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GSU View

University Newsletters

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



August 22, 2017

Vol. 44, Issue 3

News

GSU Board of Trustees Meet for Annual Retreat



The Governors State University Board of Trustees met **Friday, August 17** for its annual retreat and to move on a small number of action items. With all members present, the board voted unanimously to extend the contract of GSU President Elaine P. Maimon through June 30, 2020. Trustees also approved a 0.7 percent salary increase for all non-negotiated positions at the university. Additionally, the Board reviewed a study that showed a 1 percent increase from FY 2007 to FY 2016 in institutional support expenditures. Instructional spending rose 2.2 percent during the same time period, and student services spending increased 2.6 percent.

All Invited to GSU's 48th Annual Convocation Ceremony



Kick off the new school year with [GSU](#) this Friday as the university celebrates its 48th annual Convocation! Arrive early – between 2:30 and 2:55 p.m. – to be entered in a drawing for GSU swag. Doors will close at 3 p.m., so be sure to arrive on time!

During the ceremony, all attendees will receive commemorative Convocation pins. Following the ceremony, enjoy the annual ice cream social. Convocation 2017 also welcomes the Class of 2021 to GSU and recognizes the winners of the Faculty Excellence and Baysore Awards.

The ceremony will take place **Friday, August 25** at 3 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. Contact [Penny Perdue](#) or call 708.534.4130 for more information.

What's New at GSU

In the next few weeks, we are excited to welcome new students, faculty, and staff to [Governors State University](#). We are delighted that you've chosen to be part of our vibrant campus community. To those returning to campus after a restful (or busy) summer, welcome back!

The summer may have seemed quiet on campus, but several exciting projects have been unfolding. With the beginning of the new academic year, these new additions and updates to campus are officially ready for use.

[Read more . . .](#)

Campus Event Observes Solar Eclipse



GSU students, faculty, and staff gathered in East Lot 3 to view the rare occurrence of a [solar eclipse](#) on Monday, August 21. Hosted by the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), the event featured two telescopes through which spectators viewed the moon obscuring the sun. Many attendees brought safety glasses and handcrafted eclipse viewers from home, making the event a lively and engaging community experience.

View photos of the event [here](#).

Announcements and Events

Get Social for GSU's 48th Convocation



Convocation Snapchat Geofilter

Show off your Jaguar spirit with the Convocation 2017 [Social Media Toolkit](#). Get social with selected hashtags for Twitter and Instagram, Twibbon profile filters for Facebook, and geofilters for Snapchat.

To view the toolkit, click [here](#).

Service & Leadership Seminar

[Student Life](#) and the [Civic Engagement Center](#) invite incoming freshmen and transfer students to take part in GSU's Service & Leadership Seminar, a weeklong experiential learning opportunity next week from **August 21 – 24**.

This co-curricular certificate program will enhance your college experience by providing an understanding of other cultures, enhancing leadership skills, creating an awareness of self, and an understanding of social issues. Through workshops, speakers, and interaction with current campus leaders, you'll learn about community service, leadership, and self-awareness. Discover how you can help create positive, sustainable change on the GSU campus.

Join GSU Student Activities Council

The GSU Student Activities Council (SAC) is a group of dedicated students who work in conjunction with Student Life to create campus programs that are timely and meaningful to students. The SAC creates student events, promotes campus involvement, and celebrates diversity as it represents the student voice in programming. Through this process, students gain valuable leadership skills that enrich their abilities as well as impact campus life.

The SAC plans many events throughout the academic year including [Welcome Week](#), Family & Friends Weekend, Spirit Week, Halloween Bash, Spring Fest, and Open Mic Night.

Contact [Konya Sledge](#) to become a member.

MSI National Bow Tie Day



The [Male Success Initiative](#) invites the entire GSU community to participate in National Bow Tie Day by wearing a bow tie on **Monday, August 28**, to show support for the MSI. All are invited: males, females, students, staff, faculty, and administration. Dress up, dress down, dress funky... just rock your bow tie on National Bow Tie Day.

For more information, contact [Sean Smith](#).

Call for Programs – Latino Heritage Month

The [Office of Intercultural Student Affairs](#) wants your ideas for Latino Heritage Month! Students, faculty, and staff members are invited to submit events to help GSU celebrate the history, culture, and

contributions of Latinos in our global society past, present, and future.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

Submissions and questions can be directed to [Robert Clay](#). Deadline for event proposals is **August 25**.

Student Employment and Part-time Job Fair



Career Services is hosting the [Student Employment and Part-time Job Fair](#) on **Wednesday, August 30** from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. The fair is open to all students looking for part-time federal work-study and student worker jobs at GSU, as well as some external employers offering part-time employment.

