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## GSU View, 2016-03-09

Office of Marketing and Communications

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## News

### Student Rally



Students from GSU, other Illinois universities and colleges [rallied](#) in support of a budget resolution in Springfield on March 7. Local officials, GSU faculty and leadership, and students from other Illinois public universities joined the students as they brought attention to the pressing need for an end to the budget impasse. Read more on page 7.

### President Maimon Named to Top 100

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon has been named one of the [100 Most-Read Female Writers in College Classes](#) by *Time*.

President Maimon's name appears on a list of notable women in letters, including her own favorite author, Jane Austen. You can read more on page 10.

## The Challenge Continues

Scholarship dollars continue to roll in under the President's Challenge.

In mid-February, GSU opened up the President's Challenge scholarship drive. For six weeks, President and Dr. Maimon will match every dollar contributed by a new donor to GSU's Presidential Scholarship fund, up to \$50,000. If the goal is reached, \$100,000 will have been raised in scholarship awards for GSU students.

In week three, we have reached 25% of our goal. Remember, every dollar you donate puts GSU *two* steps closer to the \$100,000.

Accept the [Challenge](#) today!

## March Campus Community Winner Announced

Officer Clifford Doyle from the Department of Public Safety has been named the winner of the Campus Community Campaign drawing for the month of March. Officer Doyle won two tickets to "Sweet Home Chicago Blues" and a \$50 gift card to La Voute Bistro in Homewood.

Make sure you have a ticket in next month's drawing by donating to the Campus Community Campaign or the [President's Challenge](#). For additional information, please contact [Jackie Small](#) at ext. 2188.

## GSU Students Receive \$20,000 Fellowships

GSU students Tracy Bibbs and Tina Lott-Kamara from the doctoral Counselor Education program have each been named recipients of a \$20,000 fellowship from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

The NBCC awards up to 23 doctoral-level counseling fellowships of \$20,000 each year. The program is funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Eligible applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations and commit to providing mental health and/or substance abuse and addictions counseling services to underserved minority populations through direct practice or the training of direct practitioners.

GSU congratulates both students on their achievements.

## GSU Students Featured on TOMS Blog

Two groups of first-year students led by Keyearra Tucker, Ian S. Kendall, and Amber Roti completed a service project last month that has been featured on the TOMS blog.

The students were assigned by Assistant professor Serena Wadhwa in their First Year Seminar class "to pick an impoverished nation and through a creative business idea or a charitable endeavor, find a way to help." Using proceeds from fundraising, they sent aid to families in Chad and Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic.

Read about their mission to make a difference on page 12.

## Events

### March Meetings for SEA

This month, SEA will host two more member meetings to help package and deliver donations collected during last month's service projects. Both meetings will run from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

On March 28, the meeting will be held in room G160 to package the donations into care bags for delivery. SEA will meet again on March 30 in room G160 to make baby blankets that will be donated along with the

care bags. All SEA members are encouraged to help complete these worthwhile projects!

For more information, contact [Samantha Allen](#).

## Early Voting at GSU for Will County Voters

Don't forget, early voting at GSU opened up on March 7!

Registered Will County voters can come cast their ballots from now until March 11 in the C-1 Housekeeping storage room, located next to the Marketing/Communications Suite. Polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Unregistered voters can also sign up and register.

Additional information for Will County voters can be obtained at [www.thewillcountyclerk.com](http://www.thewillcountyclerk.com).

For more information, please contact [Maureen Kelly](#) at 708.465.2984.

## Drop-In on the Library Dean



Meet GSU Library Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten and help create the library that you want at GSU. Dean Ruetten will host a drop-in session on March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. in her office, room D2419, in the library.

"We always want to know, from all in the GSU community, how we can make their experience with the library better," Dean Ruetten said. "Getting this valuable feedback is why we are inviting those with ideas about improving the library to drop-in. Our goal in the library is to offer all members of our GSU community access to the most valid and reliable knowledge and information needed to be a success in our highly competitive, global world ... We are always looking for ways to enhance these services or add to them. Please drop-in on Thursday and share your ideas with me."

Light refreshments will be served.

If you are not able to drop in, you can still share your ideas with [Dean Ruetten](#).

## Doing Business in Africa

Gain insights from experts on the emerging markets of Africa on March 11 at Doing Business in Africa.

