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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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To: [Faculty and Staff](#); [Actively Enrolled Students](#)
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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



December 5, 2016

Vol. 36, Issue 1

News

College of Business Earns Prestigious Accreditation

GSU's College of Business has received one of the most distinguished honors awarded to any business education program in the world: [accreditation from AACSB International](#)—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). (See pages 8-9.)

Fewer than five percent of the 16,000 business schools worldwide have received AACSB accreditation, which is considered the hallmark of excellence in business education.

GSU Shows Support for DREAMers and DACA



On Friday, December 2, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Aurélio Manuel Valente published an open letter to the GSU Community affirming the university's support for our undocumented immigrant resident students, also known as DREAMers. The letters also discusses efforts to ensure that the protections afforded under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) will be maintained.

President Maimon in Trusteeship magazine

GSU President Elaine Maimon contributed an article to the most recent issue of *Trusteeship*, the magazine of the AGB (Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges).

In the piece, "[Helping Students Finish What They Start](#)," Dr. Maimon writes about the challenges of retaining adult students and helping them succeed, and offers examples of some of the ways GSU assists these students—initiatives such as [financial literacy](#) (see pages 10-17), [peer mentors](#) (see pages 18,19), and the [Center for the Junior Year](#) (see page 20).

Prof. Nearing's "Hogtown" is a NYT Critics' Pick

The most recent feature film from GSU Professor Daniel Nearing, "Hogtown," was [reviewed in the New York Times](#) on December 1 and received the accolade "NYT Critics' Pick." The review states that "with his new feature and his previous one, [Nearing] has carved out an original and boldly unfashionable niche." The review ends with the affirmation that "'Hogtown' plays like a find from a forgotten archive."

Winter Closing Schedule

Watch This Space. Information about winter closing and altered hours of operation is being collected and compiled even as you read this. As soon as possible, schedule information for areas like the Café, C-Store, Library, Cube, and Bookstore will be available here.

Employees: This is a reminder that GSU will be closed on December 27, 28, and 29. Employees should make sure they understand the way these days are accounted for.

Media Studies Students Interning in NYC

From December 2 – 7, GSU students Bailey Jones and Paul Leland will participate in an intensive production internship with ShoulderHill Entertainment in New York City, culminating in the global broadcast "[24 Hours of Reality: The Road Forward](#)." The broadcast will originate from the 24 highest carbon-dioxide-emitting countries over 24 hours to educate the world about climate change. Jones and Leland will work alongside media professionals in the New York project hub, gaining valuable industry experience and contributing to this worthy cause.

This internship is the result of a long-term relationship with ShoulderHill partners Steve and Danielle Addair, who are graduates of GSU's MA COMS Media Production program.

To host a GSU Watch Party, sign up [here](#).

Who Let the Dogs In?



Petting pooches to prevent potential problems: Heather and Shiloh, a pair of way-chill Golden Retrievers, visited the GSU Library on December 1 as part of the [Library Jam](#) (see page 21). More than 100 students, faculty, and staff members took breaks from finals, papers, and work to get recharged by [hanging out with the dogs](#).

“Thank You” from the Friends of the Library

“The Friends of the GSU Library would like to [thank all who contributed](#) to the recent Holiday Basket and Commemorative Card sale,” said Ann Manning Nagel, President of the Friends of the GSU Library (FOL). “Supporting the FOL allows us to support your GSU Library in a variety of ways,” she added.

In addition to purchasing books and materials, recently the FOL provided furniture and carpeting for the Skylight Gallery in the Library, upgraded furniture on the Library balcony for the Paperback Book Exchange area, and provided shelving for the GSU Library Archives Room.

Why not become a Friend? Whether you are a student or a member of the faculty or staff, you can join the Friends of the GSU Library. [Here's how](#).

Emergency Readiness

New Emergency Alert System

Rave Alert is the new official emergency notification system used to communicate with students and employees during severe weather and campus emergencies. GSU recently licensed this service to offer the quickest and most reliable communications possible.

