Scholarships Awarded to Incoming and Current GSU Students

From left: Provost scholar Megan Frick; Dean’s scholar Lexi Kavoric; and Provost scholar Alexandria Pavloski

As the 2017–18 academic year approaches, GSU’s incoming and current students are being recognized for outstanding achievements through academic and community scholarships.

GSU awards its Presidential, Provost, and Dean’s scholarships to six high school seniors from across the Midwest each year. The scholarships, funded by the GSU Foundation, are presented to students who have exhibited excellence in high school performance and civic engagement.

Following are the 2017–18 recipients of GSU’s academic scholarships: Presidential – Marina Ibrahim and Eunis Kukose, both of Tinley Park, IL; Provost – Megan Frick of Fulton, IL, and Alexandria Pavloski of Manteno, IL; and Dean’s scholarships were awarded to Lexi Kavoric of Canton, OH, and Elise Moores of Chicago, IL. To read more about the students and their respective awards, click here.

Kankakee Community College students Brianna Fabsits and Andrea Fuentes were awarded full scholarships to GSU through the Dual Degree Program. You can read the full story here.

GSU volleyball player Milica Maras has been awarded the 2017 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship by the Zonta Club of Joliet. Originally from Belgrade, Serbia, Maras is an Accounting major in the College of Business and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Read more about Milica and her scholarship here.
Last week, GSU staff members were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the GSU community during the second annual Excellence and Innovation in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Ceremony, hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

“These individuals exemplify the division wide talent and dedication that goes towards serving our students and fulfilling our mission,” said Dr. Aurélio Valente, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

To view the award recipients, click here.

Announcements and Events

**Must-Read Checklist for Planning University Events!**

Faculty and staff members: are you planning an event or events in the 2017–18 academic year? Although rooms aren’t released until two weeks after the semester begins, planning in advance and engaging your campus partners is an essential component of your event’s success. Read this checklist that will help facilitate the success of your event.

Students interested in planning events for student clubs and organizations can contact Student Life for guidelines and assistance.

**Temporary Student Life Conference Room Closure**

Access to Student Life Conference Room B (room A2110) will be unavailable from June 19–28. Major renovations are underway in anticipation of The Jaguar Den (coordinated by the Civic Engagement Community Service Center). For more information, email Student Life or call 708.235.7362.

**Wish You Were Here – A Postcard Exhibition**
GSU’s Visual Arts Gallery has released a Call for Entry for handmade postcards from around the world. The gallery’s goal is to receive 500 or more standard sized postcards mailed through postal services to create a continuous line of postcards around the gallery walls. Suggested mail in dates are June 20 for international postcards, and June 30 for domestic. View the Call for Entry here or email Jeff Stevenson for more information.

Take a Summer Time-Out for Fun!
Take a break from the office for Time Out for Fun (TOFF)! All GSU staff, students, and faculty are invited to get together, as schedules allow, between noon and 2 p.m. this Wednesday, June 21 for a variety of organized activities such as bags, bocce ball, volleyball, hula-hoops, board games, and more. In the case of rainy weather, pool, X-Box, and ping-pong are on the agenda.

TOFF activities are planned for the following Wednesdays during the summer: June 21 and 28; July 12, 19, and 26; and August 2 and 9. Locations will be announced in an upcoming e-blast. For more information, contact TOFF Committee members Karen Caesar, Dean Jennings, Marco Krcatovich, or Lydia Morrow-Ruetten.

Writing Center Summer Hours
The Writing Center is open Monday through Friday during the summer term to assist all GSU students with their written assignments. Whether you need help outlining a paper, understanding APA style, utilizing sources, or revising a research paper, the consultants in the Writing Center can provide assistance to help you successfully complete your goals. Click here to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a writing consultant or submit your paper to the Writing Center’s online system. A consultant will review the paper and respond with suggestions for revision within twenty-four hours.

Additionally, The Writing Center offers weekly workshops covering a variety of topics. No appointments are necessary for workshops, and they are open to all GSU students. For more information, please visit the Writing Center in person or online, or contact Jarrett Neal.

Equine Therapy Class
This fall, Addiction Studies is offering an Equine Therapy course, ADDS-5250.01, open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Taught by Dr. Raven Badger, Equine Therapy will include interaction with horses and take place on the GSU campus and an off-campus farm. The class is scheduled Mondays from 4:30 to 7:20 p.m. For more information email Dr. Raven Badger or call 708.235.2160.