U.S. government officials will present marketing and financial strategies, and representatives from select African countries will discuss the opportunities and challenges of this developing business environment. Business representatives will be on-hand to share their personal experiences and practical advice on this new market.

More information on this free event can be found [here](#) or by contacting [Dr. Jun Zhao](#) at 708.534.4953.

## Mindfulness Health Symposium

GSU will host its 3rd Annual Symposium on Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices in Higher Education on March 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

The symposium features presentations and hands-on workshops that address the ways in which meditation and mindfulness can be utilized to build learning communities among students and faculty.

The event is free, but [registration](#) is required. Additional information is available from [Dr. Maristela Zell](#).

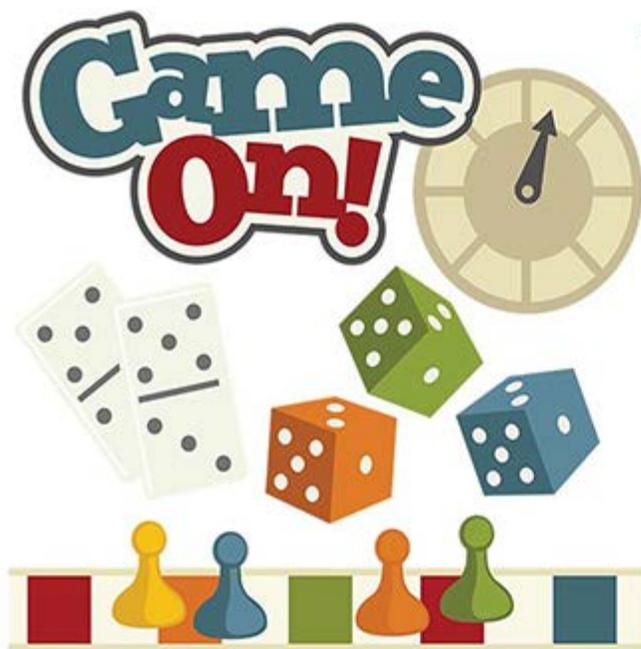
## Women's History Month

GSU celebrates women with presentations and performances during Women's History Month.

On March 10, an exploration of pre-Suffrage women in the medical field and their influence on legislators will be presented at 3:30 p.m. in the G015 Nursing Lab.: Learn how women used their political power before they won the vote.

The Offices of Student Life and Intercultural Student Affairs have planned several other events around GSU during March in honor of Women's History Month. A full listing can be found at the [Office of Intercultural Affairs](#). For further information, email [Robert Clay](#).

## Library Game Night



**Game On!**

**LIBRARY  
GAME NIGHT**

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 10, 2016  
7:00-9:30 PM**

**LIBRARY BALCONY**

Are you up to the challenge? Don't miss GSU's Library Game Night!

It's game on at the University library as a barrage of board, card, and video games will be available for challengers to try to crush the competition at Library Game Night on March 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Join other competitors on the library balcony and find out who is the Master of Monopoly, the Conqueror of Connect Four, the Wizard of Wii.

For further information, contact [Jake Noodwang](#).

## Doctor of Physical Therapy Information Session

The Governors State University Department of Physical Therapy will host an information session for its entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program on March 23 from 4 to 7 p.m, in Room F 2505.

GSU offers an on-campus entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy degree for those interested in starting a career in physical therapy. Information about admission criteria and course curricula will be available, and faculty and advisors will be on-hand for individual consultations. Light refreshments will be provided.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting [Yonterme Banks](#) at 708.534.7290.

## Faculty Highlights

### Collaborative Faculty Presentation

Dr. Alicia Battle, Robert Clay, and Dennis Dent will present a workshop at the 2016 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference in Indianapolis on March 15.

The workshop, "Tradition, Transition, and Transformation: Shifting from Upper School to 4-year University," will highlight the impact that traditions have on transitions and the need to examine both components closely in order to make positive and successful transformations.

The presenters will highlight current faculty-student collaborations and educational practices, which aided in GSU's transformation. Please share your experiences in a brief 150 word description by emailing [Robert Clay](#) by March 9.

## Workshops and Webinars

### Creating Accessible E-Blasts Training Sessions

Get up to date on accessibility! Learn the ins and outs of accessibility in the Digital Age.

Governors State University is committed to keeping information accessible by providing equal access to information, and that includes email. The university is holding training sessions to ensure that all faculty and staff are knowledgeable in current procedures, compliant with Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act as required by both Federal Law and State Law and university procedures.