Students and employees are automatically subscribed to the Rave Alert system through their GSU email account; however, we rely on you to make sure we have your most up-to-date contact and emergency contact information, so please take a moment to make sure we can reach you or your emergency contact in case of an emergency, a university closing, or some other event requiring rapid, wide-scale notification of the community.

For Students

To update your personal contact information, please complete the [Change of Student Information](#) form and return it to the Registrar's office.

You can update your emergency contact information in the [myGSU portal](#). The information provided is stored directly in our database and will be used only in case of emergency. Click [here](#) for a tutorial on how to update your emergency contact information. The process takes less than 10 minutes.

For Faculty and Staff

Update your contact information by sending an email to [Human Resources](#) with a subject line that reads

"Update My Contacts."

To update your emergency contact information, go to the myGSU portal. Under Online Services, select "Employees," then select "Employee Profile" and "Emergency Information." You will be able to add and/or edit your contacts. After you enter the information, click "Add Contact." After editing or changing your emergency contact information, choose "Confirm" to save your changes. A confirmation notification message will appear on the top right of your screen to confirm your edits. [Click here for a tutorial.](#)

Announcements

Friday Deadline for Leadership Conference



The Inclusive Leadership Conference, designed to help our campus community create an understanding and appreciation for multiple identities through self-awareness, while encouraging them to be free of misconceptions and prejudices through social justice education, will be held on **January 20, 2017**. This year's theme, "Stop the Violence: Listen, Learn, Lead!!!," addresses how violence impacts multiple identities of diversity. Participants will learn ways that their background and skills can play an influential role in ending violence, "one leader at a time," through social change. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Kevin Lamarr James, Director of Service Learning, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago.

[Workshop proposals](#) are due **December 9**. [Registration](#) is open until **December 9**. For more information, call 708.534.4551 or email diversity@govst.edu.

Make It Happen: Join Program Council

Make your mark in GSU history and develop leadership and professional skills. The GSU Program Council is seeking innovative and creative students. Members plan, promote, and present events from a student perspective for the GSU campus and community. If you enjoy planning social, recreational, and co-curricular activities, join us in A2110 from 3 – 4 p.m. every Thursday. GSUPC is open to all Governors State University students.

Contact ksledge@govst.edu with questions.

Submit Program Ideas for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.

Sexual violence is a major public health, human rights, and social justice issue. We need everyone's help to end it. Thank you for getting involved and for supporting SAAM efforts.

Please [submit your program](#) by January 27, 2017. For more information, call 708.534.4551 or email diversity@govst.edu.

Sculpture Restoration in Process



Christine Tarkowski's "Working on the Failed Utopia," the dome-shaped sculpture just outside of D-Wing entry, will undergo conservation over the next several weeks. The artist will remove all of the fiberglass panels in order to resurface them. "This is just one of many conservation projects the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is undertaking this year," said Director and Curator Geoff Bates. "With the artist's participation in this project, we insure the most positive possible outcome."

Students and staff are asked to please refrain from entering the geodesic dome while the panels are absent, since any change in the angles of the structure might cause problems with their re-attachment.

Marketing & Communications on Hiatus

Marcomm will be going "dark" from December 19 – January 6 to focus on website and back-end maintenance to better serve the campus community in the new year. Please submit new work orders to Workzone by **Friday, December 16**. We will not be able to accommodate new work orders after December 16.

Holiday Schedule for GSU View

Please note that the final 2016 edition of GSU View will appear on **Monday, December 19**. Publication will resume on January 9, 2017.

