Flavor this Week



Celebrate International Education Week all week in the [GSU Café!](#) The cafeteria will be serving up delicious menu items with an international flavor. Enjoy Indian food on Monday, Thai on Tuesday, Polynesian on Wednesday, Central American delicacies on Thursday, and a taste of Morocco on Friday.

## Sharing Books this Holiday Season



Throughout the month of November the [Student Education Association](#) (SEA) at GSU will be holding a "Giving Tree Book Drive." The goal is to share the gift of reading to those less fortunate this year. During November, collection sites for book drop off will be at the Main Entrance, G-building Atrium, Athletics and Recreation building, and at Dr. Katy Hisrich's office (G236). They are collecting new and used books for children ages 0-18 years, as well as books for parents. Examples include literature, activity books, and magazines. At the end of November, all donated books will be distributed between the Ronald McDonald House Foundation, local homeless shelters, and military bases. The SEA is excited to organize this project and hopes the GSU community can come together to make a difference this holiday season!

## GSU HLC Accreditation Student Survey and Request for Public Comments

The Higher Learning Commission is the institutional accrediting association that comprehensively

evaluates our school. Governors State University is going through the process this year. Your comments about your experiences are very important. A summary of your input will be provided to the team of representatives from the Higher Learning Commission who will be visiting our school. The answers you give on this survey are anonymous. Your participation is completely voluntary. The Higher Learning Commission and Governors State University will not have access to your identity.

Thank you for taking five minutes to complete this short survey. The survey will be open through November 18.

[Click here to begin the survey.](#)

Governors State University is also 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**

## 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 autobiographies after they have 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.

## 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!

## Employee News

### Employees Leave Plan Summary Information Added to Portal

Leave Plan Summary

Employee leave plan eligibility and accruals are determined by several factors, including full or part-time status as well as appointment/classification type (Civil Service, Faculty, Administrative & Professional etc.) and job.

Here are some facts you need to know:

- Leave accruals and balances are reported in hours, not days
- To ensure that your Leave Plan Summary is always up-to-date, **non-exempt** employees should submit their time records by the last day of the pay period and **exempt** employees should submit their time records by the last day of the month.

Leave Plan	Description	Leave Allowed Date	Accrual Rate	Accrual Limit	Maximum Carryover	Current Balance
SANC	SICK-Non Cumulative	11/01/12				
VAP	VAC-A&P, DivCh, ASP, Lib, InDv, OC	11/01/12				
SAC	Sick - A&P, DivCh, ASP, Outreach	11/01/12				

OK

**Leave Plan:** This code is used by the Colleague system for each leave plan

**Description:** This is the description of the leave plan

**Leave Allowed Date:** The first date that you may use the leave you have accrued

**Accrual Rate:** The number of hours of each leave that you accrue each pay period

**Accrual Limit:** Your accrual limit in hours for each leave plan

**Maximum Carryover:** Your maximum carryover in hours from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year

**Current Balance:** Your current leave plan balance in hours

In order to help employees better understand their balances in the Leave Plan Summary, additional information has been added. If you have any questions regarding your leave balances, please contact the [payroll department](#) at 708.235.7628.

## Events

### Visiting Artist Troy Nickle



Troy Nickle

[Troy Nickle](#) is an artist living in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada whose practice encompasses a variety of ideas and processes that stem from working in relation to the landscape and in nature. He will be visiting GSU November 16-20 to create a site specific, temporary, land art piece. Student volunteers will be able to sign up to assist with the project. Troy will also be doing a talk about his work, visiting classes, and installing related work in the Skylight Gallery in GSU's Library. Watch for announcements about the schedule and ways to get involved - coming soon!

## "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.

## 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

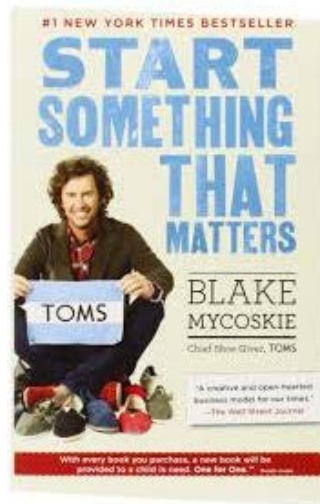


Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the annual Fall Vendor and Craft Fair, Thursday, November 19, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Shoppers can beat the Black Friday crowds and shop for one-of-a-kind gifts, arts and crafts, and unique creations. The Vendor Fair is free and open 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](#).

## Undocumented Students Seminar

What does the term "undocumented" student mean? Please come out and learn more about this ever growing diverse population of students at the Supporting and Serving Undocumented Students Seminar on Thursday, November 19 at 10 a.m. in the Hall of Honors. This will be a great opportunity to learn about resources we have available at GSU as well as be enlightened on current trends and policies on how to assist undocumented students in their educational pursuits. For more information [email](#) or call x7619.