Summer Film Festival
Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the Summer Film Festival, hosted by GSU’s School of Extended Learning and Intellectual Life Committee. The first film screening of the festival is An Unknown Country by Eva Zelig, which will take place on Tuesday, June 21 from 4–7 p.m. in F1622. Reserve your seat here.

Yoga in the Park
Are you looking for a twist on your fitness routine? Practice your poses among sculptural giants outside in the prairie as you roll out your yoga mat, and connect with the beauty of nature and art. Classes take place in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at 10 a.m. on Saturdays, and there are two sessions left: June 24 and July 1. Drop-in fee is $15 per class. To register, email Gina Ragland or call 708.235.7559.

**Highlights**

**Student Inspires Campus Change**

Linda Coleman, a master’s student in communication, has brought tangible change to GSU through her LED Capstone project focusing on student health and safety. Coleman’s academic efforts have resulted in the creation of GSU4U and the transformation of the Jaguar Den. Read the full story [here](#).

**GSU Faculty Father Gives Children Gift of Lifelong Learning**
Dr. Carlos Ferran, associate professor of Accounting and Management Information Systems (MIS) in GSU's College of Business has spent the past year in Barcelona examining the European model of online learning and teaching classes online while also creating an opportunity for his four children—Jesus, Mercedes, Victoria, and Carlos—to have a broad educational experience.

Read more about Dr. Ferran’s research and his family’s travels here.

**Interview with Dr. Jeannine Klomes**

Dr. Jeannine Klomes, Ed.D. Associate Professor in GSU's College of Education, speaks about her research and pedagogy in Early Childhood Education. Dr. Klomes says, "As a teacher, you must comprehend, that at any given time, you may be the most stable person in a child’s life."

Read the full interview here.

**4 Ways to Beat the Heat**

Summer is in full swing, and with it comes heat and humidity. Click here for fun and healthy ways to beat the heat as temperatures soar.
Workshops & Trainings

Check out the Writing Center’s workshop offerings as well as the next Office of Marketing and Communications WorkZone training. For the complete list of options, click here.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
Chicago, IL, June 19, 2017

**Staff Recognized for Continued Dedication to GSU Community**

Last week, GSU staff members were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the GSU community during the second annual Excellence and Innovation in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Ceremony, hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

“These individuals exemplify the division wide talent and dedication that goes towards serving our students and fulfilling our mission,” said Dr. Aurélio Valente, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

The 2016-17 Award recipients are:

- **Darcie Campos** - Going the Extra Mile: Most employees direct a majority of their focus on their own work. Sure, they might lend a hand from time to time, but they've got their own responsibilities that are most important to them. Then there's the employee who consistently goes above and beyond. This person always volunteers to take on extra work and pinch hit for coworkers. Beyond that, they deliver exemplary service to all customers and partners.

- **Yakeea Beaver** - Innovation/Technology Award: This award recognizes significant improvement in performance, results, or process, in programs and services within SA+EM or within the university at large, through innovation or technology, social media/multimedia.

- **Nancy Slowey** - Most Innovative: During meetings - or even just in random conversation - one employee on your team invariably comes up with amazing idea after amazing idea. This person is responsible for brainstorming new revenue-generating initiatives, improving workflows, and figuring out how to provide even better customer service.

- **Dorothea Franklin** - Outstanding Employee of the Year Award: This award recognizes a divisional employee, who has been employed for two or more years, and has demonstrated superior work performance, positive attitude, initiative and a cooperative spirit.

- **Nikki Witt Penwell** - Outstanding New Employee Award: This award recognizes an employee who does a great job yet receives little or no recognition for that. An unsung hero usually refrains from claiming too much in return for his/her efforts.
· **Chris Huang** - Professional Development & Life-Long Learning Award: This award recognizes individuals who have contributed to the profession through conference presentations, research/publication including dissertation/capstone.

· **Brenda Moore** - Promoting Partnerships Award: This award recognizes individuals and/or departments that have accomplished goals and objectives through internal and/or external collaboration, outreach and partnerships both inside and outside the division, including academic affairs.

· **Sean Smith** - Student Mentor Award: This award recognizes significant improvement in performance, results, or process, in programs and services within SA+EM or within the university at large, through innovation or technology, social media/multimedia.