Events

Master of Occupational Therapy Research Day

All are invited to attend this year's Master of Occupational Therapy Research Day on **Thursday, December 8**, from 1 – 3 p.m. in the FOC Atrium (G-Building). MOT Students will share findings from their research projects on topics including:

- Interprofessional Attitudes in Health Care

- Exploration of Social Participation as Viewed by Occupational Therapy Practitioners and Post-Stroke Community Members
- Caregivers' Ability to Support Children with Developmental Disabilities in Play
- A Program to Facilitate Health and Well-Being of Caregivers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Exploring the Value of Interdependence

For more information, please contact Dr. Divya Sood at dsood@govst.edu

Faculty & Staff Holiday Party



Please join us for the “Because We Can’t Afford a Party” Holiday Gathering, with a festive, yet inexpensive, spectacle. Starring faculty, staff, and students (all who generously waived their performance fee for one afternoon only).

Euphoria will erupt on **Friday, December 9**, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Refreshments will be served.

For additional information, contact Penny Perdue, 708.534.4130, pperdue@govst.edu

MLK Commemoration Program



Join us on campus on **Monday, January 16**, for “A Day On, Not a Day Off,” a commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The keynote speaker for this day of reflection, growth, and service will be Pamela Bates Porch, Assistant Pastor at St. James Industrial M.B. Church in Chicago. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the CPA.

When you attend, please bring a non-perishable item to donate to the Mobile Food Pantry. Students will help distribute the collected canned goods to families in need immediately following the commemoration program. Donations can also be made to Student Life from now until the day of the event. For more

information, call 708.534.4551 or email diversity@govst.edu.

Workshops & Trainings

Looking for GSU workshops and training opportunities?

-

This week's list of opportunities — including Faculty Profile Page update information and Student Evaluation of Instruction sessions — can be found [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
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University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
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Chicago, IL, January 15, 2017

GSU Earns Prestigious Accreditation



Governors State University's [College of Business](#) has received one of the most distinguished honors awarded to any business education program in the world: [accreditation](#) from [AACSB International](#)—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Fewer than five percent of the 16,000 business schools worldwide have received AACSB accreditation, which is considered the hallmark of excellence in business education.

“Earning this prestigious accreditation is an honor and an affirmation,” said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. “It demonstrates that the success of our educational vision is being recognized comprehensively and extensively.”

GSU's College of Business and Administration now joins the ranks of other Chicagoland business schools that have attained this exclusive distinction, including programs at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

“It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB accreditation and I commend Governors State for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community,” said Robert D. Reid, Executive Vice President and Chief Accreditation Officer of AACSB. “Through accreditation, GSU has not only met specific standards of excellence but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high-quality education to its students.”

As described by AACSB, achieving accreditation “is a process of rigorous internal review, engagement with an AACSB assigned mentor, and peer review. During the multi-year process, the school focuses on developing and implementing a plan to align with AACSB's accreditation standards. These standards require excellence in areas relating to strategic management and

innovation; student, faculty, and staff as active participants; learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.”

“Attaining this hallmark was a cooperative effort of faculty and staff,” said GSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Deborah Bordelon, “and the rigorous process of meeting the AACSB accreditation standards was unifying and strengthening. I’m particularly pleased that the accreditation will help us create more corporate partnerships, in our continuous effort to enhance our engagement with the business community.”

Jun Zhao, Interim Dean of the College of Business and Administration, said that “AACSB accreditation will make us more attractive to students for our undergraduate and graduate programs. It will also make our graduates more marketable and help us continue to recruit high-quality faculty members.”



Let's Save Together—Learn the Strategies

Where: Money Smart Week at Governors State University

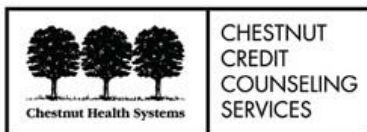
Money Smart Week is a public awareness campaign developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002 to assist consumers in managing their personal finances more efficiently. Governors State University's **Money Smart Week** is a coordinated, collaborative effort of organizations and departments working together to provide free information sessions for community members, students, faculty, and staff on all facets of personal finance.

Admission is free: 40 minutes with 15 minutes for Q & A. Come with your questions and leave with plan.