## "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."

## 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.

## Save the Date

### Healthcare Professionals Career Workshop



Are you a Healthcare Professional starting the job search soon? Join a panel of Human Resource professionals to hear from the experts themselves and understand all aspects of the hiring process specific to the healthcare industry. "Negotiating Job Offers for Healthcare Professionals," sponsored by the Graduate Professional Network and [Office of Career Services](#), will be held Monday, November 23 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. Light refreshments will be served. Contact [Matt Gentry](#) for any questions.

### Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration





Come celebrate and be a part of the inaugural Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, Monday, November 23 at 7 p.m. in Sherman Hall. The Pre- Kwanzaa Celebration will consist of a libation ceremony, lighting of candles, special performances and keynote speaker. The ceremony will reflect a key element of Kwanzaa, according to Malauna Karenga, PhD, founder—to bring the community together so that it can collectively reflect on "the rich resource(s) and meaning of a people's culture" and to individually and collectively affirm how they will contribute to enhancing the culture. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, [email](#) or call 708.534.4551.

## **Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair**

The [Health and Human Services](#) Career and Internship fair, hosted by the [Office of Career Services](#) is 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.

## Master of Occupational Therapy Information Session

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 to 6 p.m., in Room G 157 at Governors State University. The next scheduled information session will be held Wednesday, December 2. Attendees are encouraged to bring unofficial copies of transcripts. For more information, contact [Patricia Kalvelage](#).

## 2016 Black History Month

Submit your program idea today for the 2016 Black History Month Calendar. The 2016 theme for Black History Month is "Black Lives Matter." Cultural heritage months are an excellent way to expose and increase understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity for faculty, staff and students. Black History Month will provide shared learning opportunities designed to increase awareness, acquire knowledge, and develop competencies that will strengthen our campus community, broaden our understanding of diversity, and promote mutual respect and multicultural sensitivity. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016BHM> to submit your program today. The deadline is Friday, December 11. For [more information](#) or inquiries please call x4551.

## Submit Programs for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Program submissions are being accepted for the 2016 Sexual Assault Awareness Month to be held in April. The 2016 theme is Prevention Is Possible. Please [submit](#) your program idea soon. For more information please contact [Kelly McCarthy](#) at or call x3966. Deadline for submission is Friday, January 29.

## Black Women Rock Nominations

"Black Women Rock" (BWR) celebrates the outstanding achievements of Black female students, faculty, and staff at GSU. Inspired by BET's Black Girls Rock, BWR aims to empower women to pursue their personal aspirations, encourage women to support others who are making positive strides and enlighten women on tools for success. The 4th Annual Black Women Rock will take place Saturday, February 27, 2016. We invite you to [submit a nomination](#) for the 4th Annual Black Women Rock Awards. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 22, 2016. For more information or inquiries, please call x4551 or [email](#).

## Sports

### Tough Week for Jaguar Basketball



It was a winless week for the men's and women's basketball teams as the squads came up short against some tough opposition.

The [men](#) lost 107-81 to the University of St. Francis in a home game on November 10. Freshman Jomari Jones led the Jaguars with 22 points, with freshman Christopher Seaton and junior Willie Lipsey III each adding 10 points.

The Jaguars didn't fare much better in the Roosevelt University Tournament in Chicago over the weekend. The men lost 89-74 to Cardinal Stritch on November 13, despite freshman Deon Thomas' double-double of 15 points and 11 rebounds. On November 14, the Jaguars lost to Roosevelt University 93-77. Thomas led the team with another double-double of 23 points, 14 rebounds. Freshman Dalvin Echols added 18 points and 7 assists.

On the [women's](#) side, the Jaguars lost at home to Indiana University South Bend 60-53 on November 10. Center Raven Phillips scored seven points and had a game-high 10 rebounds. Junior Marlynda Bishop finished the game with a team-high 12 points. The team's fortunes didn't change on November 14, as it dropped another home game, this time to Robert Morris University-Chicago 95-54.

Both squads will be at home Saturday, November 21 against Mount Mercy College. The women tip-off at 1 p.m. and the men will start at 3 p.m.

#### Facebook Posts of the Week



*Response to our post: GSU has one of the best networks of any college. Pete Mizera, Associate VP for IT explains how we got there in EdTech Magazine:*

**Norma E. Scarborough** That is outstanding. GSU is moving forward.



*Response to our post: The student-worker program at GSU provides students with direct experience in a work setting. Find out how it has helped Jessica Roeda:*

**Marlo Ingram** I love her attitude. She is great to be around and very helpful.

**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.

## For Veteran Entrepreneurs, the Sky's the Limit

November 16, 2015



*Calvin Young of Sky Farmer was one of the 120 attendees at the Veteran's Entrepreneurial Boot Camp November 12.*

Calvin Young has an idea. He wants farmers to be able to see distressed areas in their crops while sitting in their living rooms. For Young, who has served in the Illinois Army National Guard for 21 years, the idea has bloomed into a business called Sky Farmer, and he came to GSU to find ways to make it a success.