All faculty and staff members who disseminate information in e-blast formats to all or sections of the GSU community (students, faculty, and staff) are asked to attend the training session. Confirm your attendance by clicking on the date. [Thursday, March 10, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.](#)

If you are unable to attend the scheduled workshop, please contact [Lindsay Gladstone](#).

### Sponsored Programs and Research Training Workshops

The GSU Office of Sponsored Programs and Research is holding two training workshops this spring. Both hosted by Robert E. Porter, PhD, Grant-Winners Seminars, the first will focus on ethics in research, and the subsequent session will explore available grants.

### OSPR Workshops

**Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop** will be presented by Robert E. Porter, PhD, of Grant-Winners Seminars, on April 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. in F1622. This workshop focuses on the increasing concern by funding agencies that researchers and their students attain basic skills in responsible conduct of research and adhere to guidelines and standards that reflect best practices by the scientific research community. This session will utilize a comprehensive "RCR Quiz" to stimulate discussion followed by case studies to be assessed in small groups.

**Grants of Interest to Institutions with Emerging Research Programs Workshop**, presented by Robert E. Porter, PhD, of Grant-Winners Seminars, will be held on April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon in F1622. This workshop focuses on grant programs specifically targeted to institutions like GSU: NSF's Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU); the R15 funding mechanism at NIH; and several tracks at the National Endowment for the Humanities, including Enduring Questions and Summer Stipends, as well as NEH's Summer Seminars and Institutes. Successful proposals from researchers at schools similar to GSU will be cited as examples.

For information on the OSPR workshops or to RSVP, email [ospr@govst.edu](mailto:ospr@govst.edu) or call Ebony Jones at 708.235.7317. Additional resources are available [here](#).

**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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# Hundreds Rally at GSU to Support Funding for Higher Ed

Over 350 people gathered in front of Governors State University on March 7 to rally in support of funding for higher education.



Over 350 people gathered in front of Governors State University on March 7 to [rally](#) in support of funding for higher education. They were students, faculty and staff, community members and alum. They came

under a cover of clouds. They stood, shoulder to shoulder, in the cool air and listened to speakers—local politicians, fellow students, members of GSU administration—who shared their stories of why GSU matters to them and the community at large. And they did this as the State of Illinois settles into its ninth month of a budget stalemate that has left GSU, and all of Illinois' public universities, without State funding.

In front of [news cameras](#) and [reporters](#), Illinois state representatives and senators thundered alongside students and administration, challenging the crowd to continue to fight for their education and future.

“Advocacy is the key,” said Illinois State Representative Will Davis. “I have to believe if you advocate ... that things will change, but you have to be willing.”

Rep. Davis earned his Master's degree in Public Administration from GSU in 2009.

"I stand here as a product of not just one but two state universities. First at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and second, I am proud to be a Jaguar ... I know how important education is. For one person to say that what you are doing has no value, for one person to stand in the way of you and your education – enough is enough."

Although GSU has shouldered the responsibility for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) during this time and will continue to do so if necessary, liability for the grants is one of the key issues involved in the stalemate for students.

[Yolanda Pitts](#), Student Ambassador to the GSU Board of Trustees addressed MAP funding when she spoke.

"When Illinois entered Fiscal Year 2016 with no state budget, it meant that 125,000 college students who had been promised financial aid through the Monetary Award Program, better known as MAP grants, might not receive those funds," Pitts said. "The MAP grant is crucial to sustaining education. Our efforts must not stop here at this rally."



Ben Almassi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Affiliate Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies in the Division of Humanities & Social Sciences at Governors State University and a member of University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Local 4100, called Illinois' state colleges and universities "intellectual and economic engines," and urged the students to "move (Governor Rauner) to compromise" on the budget.

[Matt Gentry](#), a Doctoral student in GSU's Physical Therapy program whose [op-ed](#) in The Phoenix pled the case for student activism, talked about the importance of personal stories in the statewide fight for higher education funding.

"Our stories collectively make up the Southland fabric," Gentry said. "(Illinois leadership needs to) hear our collective voices, listen to our stories."

Gentry, a former Olympic wrestler, completed his undergraduate studies at Stanford University. When he spoke on Monday, he compared the two institutions.

"GSU may be smaller than Stanford, but our mission and the attitudes we foster are the same ... Do not cut our stories short. We need help, and we need it now."