Presentations: Programs include Steps to Affordable Home Ownership, What is a Health Saving Account, Starting a Business in Illinois, Saving for Retirement, Understanding Student Loans & Student Loan Debt, Resources for Undocumented Students, Identify Theft Facts & Resolution, Money at Work, Pay Day & Internet Lenders, Stock Markets, Job Benefits, Top Tech Tools to Manage Money, Retirement, Financial Aid, Undocumented Students, Credit Repair, Managing a Club Account, Understanding Your Credit Report, Get Your Money Straight & Your Business in Order, and Finance 101.

Let's Save Together: Please check Governors State University's website and click on the link to access the program you wish to attend. If you have any questions or are looking for a specific topic, contact, Money Smart Coordinator Brenda Killins at bkillins@student.govst.edu

Sponsored by:



Money Smart Week

Monday, April 20

Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
10-11 a.m.	Starting a Business in Illinois	Lauren Esolato, SBDC	B1241
12-1 p.m.	Saving for Retirement	John Olson, Valic	B1240
1-2 p.m.	Managing a Club Account	Ann Nagel, GSU	B1241
2-3 p.m.	Understanding Student Loans & Student Debt	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B2201
3-3:30 p.m.	Resources for Undocumented Students	Sylvia Ponce De Leon, GSU	C1317
4-5 p.m.	Financial Aid 101	Matthew Zarris, GSU	D1497

Tuesday, April 21

Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
10-11 a.m.	Using Social Media to Grow Your Business	Lauren Esolato, SBDC	B1240
11-12 p.m.	Understanding Your Credit Report	Jim Droske, Illinois Credit Service	B1241
12-1 p.m.	Steps to Affordable Home Ownership	Millie-Reyes-Williams, BMO Harris Bank	D2401A
	Understanding Your Credit Report	Jim Droske, Illinois Credit Service	D1497
	Money a Work/Foundation for Investing	Patrick Windle, TIAA-CREF	D2443
1-2 p.m.	Saving for Retirement	John Olson, Valic	D1497
	Retirement	Donald Wade, Legend	D2401A
	Understanding Student Loans & Student Debt	Matthew Zarris, GSU	D1401C
2-3 p.m.	Identify Theft Facts & Resolutions	Wayne Gawif, Chestnut Credit Counseling Services	D1497
	Steps to Affordable Home Ownership	Millie Reyes-Williams, BMO Harris Bank	D2401A
	Money at Work/Foundation for Investing	Patrick Windle, TIAA-CREFF	D2443
3-4 p.m.	Financial Aid 101	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B1240
	Pay Day & Internet Lenders	Wayne Gawif, Chestnut Credit Counseling Services	B1241
	Stock Markets	Donald Wade, Legend	D1496
4-4:30 p.m.	Resources for Undocumented Students	Sylvia Ponce De Leon, GSU	D2443
4-5 p.m.	Money at Work: Foundations of Investing	Patrick Windle, TIAA-CREFF	D34150

Wednesday, April 22

Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
1-2 p.m.	Now That You Have Health Insurance	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	D2401A
	Managing a Club Account	Ann Nagel, GSU	B2202
	Stock Markets	Donald Wade, Legend	B2203
2-3 p.m.	Financial Aid 101	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B2201
3-4 p.m.	Get Your Money Straight & Your Business in Order	Mary Drake, Certified Insurance Producer	D2441
	Retirement	Donald Wade, Legend	C3330
3:30-5 p.m.	Money Matters In the family	Dr. Blount & Dr. Wright, GSU	B2201
3-4 p.m.	Job Benefits	Sasha Grabenstetter, University of Illinois Extension	D2446
4-5 p.m.	Understanding Student Loan & Student Debt	Matthew Zarris, GSU	D34150

Money Smart Week

Thursday, April 23

Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
12-1 p.m.	Understanding Student Loan & Student Debt	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B2200
1-2 p.m.	Top Tech Tools to Manage Money	Letitia McEastland, Family Credit Management	B2201
	The College Financial Playing Field	Shireen Daniels, Lighthouse Financial Group	B2202
	Now that you have health Insurance	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	D1496
2-3 p.m.	How to Stretch a Buck/100 Ways to Save Big	Letitia McEastland, Family Credit Management	D1496
	Financial Aid 101	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B1240
3-4 p.m.	Starting a Business in Illinois	Priscilla Cordero, GSU	D2401A
4-5 p.m.	What is a Health Saving Account?	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	D2401A

