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University Newsletters

9-6-2016

GSU View, 2016-09-06

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2016, September 6). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/813>

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



September 6, 2016

Vol. 33, Issue 1

News

GSU to Close its Illinois SBDC and International Trade Center

As a result of the ongoing Illinois budget crisis, Governors State University will be closing its Illinois Small Business Development Center and its Illinois SBDC International Trade Center effective December 31, 2016. Clients of the SBDC will be notified immediately and referred to other no-cost business development services. Read more on page 5.

National Preparedness Month – Active Shooter Forum

September is [National Preparedness Month](#), which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and visit.

To help us prepare, GSU's Emergency Response Team will host a campus forum, "Active Shooter: What Can I Do?" The forum will be held on Thursday, September 22 from 10 – 11 a.m. in Engbretson Hall. At this forum, the Emergency Response Team will discuss campus readiness and response efforts, highlight outreach and educational resources, and answer questions about what you can do to prevent, and if needed, respond to an active shooter.

Be A STAR



On September 19, GSU will launch the STAR Student Success Network – a new online platform designed to improve student success and facilitate communication among students, faculty, and advisors across campus. The STAR Student Success Network gives students the tools needed to be successful right at their fingertips.

Using the Starfish platform, the **STAR** acronym represents:

SUCCESS – Students utilizing the network are more likely to succeed.

TEAMWORK – In a student's network, faculty, the student, and staff work together as a team.

ACHIEVEMENT – We acknowledge students' achievements.

RECOGNITION – We give recognition/kudos for those achievements.

"We are excited to introduce Starfish and collaborate with students, faculty, advisors, and staff across campus to ensure student success," said Amy Comparon, Director of the Academic Resource Center and co-chair of the GSU STAR implementation team. "Students will have access to campus resources in one centralized location, making it easy for them to connect."

GSU STAR students create their own individual success networks consisting of the student, his/her course instructors, advisor, and support staff. Everyone in the network works together with one common goal in mind - achieving student success. Students receive instructor feedback on class performance, can schedule appointments, and raise a flag if they have a question or concern. The network allows advisors to centralize communication and take a more holistic approach to student success. In addition, faculty can send referrals, messages, feedback, or kudos to students.

For more information, see pages 7-8.

Politics, Elections, and State Employees

With the campaign season in full swing, it is an appropriate time to remind state employees of their obligations under the Ethics Act with regard to political activity. The Ethics Act was enacted in part in response to Operation Safe Road, a federal investigation into inappropriate politicization of state jobs and resources. Although presidential election years tend to draw greater interest among voters and voting is actively encouraged at GSU, it is important to remember our ethical obligations as state employees.

Please review the 2016 Guide to State Employees' Political Activity (on pages 9-10), issued by the Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG), which summarizes the Ethics Act's restrictions on state employees' political activity. The guide also includes contact information if you have questions or concerns.

42nd Annual Student Lincoln Laureate Award

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year, degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is awarded the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award and becomes the Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student Laureates are honored for their leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

2016 award recipients will receive the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Medallion, a certificate of achievement, and a check for \$1000. They will participate in a processional of state, civic, and academic leaders at the award ceremony held in Springfield on Saturday, November 12, in the Old State Capitol. A luncheon will be held in their honor following the ceremony in the Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel.

GSU is accepting nominations for the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award from the 2017 graduating class (baccalaureate degree). Self-nominating students must submit a faculty letter of recommendation to be considered. Nominations are due by Friday, October 7. For additional information, contact Student Life at SLCO@govst.edu or 708.235.7362.

Click here to access the [Student Laureate Nomination form](#).

Secure Money for Your Education

Don't miss your chance to secure money for your education. You are now able to file your 2017 – 18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as Oct. 1, 2016. The earlier submission

date is a permanent change. You are encouraged to apply early to maximize financial aid opportunities, including the Illinois MAP grant.

Beginning with the 2017 – 18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017 – 18 FAFSA, students/parents will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information. This change is referred to as Prior-Prior Year taxes. For assistance, contact [Financial Aid](#).

FAFSA Completion Workshop

For help completing your FAFSA and guidance searching for scholarships, attend one of the FAFSA Workshops sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid and Office of Admissions. The first workshop is on Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. – noon. Other dates are scheduled.