When Illinois Senator Toi Hutchinson took over the podium, she directed her impassioned speech at the students. A former student of GSU herself, Senator Hutchinson shared pieces of her story as a young mother with a family completing her education. She stressed the value of the people being affected by the stalemate.

“You matter. Your lives matter, your dreams matter ... I need you to know that there are people who hear you. We hear you, and we see you. You are not invisible in this.”

Amidst the chanting and discontent, there is a stream of hope. With the Illinois House only a few days into a one-month break, students and supporters have an opportunity to continue this conversation and further their own advocacy by contacting their [Representatives](#) before they return to Springfield and by spreading news about GSU and the budget crisis on social media.

Governors State University [President Elaine P. Maimon](#) was the last dignitary to address the students at the rally. Looking out at 200-plus signs, hundreds of frustrated but hopeful faces, the University's president offered a message of joint strength on the road ahead.

“It's by working together that we're going to make sure that we create a better Illinois ... We have decided to take the risk of MAP funding off your shoulders and put it on our shoulders. What that means is that we have faith,” she said. “Let's move forward and make sure that we send the message that we are all for a strong Illinois which is a well-educated Illinois.”

# GSU President Maimon named one of TIME magazine's "100 Most-Read Female Writers in College Classes"

What do Jane Austen, Toni Morrison, J.K. Rowling, and Governors State University President Elaine P. Maimon have in common? They have all been named one of the [100 Most-Read Female Writers in College Classes](#) by *Time*.

President Maimon appears on the list at number 63, tucked between Louisa May Alcott and Maya Angelou. Her book, [The McGraw-Hill Handbook](#), is a worldwide English department standard.



President Maimon described her reaction to the achievement as feeling “astonished, honored ... thrilled to be on a list—any list—with (her favorite writer of all time) Jane Austen.”

“When I had time to give the article a little more thought,” she said, “I was pleased that my text on English composition was available to so many students in the English-speaking world. I’m a teacher at heart, and my textbooks allow me to be in many, many classrooms, even when my duties as president make it impossible to be in a single classroom for an entire semester. My top professional goal is to help as many students as possible to become independent writers and thinkers.”

The list is based on data collected from over 1.1 million syllabi by the [Open Syllabus Project](#) (OSP), a collaborative project with members from Harvard, Stanford, and Columbia University among others. According to David McClure, a lead developer of the OSP, approximately 70% of the syllabi sampled come from U.S. universities. The others are culled from Australia, Canada, and the U.K. The project is funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a New York-based not-for-profit philanthropic organization.

# Students Tell Their Stories of Giving on TOMS Blog

Can an impoverished country's health problems be solved by selling cupcakes? Probably not completely, but for a group of students in a First Year Seminar class, it was worth a try. Now they will have an international audience following their class project to make a difference in impoverished nations.

Assistant professor Serena Wadhwa gave her class an assignment to pick an impoverished nation and through a creative business idea or a charitable endeavor, find a way to help.

She thought the project was in sync with the theme of [GSU's "One Book, One University"](#) selection "Start Something That Matters." The book, by TOMS founder Blake Mycoskie, uses the story of TOMS as a blueprint to inspire readers and show them how to go about starting something that matters by offering insight and motivation.

Thinking that the students' efforts would make a good story for the blog at TOMS, Wadhwa contacted the company. The student's blog posts describing their projects will begin running this month on [TOMS "One-For-One" blog](#).

The posts will follow the efforts of two groups of students in the class. Keyearra Tucker's group came up with "Handy Hearts," a kit filled with medical supplies such as gauze, peroxide, and ointments that will be distributed in Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic. Ian S. Kendall and Amber Roti's group created "The Sweetest Care Package." They sold mini-cupcakes on campus and are using the funds to create care packages for needy families in the African nation of Chad. The packages contain greatly needed hygiene items.

For Kendall, participating in the blog is an exciting way to see the group's project become better known and he hopes it will



inspire others to take the time to think about places in the world they may not have heard about. "The idea of a blog is a good way to reach people who

would have no idea about the health concerns of a small African nation. I found that once we got started on this, that students want to give back on an even bigger level," he said.

Roti was enlisted to make the mini-cupcakes because of her baking skills. She would like to continue giving back after her class project is complete. On a more local level, she thinks creating care packages containing dental and hygiene products for the homeless in the Chicago area would be something she would like to try. "It's easy to do things like this. You can't be afraid of failing. Start with an idea and develop it," she said.