Friday, April 24

Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
10-11 a.m.	Financing Options for Business	Priscilla Cordero, GSU	B1240
11-12 p.m.	Life Transitions	Sashi Grabenstetter, University of Illinois Extension	B1240
12-1 p.m.	Financial Aid 101	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B1240
	Finance 101	Sheryl Jones-Harper, GSU	B1241
1-2 p.m.	How to Stretch a Buck/100 Small Ways to Save Big	Letitia McEastland, Family Credit Management	B1241
	Debunking Credit Scores	Sashi Grabenstetter, University of Illinois	B2202
	What is a Health Saving Account	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	B2215
2-3 p.m.	How to Stretch a Buck/100 Small Ways to Save Big	Letitia McEastland, Family Credit Management	B1241
3-4 p.m.	Understanding Student Loans & Student Debt	Matthew Zarris, GSU	B1241
	What is a Health Savings Account	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	B2202
Time	Workshop	Speaker/Organization	Room Number
	Steps to Affordable Home Ownership	Millie Reyes-Williams, BMO Harris	B2215
4-5 p.m.	Now that you have health Insurance	Velinda Simpson, Blue Cross Blue Shield	B1241

Money Smart Week

Top Tech Tools to Manage Money

From budgeting websites to apps that will give you more bang for your buck, learn about the most popular and useful tech tools to help you better manage your money.

Presented by: Letitia McEastland, Credit Relations Manager at Family Credit Management, Thursday, April 23, 1-2 p.m.

How to Stretch a Buck/100 Small Ways to Save Big

Prices are rising and wages are stagnant. Do you manage your money or does your money manage you? Learn realistic money saving tips that anyone can follow. All participants will receive our new guide, "Personal Finance Made Easy."

Presented by: Letitia McEastland, Credit Relations Manager at Family Credit Management, Thursday, April 23, 2-3 p.m.; Friday, April 24, 1-2 & 2-3 p.m.

Financial Aid 101

Attend a presentation on how to apply for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. Topics discussed include: when and how to apply, what you might be eligible to receive, exploring all your options, and your borrowing responsibility.

Presented by: Matthew Zarris, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Governors State University, Monday, April 20, 4-5 p.m.; Tuesday, April 21, 3-4 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 2-3 p.m.; Thursday, April 23, 2-3 p.m.; Friday, April 24, 12-1 p.m.

Understanding Student Loans & Student Loan Debt

Attend a presentation on understanding student loans, and student loan debt. Topics discussed include: student loan borrowing limits, interest rates, the recent history of student loan debt, federal student loans vs. private student loans, and repayment options.

Presented by: Matthew Zarris, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Governors State University, Monday, April 20, 2-3 p.m.; Tuesday, April 21, 1-2 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 4-5 p.m.; Thursday, April 23, 12-1 p.m.; Friday, April 24, 3-4 p.m.

Starting a Business in Illinois

Introduces you to the steps required to create your business, the vital questions you need to answer as you plan your new venture, and the basics of small business financing. Focuses on the things you should consider and the financial and legal aspects of starting a business. Learn what steps to take and what resources are available.

Presented by: Lauren Esolato, Program Coordinator at CenterPoint at Governors State University, Monday, April 20, 10-11 a.m.

Presented by: Priscilla Cordero, Director of The Illinois Small Business Development Center at GSU, Thursday, April 23, 3-4 p.m.

Money Smart Week Workshops

Using Social Media to Grow Your Business

Do you use social media to market your business? Want to take it to the next level? Learn techniques you can use to boost your social media marketing, drive traffic to your website, and get more followers engaged in your social media campaigns.