[Click here to register online.](#)

Carts & Cocktails 2016 Honors Tony Tasset



The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is once again hosting its premier annual fundraising event that offers an afternoon of fun, food, and fine art. Carts & Cocktails, an experience unparalleled in the Chicago region, will be held on September 10, from 2 – 5 p.m. in E-Lounge and on the patio and will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and a park tour.

This year's event will be hosted by Marley Kayden of NBC5 Chicago and honors special guest Tony Tasset, the sculptor of Paul in the park collection. The Chicago Tribune's Lori Waxman recently wrote, "Tasset ... is the Midwest art world's chief satirist, a conceptual artist who lives to level hierarchies as much as he loves to enjoy their luster." Paul accomplishes both goals.

To purchase tickets for the event online, visit [our secure website](#). For more information about sponsorship opportunities, purchasing seats, or the event in general, contact Gina Ragland at 708.235.7559.

Congratulations to Library Scavenger Hunt Winners



Students Yoselyne Carrera and Cynthia Rodriguez were the two winners of the GSU Library Scavenger Hunt, receiving backpacks filled with GSU gear.

Yoselyne commented on how excited she was to go on the library scavenger hunt. "I really like mystery and puzzles," she said. "It was like taking a fun campus tour. I encourage all students to do this the next time. It never hurts to learn more about your campus."

"I was having a difficult time getting motivated to come back to school after the summer break," said Cynthia. "As it turned out, this was exactly what I needed. It was fun. I would recommend that students go on the scavenger hunt next semester because it required exploring other areas of GSU as well as the library."

"We wanted to offer students an enjoyable way to learn more about the library as well as our partners that donated GSU gear to the backpacks," said Diane Nadler, Library First Year Liaison. "The student response was so very positive that we are planning to offer another scavenger hunt for students next semester."



The GSU Library, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Office of Enrollment Management, the Center for Performing Arts, Student Life, Athletics, and the GSU Bookstore contributed to the prizes.

Inclusive Leadership Conference Planning Committee Seeks Members

The 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference will be held November 11 – 12 at GSU. The Inclusive

Leadership Conference is designed to create an understanding and appreciation amongst students for diverse identities through social justice education. An increased self-awareness encourages students to be free of misconceptions and prejudices as leaders. The Inclusive Leadership Conference further helps students understand the intersection of leadership, diversity, and social justice.

We are looking for students, faculty, and staff who would like to serve on the planning committee. Email diversity@govst.edu by Friday, September 9 to join the committee.

Generating Hope Logo Design Contest

Generating Hope Student Network is now an official campus organization and needs a logo for branding purposes! The contest runs through October 1, 2016 and the lucky winner will be announced on October 15, 2016. All students are welcome to enter and become eligible to win a \$50 Visa gift card and be featured on Generating Hope's Jaguar Connection, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Entry and submission details can be found on the [Generating Hope Page on Jaguar Connection](#).

Events

Balancing Academics with Other Responsibilities

Non-traditional students often juggle multiple responsibilities and face unique challenges when pursuing a degree. The Counseling Center and the Graduate Professional Network are sponsoring Balancing Academics with Work, Family and Other Responsibilities on Thursday, September 8 from 6 – 7 p.m. in the Academic Resource Center.

The program, conducted by trained staff from the Counseling Center, will explore topics such as developing effective study habits, fostering mentor/advisor relationships, time management skills, networking, and more.

For additional information, contact [Matt Gentry](#).

Constitution Day Panel Discussion

Every year, we recognize the adoption of the Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens with a Constitution Day event. This year, in honor of Constitution Day, the Division of Humanities is hosting a faculty panel on refugees and the Constitution of the United States on September 19, from 3 – 4:15 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Panel members include Associate Professor Khalil Marrar, Associate Professor Vincent Jones, and Assistant Professor Ellen Walsh. The panel will discuss the history, current status, and future of displaced peoples in America.

For more information, email [Dr. Amanda Athon](#).

GSU Dance Company Auditions

Whatever your dance style, whatever you love, the GSU Dance Company has the steps for you! Auditions will be held on Monday and Wednesday, September 12 and 14, at 7:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 7:15 p.m., on the GSU Center for Performing Arts stage. Interested students, faculty, and staff should register for one audition by emailing [Megan Lindsay](#).

The GSU Company performs student and faculty choreography in the styles of modern, jazz, contemporary, African, and hip-hop. The GSU Dance Company's main stage performance will be held on March 4, 2017.