· **Kimberly Peterson** - Students First Award: This award recognizes significant improvement in performance, results, or process, in programs and services within SA+EM or within the university at large, through innovation or technology, social media/multimedia.

· **Matt Zarris & Tiesha Walker** - The Calm, Cool, and Collected Award: Work can be stressful for most of us - there’s no denying that. But even during the most hectic times of the year, every company has one employee who seems utterly unfazed by the fast-paced nature of work. While everyone else is frantic, this individual remains calm, cool, and collected at all times.

· **Pat Rounsaville** - The Spirit Award: This award is given to the individual who most embodies the GSU culture and lives and breathes its values on a daily basis. The person who receives this award enhances the work environment simply by being themselves. They’re jovial, encouraging, supportive, and friendly. Quite simply, they make work a better place.

· **La Sheena Fuller** - Unsung Hero Award: This award recognizes an employee who does a great job yet receives little or no recognition for that. An unsung hero usually refrains from claiming too much in return for his/her efforts.
Student Inspires Campus Change

To her peers, Linda Coleman is “Mama” Linda, an ever-listening ear attached to a big heart filled with wisdom. She's a 1 a.m. phone call—the one who answers—and a ride in the rain. And she's the student behind GSU4U (http://www.govst.edu/gsu4u/), an initiative by the Office of the Dean of Students (http://www.govst.edu/DOS/) set to launch at Governors State University in the fall that “connects students to campus and community resources when they are facing personal difficulties, such as food and housing insecurity.”

“We have a lot of resources already in place,” Coleman said, “but students become intimidated. They become afraid. They don’t want to have a conversation about what they're going through. It's coming from an underlying sense of pride, but at the same time it’s a sense of shame and just wanting to be able to resolve the problem on your own without others knowing what you’re going through.”

Those resources include the Jaguar Pantry, an open food pantry that supplies nonperishable food, access to showers in the Athletics and Recreation Center (http://www.govst.edu/Recfit/), and counseling through the GSU Counseling Center (http://www.govst.edu/counselingcenter/).

Coleman, who is working on her Master's degree in Communication (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges-and-Programs/College-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Division-of-Communication-Visual-and-Performing-Arts/communication/), first became aware of what she saw as “a gap” on campus when she began working with other students in a peer mentoring capacity through the Dual Degree Program (http://www.govst.edu/DDP/) (DDP) and Center for the Junior Year, as well as through her position on campus as a student senator.

“I’m a student senator and a DDP mentor, and so students would come to me—and not just because of academics. Everything ties in together,” she said. “You know, once students realize that they can talk to you, that you will hold their information as dear to you as it is to them and that you'll hold it confidentially, then you find that students will open up. When they realize that you'll answer their call, that it doesn't matter what you're doing, that you'll answer—” Coleman paused, words temporarily replaced by a lump in her throat. "They share, and with the sharing you find out so many things. So I started talking to people and finding resources.”

Coleman said that she knew there were safety nets in place for students who struggled with basic needs, and she knew there were people on campus helping them, but none of them were communicating with each other. The goal of her LED Capstone project was to bring these disparate parts together at GSU and centralize support and assistance.

At GSU, a capstone experience is a project situated within your major or honors program, completed in close consultation with a faculty mentor. Some students opt to write a thesis, others create arts performances or exhibitions. Some, like Coleman, are drawn to projects that are interdisciplinary in nature and involve community partnerships.
Dr. Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students as well as a driving force behind GSU4U, called Coleman's Student Leadership Capstone project an integral piece of "the perfect storm" that led to the program's development.

"Her project was on addressing student health disparities, so GSU4U is an effort to link campus to community agencies, because they can be really hard to navigate, particularly when you're in the moment and are in crisis," Valente said. "Absolutely we have students who are facing homelessness, but we have many more students facing housing insecurity, where their housing isn't stable. They're living in a hotel, living with friends—when they are in survival mode, facing the question of where they're going to sleep, students can't finish a semester."

The goal, he said, of GSU4U is to create an active referral network that helps students navigate the often daunting labyrinth of social services and community agencies. From acquiring government identification—especially for students with no permanent address—to providing access to a "career closet" for those who can't afford a work wardrobe, the initiative aims to elevate the whole student from "a surviving mentality to a thriving one," according to Valente.