Presented by: Lauren Esolato, Program Coordinator at CenterPoint at Governors State University, Tuesday, April 21, 10-11 a.m.

Financing Options for Your Business

Learn about the different options available for financing your business and what you need to do to qualify. SBA loans, microloans, and conventional financing will all be discussed.

Presented by: Priscilla Cordero, Director of Illinois Small Business Development Center at Governors State University, Friday, April, 24, 10-11 a.m.

Understanding Your Credit Score & Report,

Learn about consumer credit reporting through TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. What reports and what doesn't? How long items can stay on your credit? How credit repair works....etc.

Presented by: Jim Droske, President of Illinois Credit Services, Tuesday, April 21, 11 a.m.-noon; 1-2 p.m.

The Hows & Whys of Managing a Club account,

The workshop will discuss the guidelines students must follow to manage a club account. Students will learn how to use a spreadsheet to review what is in the club account, and how the funds have been spent.

Presented by: Ann Nagel Manning, Accountant I, Financial Services & Comptroller at Governors State University, Monday, April 20, 1-2 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 1-2 p.m.

Identity Theft, Facts and Resolution,

For 15 years, identity theft has been the top consumer complaint filed with the Federal Trade Commission. We will discuss types of identity theft, how to be on the lookout for it, and ways to resolve the effects if you are a victim.

Presented by: Wayne Gawlik, Certified Credit Specialist at Chestnut Credit Counseling Services, Tuesday, April 21, 2-3 p.m.

Payday Lenders and Internet Lenders

Payday lending carries extremely high interest and fees that puts borrowers into a debt trap that can go on for weeks, months, or years. Alternatives to using Payday lenders are discussed along with what to do if you're already feeling trapped by one.

Presented by: Wayne Gawlik, Certified Credit Specialist at Chestnut Credit Counseling Services, Tuesday, April 21, 3-4 p.m.

Money Smart Week Workshops

Now that you have Health Insurance

This seminar introduces health insurance basics, including terms such as deductible and coinsurance. This session will provide helpful tips, and cover topics like how to prepare for a doctor visit and how to read an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) Statement.

Presented by: Velinda Simpson, Community Relations Specialist for Consumer Markets/Community Development at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Thursday, April 23, 1-2 p.m.; Friday, April 24, 4-5 p.m.

What is a Health Saving Account?

This workshop will introduce you to what a Health Saving Account insurance plan is and explain how it differs from a traditional health insurance plan, but can be used in combinations with a HAS-qualified deductible health insurance plan.

Presented by: Velinda Simpson, Community Relation Specialist for Consumer Markets/ Community Development at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Thursday, April 23, 4-5 p.m.; Friday, April 24, 1-2 p.m.

GET YOUR MONEY STRAIGHT & YOUR BUSINESS IN ORDER

This workshop will cover budgeting, managing your funds, how to use unsecured or secured credit cards, and how to build a legacy.

Presented by: Mary Drake, Illinois Life & Health Producer/Financial Consultant, Wednesday, April 22, 3-4 p.m.

Job Benefits

Are you new to the job market or searching for a job? This workshop will teach you how to make the most of your employment perks such as how to save money with automatic deductions and retirement plans. This is a great opportunity for students and young adults to prepare for the working world, so they can be better informed when making decisions on those post-graduation job offers. Effective use of job benefits can increase your job's value beyond your salary!

Presented by: Sasha Grabenstetter, Consumer Economics Educator at University of Illinois Extension, April 22, 3-4 p.m.

Life Transitions:

Whether it is going to college, moving, dating, or getting a new job, all of these major life changes can cause periods of financial transition. How you deal with these transitions can seriously impact your finances in the long run. Do you have the necessary tools to manage life's financial transitions?

Presented by: Sasha Grabenstetter, Consumer Economics Educator at University of Illinois Extension, Friday, April 24, 11-12 a.m.