Young was one of the 120 attendees at the [Illinois Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC) at GSU's 13th annual Veteran's Entrepreneurial Boot Camp November 12, and said he came away with a "plethora" of knowledge he will use to get his 18-month-old start-up company off the ground.

For business-minded veterans, the Boot Camp is a full day of workshops and networking events that provides practical guidance for business owners on a variety of topics from experts, many of them



veterans themselves.

Young said the resources he found at the Boot Camp would help his business and would be beneficial to any veteran considering business ownership. "This is phenomenal for veterans," he said. "I have had conversations with many of my veteran friends who would like to start a business, but they don't know how to take it to the next step. This event allows them to start getting the information they need to start creating a business plan, how to think about money and getting funds to start their businesses."



*Illinois State Senators Tom Cullerton (left) (23rd) and Napoleon Harris (15th) spoke at the Boot Camp luncheon.*

Illinois State Senators Tom Cullerton (23rd) and Napoleon Harris (15th) addressed the attendees over lunch. Cullerton was the keynote speaker and said that being a veteran himself, he knows better than most the difficult waters business owners face in Illinois. He told the group that building a business is a challenge for anyone, but veterans have tools for success. "The state puts a lot of hurdles in front of you to operate a business, but they are not insurmountable. Our military training gives us an ability to solve problems put in front of us," he said.

Events like the SBDC Boot Camp and the daily work of the GSU [Veteran's Resource Center](#) (VRC) have enabled the university to be named to *U.S. Veterans Magazine's Best of the Best List* for 2015, as one of the publication's Top Veteran-Friendly Schools. The VRC has made it their mission to make veteran students feel at home at GSU, working with them to make sure their transition to GSU is seamless as possible, and that their educational goals are being met. VRC Coordinator Kevin Smith said endeavors like the Boot Camp help enhance the university's reputation.

For Priscilla Cordero, Director of the SBDC at GSU, the annual event is an important reminder not only of the sacrifices veterans have made for their country, but also of their ability to give back to communities economically. "Veterans put their lives on the line for us. It is a privilege to be able to

serve them in return by helping them get their businesses started and continue to grow. They are then further able to help their community by creating jobs and economic opportunity," she said.

Veterans coming together to help each other is important to an entrepreneur like Young, whose partners in the company include a U.S. Air Force veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and another Illinois National Guardsman, who fought in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The feeling of camaraderie and unity will keep Young coming back, even if his business is soaring. "I can always learn a lot from the people who are here. This is a wonderful event and I look forward to the next boot camp at GSU," he said.

## International Students Travel Many Paths to GSU

November 16, 2015



*GSU Computer Science student Keerthi Sinkara.*

When she went to her first Halloween party in the U.S. last year, Keerthi Sinkara didn't realize she was about to change her life, but that is exactly what happened.

Keerthi, who is from the Indian city of Hyderabad, was attending a graduate school in Skokie at the time, and was in the process of researching universities to attend the next semester. At the party, Keerthi ran into her friend Kamala Manasa Dhara, who was studying Computer Science at GSU. "She suggested GSU as a good and affordable place. So on her suggestion, I came to GSU."

Keerthi started at GSU in January 2015 and is now a graduate student in Computer Science. She has

no regrets on her decision. "The professors are very good at GSU. If I have any questions, they are ready to help me."

She is part of a surging number of international students the university has welcomed in recent years. The number of international students attending GSU this fall has increased 233 percent over the last fall. Particularly strong are the numbers of students from India, like Keerthi, who have chosen to enroll in [Computer Science](#).

Picking up your life and moving to another part of the world is a daunting task for anyone, especially for a young college student. Keerthi is the first in her family to make the leap. Fortunately, she found a good support system at her new school.

When Keerthi first arrived at GSU, she didn't know many people. That began to change when she took an on campus job in the [Office of International Services](#). "Since I started my job in OIS, I'm meeting new people from all over the world, and I get to help the new students because we are the first people they see."

The OIS helps students with important matters such as registration, employment, and travel. It not only works with international students, but assists international faculty, staff, and students to study and travel abroad.

The OIS also hosts a variety of events to enhance campus life. This week, the OIS is hosting several [cultural programming events](#) in conjunction with [International Education Week \(IEW\)](#), a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. The scheduled events will showcase diverse intellectual perspectives and provide learning experiences for GSU students.



*Bianca Mangabhai*

Bianca Mangabhai is a GSU graduate whose journey started in another part of the world and under different circumstances than Keerthi's, but whose experience working in the OIS remains a special part

of her GSU experience.