Auditions for "Fat Pig"

Strong performers are asked to bring their best to auditions for "Fat Pig," to be performed on October 29 and November 3 and 4 at GSU. Actors with depth and range — students and non-students, faculty and staff, novices and veterans — are encouraged to audition.

Auditions will be held on September 9 from 5 – 8 p.m., and September 11 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at GSU's Center for Performing Arts. Performance of a memorized one-minute contemporary dramatic monologue and reading from the script will be required. To sign up for an audition or for more information, visit wejoinin.com/sheets/trnhts.

About the play:

"Cow." "Slob." "Pig." How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love? Tom faces just that question when he falls for Helen, a bright, funny, sexy young woman who happens to be plus-sized and then some. Forced to explain his new relationship to his shallow (although shockingly funny) friends, Tom comes to terms with his own preconceptions of the importance of conventional good looks. Neil LaBute's sharply drawn play not only critiques our slavish adherence to Hollywood ideals of beauty but boldly questions our own ability to change what we dislike about ourselves.

For more information, or to express interest working backstage (*all kinds of assistance is needed*), contact Dr. Patrick Santoro via [email](#), call 708.235.2842, or visit E1541D.

Don't forget to like us at facebook.com/TAPSGSU

Highlights

Sculptor Mark di Suvero visits Yes! for Lady Day



"Yes! For Lady Day" the first monumental sculpture in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, was visited by the artist recently. Renowned sculptor Mark di Suvero dropped by GSU and was pleased to see the good care the park director and curator Geoff Bates and the park advisory board are taking of his artwork.

"It was great to see him reunited with a piece he hasn't seen for several decades," said Geoff Bates. "We showed him the work that has been done on Jene Highstein's Flying Saucer and he was appreciative of what it takes to keep an enterprise such as this going."

ITC Attended Conference in Shenzhen, China



In July, Mary Ma, Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center International Trade Center at GSU, attended the 9th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Technology Conference (SMETC) and Fair in Shenzhen, China. The exhibition focused on high-end manufacturing, new generation of information technology, green industry, energy saving, and innovative design and productive services.

Ma was invited as the APEC countries' representative to attend the conference's opening ceremony and lead an Illinois business group comprised of three companies - Iyka Enterprises, Maylan Skincare, and Global Choice International. The State of Illinois Hong Kong office and business participants joined Ma in setting up the Illinois pavilion and exhibition booths to show and promote the strengths Illinois has in technology innovation. They also made visits to the conference delegates from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, and other APEC countries to share resources and trade opportunities to promote the Illinois export initiatives.

As a result of attending the conference, opportunities were presented to build relationship with China Small Business Promotion Center, who was the event host and supporter for the Illinois group. After the conference, Mary Ma also visited the State of Illinois Foreign Offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and U.S. Commercial Services Office in Shanghai to discuss support and possible future export promotion programs.

Professor Fraud to Address ACFE Chicago Chapter



On September 16, the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners will welcome Professor William J. Kresse, aka "Professor Fraud®," Assistant Professor at GSU, a Commissioner with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, and the proprietor of the website ProfessorFraud.com. Professor Kresse will discuss recent fraud cases and why ignoring even the smallest accounting control can lead to big frauds.

Collaborative Publication with Students

Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Theatre and Performance Studies, and some of his students recently had an article they authored published in a collaborative, peer-reviewed publication, [Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal](http://PedagogyandTheatreoftheOppressedJournal).

The work, "[Students Staging Resistance: Pedagogy/Performance/Praxis](http://StudentsStagingResistance:Pedagogy/Performance/Praxis)," emerged from a course on performance and social change taught in spring 2014. It appears in the inaugural issue of the publication.

"While students discuss their experience of staging a public performance in the Hall of Governors (including a link to a video of the event), the article also notes our transformation to a four-year university and points out the kind of engaged teaching we emphasize at GSU," said Dr. Santoro.

GSU Accounting Students Awarded Illinois CPA Society Scholarship

GSU accounting student, Amy Farley was recently awarded a [2016 Illinois CPA Society Scholarship](http://2016.Illinois.CPA.Society.Scholarship). Amy was one of 34 Illinois undergraduate students awarded scholarships. ICPAS scholarships recognize accounting students and CPA candidates who demonstrate strong academic performance, leadership qualities, and financial need. Congratulations, Amy!