Money Smart Week Workshops

Debunking Credit Scores:

To most people credit scores are mysterious and alien to them. Your credit report goes into a black box and it spits out your FICO score. Have you ever wondered what goes into your credit score? Or even how to improve it? In this program, you will learn what factors impact your score positively and negatively as well as understanding how delinquent accounts effects your financial well-being. You will also discover the 36 different factors that go into your personal credit report as well as understanding why you should use older credit cards at least every six months.

Presented by: Sasha Grabenstetter, Consumer Economics Educator at University of Illinois Extension April 24, at 1-2 p.m.

Money at Work/Foundations of Investing

TIAA-CREF's workshop leaders will help you figure out which investment vehicles are right for you:

- Discover what stocks, annuities, mutual funds and IRAs are and which ones best fit your needs
- Learn about risk and finding your risk tolerance
- See how the same savings principles work for short- or long-term goals.

Presented by: Patrick Windle, Financial Consultant, Field Consulting Group TIAA-CREF |Financial Services, Tuesday, April 21, 2-3 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.

Resources for Undocumented Students

Undocumented Students will learn the financial aid restrictions and understand how to tackle the challenges of funding their education.

Presented by: Sylvia Ponce De Leon, Associate Director of Financial Aid at Governors State University, Monday, April 20, 3-3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, April 21, 4-4:30 p.m.

Finance 101

Learn fundamental financial literacy principles and strategies designed to help manage your money and plan a strong financial future.

Presented by: Jones-Harper, Sheryl, Account Technician II , Financial Services & Comptroller at Governors State University, Friday, April 24, 12- 1.

Saving For Your Retirement

This interactive workshop will cover all the ways to save for your retirement. Where will the money come from when I retire? Will I have enough? What about medical expenses? Do I need long term care insurance? Where will I live when I retire? Will I outlive my money? Do I need to work in retirement?

Presented by: John Olson, Investment Advisor Representative at Valic Financial Advisors, Monday, April 20, 12-1 p.m.; Tuesday, April 21, 1-2 p.m.

Money Smart Week Workshops

Steps to Affordable Home Ownership

Discover the process of preparing for and obtaining a loan to purchase a home, and how grants can help with the down payment and closing cost. Stop by a free seminar sponsored by financial institutions, businesses, government agencies, schools, libraries, and lots of others who are joining to promote personal financial education.

Presented by: Millie Reyes-Williams, CRA Relationship Manager/Mortgage Lending at BMO Harris Bank, Tuesday, April 21, 12-1 p.m.; and 2-3 p.m.; Friday, April, 24, 3-4 p.m.

Retirement

Ten Steps to Financial Security. The presentation will walk participants through a 10-step process to help analyze individual retirement needs and get set on the path to fulfill them.

Presented by: Donald Wade, CFP and Registered Principal at LEGEND EQUITIES Corporation, Tuesday, April 21, 1-2 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 3-4 p.m.

Stock Markets

Over meaningful periods of time, the stock market has shown great volatility, but also substantial rewards. This presentation discusses how to understand and weather that volatility to take advantage of the superior returns the market provides.

Presented by: Donald Wade, CFP, and Registered Principal at LEGEND EQUITIES Corporation. Tuesday, April 21, 3-4 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 1-2 p.m.

Money Matters in the Family

We will discuss cultural norms that create financial distress and how to diminish impact of negative messages about finances. Ultimately, the presenters will encourage participants to reflect on the role that money messages have had in their own lives and learn to advocate for financial education and empowerment in their own relationships.

Presented by: Crystal H. Blount, PhD & Darlene Wright, PhD, and members of the Psychology and Stress Research Lab, Wednesday, April 22, 3:30-5 p.m.

The College Financial Playing Field

Certified Financial Planner Shireen Daniels will show college students and soon-to-be-grads how to tackle debt, work out a budget, and take down retirement-planning procrastination in order to score a bright financial future. Learn strategies for paying off loans, the best ways to save, and the ins and outs of a 401K.

Presented by: Shireen Daniels, Certified Financial Planner and College Planning Specialist at Lighthouse Financial Group, Thursday, April 23, 1-2 p.m.