As for Coleman, she will serve as the graduate assistant for the initiative while continuing to fulfill her many roles, on and off campus: student, mother, grandmother, graduate assistant, member of the Student Senate, student trustee to the GSU Board of Trustees, president of both Tau Sigma and Upsilon Phi Delta National Honors Societies, Global Brigade president, and most of all—friend.

"They were coming to talk to me because I'm Linda. I just happened to be on Student Senate, and I just happened to be a mentor and a peer success coach in the Center for the Junior Year. I realized a long time ago that it's just the way I'm built. I do it because I enjoy doing it."
University Park, IL, June 16, 2017

**Jeannine Klomes**

Tears well in her eyes and words catch in her throat when Dr. Jeannine Klomes, Ed.D., Associate Professor in Governors State University’s College of Education, talks about children who have poor educational experiences, particularly if the struggle stems from a teaching deficit.

“Career teachers must own self-excellence,” she said.

Klomes is an early childhood development expert who has spent nearly four decades observing, researching, teaching, and advocating about the education of children.

Following years of teaching and mentoring students at the elementary, undergraduate, and graduate levels as well as serving on a number of university and community boards, Klomes has arrived at a simple but striking theory for human behavior.

“We all experience the temperaments and stages of child development until the day we die,” said Klomes, who joined GSU in 1993 and also serves as coordinator of the Early Childhood Education program. “As a child development specialist, you realize when children say they want something there is a significant reason for that desire. Are they hungry, jealous, upset, lonely, confused, maybe simply bored? These various expressions and behaviors continue on throughout our entire life.”

Klomes brings her powerful observations and extensive research to her program coordinator duties, designing curriculum and securing relationships that have helped position GSU for Southland students seeking education degrees and professional credentials.

Klomes herself earned one of her two master’s degrees at GSU in Education Administration and Supervision. She has an educational doctorate from Northern Illinois University, where she studied the school reentry process for children impacted by a traumatic brain injury for her doctoral research.

Klomes also earned an undergraduate degree in Childhood Development and a second master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education.

At GSU, both students and peers have recognized Klomes’ work, winning her Faculty Excellence nominations year after year. In 2007, she won the award for teaching excellence. For a decade, she has been a COE Faculty Senator as well as Executive Senator, positions perfectly suited for Klomes, an ardent advocate for the proverbial “little guy.”

**GSU Newsroom: What is the concept of “significant other” and why is it important?**
**Klomes:** There are three areas of child development – physical, cognitive, and social-emotional. I am most passionate about the social-emotional because if a child doesn’t have confidence, pride, or self-worth, he/she is not likely to embrace the academic achievement of language, math, science or social studies. The child is almost stuck in the mode of seeking out a friend, care, love, and/or safety. As a teacher, if you cannot recognize and foster a child’s social-emotional development, you will not be fully effective in helping him/her learn. As a teacher, you need to be that child’s “significant other” - someone who helps build confidence, offers security, maintains consistency, and in turn, provides education. As a teacher, you must comprehend, that at any given time, you may be the most stable person in a child’s life.

**GSU Newsroom: How does GSU's Early Childhood Program collaborate with community colleges in the area?**

**Klomes:** Recently, Governors State’s Early Childhood program was awarded a state grant called Education Program Preparation Innovation (EPPI) to explore ways to improve our partnership with two-year colleges in the area. We already had a good relationship with both Prairie State (College) and South Suburban Community College—particularly because of our Dual Degree Program ([http://www.govst.edu/DDP/](http://www.govst.edu/DDP/))—however, this grant helped us identify ways to make it better. We added English as a Second language to the COE undergraduate program and looked at our transfer agreement between institutions regarding course credit eligibility and Gateways credentialing expectations. Engaging in a grant with our partner community colleges is hugely important because 90 percent of our students come from these partner institutions.

**GSU Newsroom: What inspires you most about the GSU student?**

**Klomes:** I admire the students in the Southland region. I work with juniors, seniors, and graduate students already committed to their major, and I firmly believe they are of the ‘pull-your-boot straps-up and make-it-happen’ perspective. My students have been around the block, per se. They work, care for family members, have attended other colleges, own homes, volunteer for organizations, etc., and are determined to graduate, often with honors, holding a degree that meets their career path choice.

In addition, I believe the vast majority of my GSU students are getting an education with the intent of returning right back to their local community to make a difference. They are invested in educating children as well as making a positive difference in their community.