Governors State to Close its Illinois SBDC and International Trade Center

September 6, 2016

Contact: Keisha Dyson

Governors State University

Phone: (708) 534-4044 Email:

kdyson@govst.edu

Governors State University to Close its Illinois SBDC and International Trade Center

As a result of the ongoing Illinois budget crisis, Governors State University will be closing its Illinois Small Business Development Center and its Illinois SBDC International Trade Center effective December 31, 2016. Clients of the SBDC will be notified immediately and referred to other no-cost business development services.

"This was a difficult decision," said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. "The Illinois SBDC has been the definitive resource for small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Chicago Southland. We wish that we could keep the Center open, but we have no choice but to put students first. With a 70% cut in state appropriations for FY16 and only a six-month, stop-gap budget for FY17, we must reallocate the funds currently used to match Federal and State dollars to departments that will maintain our high quality of student service."

For more than 30 years, the Illinois SBDC at GSU has worked closely with entrepreneurs and small business owners to help jump start their business endeavors. From providing assistance with business plan development to acquiring financial support and investment, GSU SBDC has been a cornerstone

of the Southland's growing business community. It is the only Small Business Development Center within 25 miles of GSU.

The Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at GSU works closely with small and medium-sized export ready companies helping them identify markets, buyers, and investors, as well as providing technical assistance in trading, logistics, and export financing.

The impact of the Illinois SBDC at GSU on the local economy has been far-reaching, helping to create businesses, employment, and income for the region. Since 2001, the centers have helped more than 6,000 clients create 4,650 new jobs with 190 new business starts and 150 business expansions. The work of the SBDC has resulted in \$155 million invested in the region and an increase of \$10.9 billion in export.

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GSU STAR Student Success Network

Academic Advising

Academic Resource
Center

Health and Counseling

Academic Enrichment

New Student Programs

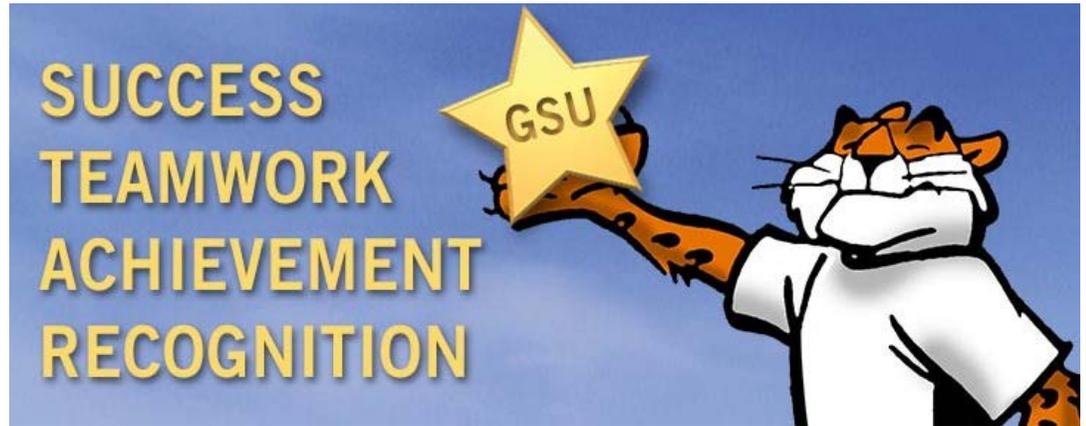
Learning Strategies &
Resources

[GSU STAR Student
Success Network](#)

Computer & IT Services

Writing Center

Library



BE A GSU STAR STUDENT!

Here at Governors State University, we take pride in helping students achieve their goals from the time they enter college until they graduate. To that end, GSU has adopted the **GSU STAR Student Success Network**. This palette of tools connects you with faculty, advisors, and GSU services in your individual success network ... all at your fingertips. Utilizing the Starfish platform, the **STAR** acronym represents four integral elements of this platform:

Success: Studies show students utilizing Starfish are more likely to succeed.

Teamwork: In a student's network, the student, staff, and faculty work together as a team.

Achievement: We acknowledge students' achievements.

Recognition: We give recognition/kudos for those achievements.

Benefits of being a **GSU STAR** student include:

Success Network

Each student has a success network of faculty and staff working together to help you achieve success. Faculty and staff will send you feedback about course progress as well as kudos and stars to acknowledge accomplishments. You'll also receive early notifications about academic issues such as midterm grades.