Peer Mentors Help Freshmen Find Their Way

August 11, 2015



Getting acclimated to a new university can be an overwhelming experience for an incoming freshman. Students are trying to make new friends, find ways to manage the inevitable pressure of new and higher expectations, and establish new routines that support their success.

One of the ways we have tried to make the transition to college less stressful and more welcoming for freshmen is through the [Smart Start](#) experience. One of the keys to success for Smart Start is the group of dedicated students known as Peer Mentors. These are students who help the freshmen learn what it means to be part of Jaguar Nation.

As a Peer Mentor, sophomore Juan Gutierrez knows he has a responsibility to answer questions, give guidance and support, and generally make the freshmen students he meets feel at home.

It was Juan's own experience as a freshman last year that made him want to become a Peer Mentor. "My Peer Mentor was Derek Brown and he really helped me to fit in here at GSU. He inspired me to want to help the freshmen this year," Juan said. Derek apparently did a good job of making Juan feel at home at GSU. Juan was a recipient of the Rising Star Award in last spring's Student Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by Student Senate.

As for the Peer Mentor experience, Juan said he would definitely recommend it to the freshmen he is helping today. "I think being a Peer Mentor is helping me develop as a person. I've made a lot of friends through the program and I'm making a lot of new freshmen friends today," he said.

The Smart Start program began Monday, Aug. 10 and runs through Friday, Aug. 21. Students in the Smart Start program were selected by faculty based on a combination of GPA, ACT scores and/or high school grades that suggested Smart Start would serve as the perfect way to get started in college. The program helps students strengthen their academic skills, develop a peer support network, and familiarize themselves with GSU and its resources. Smart Start students are enrolled in an English program and/or a mathematics program, as well as the first-year student seminar called Mastering College.

In addition to the academic programs offered, Smart Start students can participate in a variety of [fun and social activities](#).

Congresswoman Robin Kelly Announces GSU Grant

October 12, 2015

GSU was in the news this week when Congresswoman Robin Kelly announced that GSU and Joliet Junior College (JJC) each received five-year grants to expand programs aimed at strengthening student services and academic support for low-income students.

GSU has been selected to receive a Title III grant of \$1.99 million over five years under the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). The grant will fund the Center for the Junior Year. The program is under the direction of Deborah E. Bordelon, PhD, GSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The goal of the CJY will be to assist students in making informed choices about majors and careers. Students entering their junior year, whether from GSU, one of the 17 partner community colleges, or any other college or university, will meet in specially designed cornerstone courses in each major.

The Title III grant will help strengthen GSU's student services and academic support. "The CJY will improve the transition of native and transfer students into the junior year and the major, increase the retention of all students, especially underrepresented students, and improve rates of students' successful attainment of the baccalaureate degree," Bordelon said.

Library Jam Tutors and Breaks

November 28 – December 1, 2016

Writing Tutoring

Kerri Morris Monday Noon – 1 p.m.

Chris Greiner Monday 9 – 11 a.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon

Amy Vujaklija Monday 11 a.m. – Noon

Tuesday 11 a.m. – Noon

Brad Smith Wednesday 2 – 3 p.m.

Math Tutoring

Arjun Monday 2 – 4 p.m. (MATH 1423, 2281, 2290, ECON 2301, 2302, 3404, ACCT 2110)

Patrick Tuesday 3 – 5 p.m. (MATH 1423, 2100, 2281, 2290, ECON 2301, 2302, STAT 2700, 3700)

Rebecca Wednesday 2 – 4 p.m. (CHEM 1113, 1141, and MATH 2100)

Beth Thursday 12 – 2 p.m. (BIOL 1500, CHEM 1141, MATH 2100)

Special Jam Breaks

Mindfulness Tuesday 1 – 2 p.m.

Meditation Thursday 1 – 2 p.m.

Improv/comedy Wednesday 3 p.m.

Doggies on Campus TBA