Bianca came to GSU from Zimbabwe. Unlike Keerthi, who left behind her family to study in the U.S., Bianca, who graduated GSU in December 2014, had a brother and sister-in-law in the U.S. to live with. Bianca started her studies at Joliet Junior College and made her way to GSU in August 2012 through the university's [Dual Degree Program](#).

"I found out about GSU because they had a representative at JJC one day, who told me about the DDP and the programs I could find there. After doing some research, I found that GSU would be the perfect fit for me. I majored in Communications with a concentration in Marketing and Multi-media," she said.

For Bianca, who was coming from a largely rural African country, going to a big university was not something she would have felt comfortable doing. "I enjoyed GSU because I had smaller, intimate classes and I was able to have that one-on-one relationship with teachers, which is great. I got to be a part of GSU when it was transforming into a four-year university. It was exciting just to be a part of that growth," she said.

She also experienced personal growth, taking a job in the OIS and becoming a student-leader at GSU. "The OIS was a safe haven for me. I started the International Cultural Club to unite the international students at GSU, and became a student senator representing the Communications Department. I wouldn't have had those opportunities if I didn't have the relationships I had with the people at GSU," she said.

Today Bianca now works as a sales specialist for CloudBlue Technologies in Joliet. She said she wouldn't hesitate to recommend GSU to other students coming to the U.S. "I saw the growth in the number of international students at GSU while I was there, and I think that was because the word spread. What I love about GSU is it is so family-oriented toward international students. I would talk to students in the OIS and even though we came from different places, we all got to share our experiences and help each other out. I love that GSU is such a multi-cultural school," she said.



## Restorative Justice Awareness Day, November 18th

November 16, 2015



*Dawn C. Ewing*

In her first Criminal Justice class, Dawn C. Ewing overheard students talking about Restorative Justice (RJ). Dawn, who will graduate in December with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, did research on RJ and developed a special interest in the ways that grief impacts people's lives.

For Dawn, who plans to attend law school after graduation, the phrase, "We can only heal when all of us heal," is a guiding principle in her life. "I'm particularly interested in helping young men whose response to grief has ensnared them in the Criminal Justice System," she said. "As I learned how RJ practices have been used throughout the U.S. and across the world, I said, 'my God, some of these babies didn't have to have their lives disrupted by prison.'"

Dawn has also come to realize how important it is for people who have been harmed to tell their

stories, to hear the stories of those who have done the harm, and to see them take responsibility for what they have done.

"I have been involved in prison ministry for over 15 years," she said. I have also seen people very dear to me caught up in the American criminal justice system. Because of these experiences, I keep thinking that we can do better than this. With more time, understanding, and acceptance, using the principles of RJ would lead to better outcomes for everyone."

Events have been planned at GSU in conjunction with international Restorative Justice Week, November 15-22. The theme for the week is *Inspiring Innovation*. According to Dr. Salm, RJ is an opportunity for people to become more familiar with a different way of thinking about justice. It does not pursue punishment and challenges old perceptions of what justice is.

"Everyone understands the financial implications of the American criminal justice system, but do we all understand the human and societal impact?" asked Dawn. "I am going to law school to prepare myself to defend if necessary, but I plan to learn all I can about RJ to help heal when necessary. For now, though, I would invite those at GSU to learn more about RJ and drop in to one of our events this week. You just might get inspired as I have." she said.

All at GSU are invited to drop in on the following events to learn more about RJ:

## **November 18th**

12:00-  
4:30PM

### **RJ Poster Session**

Outside of the Library and Cube

Conducted by students in Ethics and Criminal Justice classes

5:30-  
6:30PM

### **Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice (IBARJ)** Engbretson Hall

Kathryn Rayford, Director of Training and Development will speak about IBARJ and the work that they do in schools and communities.

6:30-  
7:30PM

### **"A Dialogue on Transformative Justice"** – Dr. Joao Salm, Engbretson Hall

Screening of a segment of **Long Night's Journey Into Day**, Sundance Film Festival, award winning best documentary of 2000 highlighting post-apartheid South Africa's attempts to heal itself. To be followed by a group discussion lead by Dr. Salm. The film was made possible by the Friends of the Library and will be part of the streaming video collection in the library. Visit [www.govst.edu/library](http://www.govst.edu/library).

## **November 20**

1:45-  
2:00PM

### **Start Something that Matters Summit**

Engbretson Hall  
Implementing Restorative Justice  
Shaniqua Jones will be presenting

Information about RJ is also available at your GSU library 24/7. Visit the library catalog at [www.govst.edu/library](http://www.govst.edu/library) and enter the words Restorative Justice to obtain a list of materials that are available. Remember, the GSU Library is your Research Resource 24/7.