Connect with A Wealth of Resources — In One Place

In the GSU STAR Student Success Network, you can help maintain and support your entire academic career from one platform. Here, you can:

- Connect instantly with faculty, staff, and services
- View all available courses, with contact for instructors linked to each course
- Save time and frustration when scheduling appointments. Instead of waiting for a reply email or call to see if an appointment even is available, you can view a faculty member or advisor's calendar and make appointments instantly
- Receive assistance from academic advisors
- Receive midterm grades
- Manage your classwork workflow more effectively with “to do” list reminders as well as referrals for additional support sent to you by faculty and advisors
- View the Service Catalog, a listing of all the departments and services offered at GSU, and pertinent contact information

Raise Your Hand

And, if you have questions or concerns about classes or academic life that you don't see addressed, the Raise Your Hand function helps put you in touch with the right person right away.

GSU chose the GSU STAR Student Success Network program because it is a win/win: it helps you succeed and puts you in even greater control of your education at GSU. Currently, Starfish is available for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. To join, all you need is your GSU sign-in name and password and you're good to go. [Click here to get started.](#)



For Students

GSU STAR empowers students to be more playful and connect more meaningfully with the people and resources to help them succeed.



For Faculty

GSU STAR allows faculty to communicate with students and easily connect them with campus resources.



For Advisors

GSU STAR allows advisors to centralize communications and makes it possible to take a more holistic approach to student successes.



2016 Guide to State Employees’ Political Activity



The OEIG often receives complaints about inappropriate political activity by State employees. State law and agency policies put restrictions on the kinds of political activity that are appropriate for State employees under certain circumstances.

Many forms of political activity are entirely appropriate for State employees to engage in on their own time and using their own resources. For example, there are no rules prohibiting any of the following activities when you are not working:

- Registering to vote, and voting in elections
- Assisting in voter registration drives
- Attending informational gatherings, such as town hall meetings or debates
- Participating in public opinion polling

In addition, when not on the job, it may be appropriate if you choose to:

- Volunteer with a candidate or political party
- Sign or circulate petitions for a candidate or ballot question
- Make campaign contributions

However, be careful about mixing politics and work. If you are on compensated time, other than vacation, personal or compensatory time off, it is inappropriate for you to engage in any of those activities. While at your State job, it is also inappropriate for you to:

- Plan a political meeting
- Distribute campaign literature
- Prepare responses to a candidate questionnaire

No State employee, candidate for elective office, lobbyist, or representative of any political organization may solicit, offer, receive or give campaign contributions on State property, unless that property has been rented from the State by a private person or entity.

If your State duties involve regulatory or licensing activities, it is inappropriate for you to ever solicit or accept a campaign contribution from a person or entity that you license or regulate, even if out of uniform and on your own time.

While these are among the more common issues State employees face, there are other considerations as well. Please talk with your ethics officer if you have any questions.





As a practical matter, the OEIG sees some issues arise more often than others. Violations of these rules are entirely avoidable if State employees are careful with their use of State time and resources.

- The most common instances of improper political activity involve misuse of State email
 - ➔ Do not send or respond to political email through your State account at any time
 - ➔ If you receive a political email in your State account, do not forward it to anyone other than your Ethics officer
 - ➔ Do not send, forward or respond to political email through your personal account if on compensated time (other than personal, compensatory or vacation time), or with State computers, State Internet networks, or other State resources
- The next most common violation involves misuse of time and telephones
 - ➔ Do not make political phone calls while on compensated time (other than personal, compensatory or vacation time)
 - ➔ Do not use your personal phone to make political phone calls while at work

In addition to rules explicitly focused on political activity, be mindful of rules relating to any non-work-related use of State equipment and resources. Activities that are not directly discussed under rules aimed at political activity may be regulated under rules related to non-work use of State equipment and resources.

If you have any questions about whether your activities will be appropriate under the law and your agency's rules, contact your ethics officer. A list of Ethics officers is available on the OEIG website (inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov)

If you are concerned about inappropriate political activity in your State agency, please contact the OEIG:

1. Call 866.814.1113
2. Fax 312.814.5479
3. TTY 888.261.2734
4. Log on to www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov and click on "complaints"
5. Mail your complaint to one of the OEIG offices:

OEIG
69 West Washington, Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

OEIG
607 East Adams, 14th Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701