In preparation for the fair, Career Services will offer drop-in resume review services on **Monday and Tuesday, August 28 – 29** between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Career Services is located in the Student Success Commons in B1215.

For additional information, please contact the [Office of Career Services](#) or call 708.235.3974.

Friends of the Library Back to School Basket Sale



Be sure to stop by the [Friends of the Library](#) Back to School Basket Sale on **Thursday, August 31** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the D-wing atrium. There will be a variety of baskets and gifts from which to choose.

“Thanks to all in our GSU community, we have had very successful basket sales this year,” offered Ann Manning Nagel, President of the Friends of the Library. “We wanted to be able to continue our tradition.”

All contributions to and funds raised through the efforts of the Friends of the GSU Library go directly to supporting initiatives that enhance the [GSU Library](#). To learn more about the GSU Friends of the Library, click [here](#).

Workshop Proposals Requested for IDEAS Labs

[Intercultural Student Affairs](#) presents Intercultural Development for Equity and Success (IDEAS) Labs: an innovative program designed to engage faculty, staff, and students in a think tank acknowledging campus inequities that may limit student success. IDEAS Labs will serve as professional development for faculty and staff and leadership development opportunities for students. IDEAS Labs are an opportunity for our community to develop resolutions regarding these matters in a holistic, inclusive manner.

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to facilitate an IDEAS Lab. Please submit your proposed workshop [here](#) by **Friday, September 1**. For more information, email [Intercultural Student Affairs](#) or call 708.534.4551.

Public Health Brigade to Nicaragua – January 2018



GSU will be taking its third group to Nicaragua from **January 4 – 10, 2018**. We are happy to announce that [Dr. Phyllis West](#) will continue to be the faculty leader and the faculty co-leader is [Dr. Nicole Koonce](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders. Dr. Koonce has extensive experience leading university groups abroad and serving abroad in Haiti. We welcome her to be part of this transformational and humbling experience for our students.

The application period is now open and will remain open until **October 1**. There are various scholarship and leadership opportunities for students, some of which have a deadline of **September 15**, so we encourage everyone interested to apply soon. For more information, please join the Brigade Mixer on **September 1** from 3 – 4:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors, click [here](#), or contact Study Abroad Coordinator [Amy Schoenberg](#).

Men's Leadership Summit 2017 – Call for Workshops

The Men's Leadership Summit is seeking workshop proposals for its 2017 conference held on **November 17**. This year's theme is "From Reasonable Doubt to 4:44: The Evolution of Maleness, Masculinity, and Manhood." Using the musical career of Jay-Z as a backdrop, the conference theme speaks to men discovering the influence of maleness, masculinity, and manhood on their journey to be leaders.

Click [here](#) to submit your workshop proposal by **October 6**. For more information, click [here](#), email [Intercultural Student Affairs](#), or call 708.534.4551.

Emergency Preparedness for Faculty and Staff

To help ensure that campus safety remains at the forefront, whether you are a faculty or staff member, the Emergency Response Team would like to share with you a preparedness checklist and website for your review. Click [here](#) to view.

CPA Featured in Best of Winners Guide



For the fourth consecutive year, GSU's [Center for Performing Arts](#) has been chosen by readers of the Daily Southtown as the region's Best Live Entertainment Venue in the Daily Southtown's "Best of Chicago's Southland: East Zone." The Best of Winners guide will be published this **Thursday, August 24**.

Highlights

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen



A British literature scholar and the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, Dr. [Rosemary Erickson Johnsen](#) was the perfect recruit to co-design a Humanities course where GSU student veterans could articulate their war experiences.

"I understand the need for and the value of programs like this. My father did two tours in Vietnam, and he does not talk about it. End of discussion. So what begins to converge is what I know about it personally and my academic and teaching background," said Johnsen.

[Read more ...](#)

GSU's First Freshmen Come of Age



Senior Nekia Driver looks back on [her first Convocation](#): a GSU tradition of welcoming incoming and returning students to campus. Nekia is a member of GSU's first freshman class and is on track to graduate in May 2018. Read her story [here](#).

Mary Bruce Recognized for Excellence as Educator



Congratulations to Dr. [Mary Bruce](#), professor of Public Administration in the College of Arts and Sciences! Dr. Bruce is among educators honored by DuPage AME Church for her exceptional work in the field of education.

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found [here](#), including 25Live training, Academic Resource Center Workshops and Orientations, and Faculty and Advisor Open Labs for GSU STAR.

Faculty: If you have not already done so, it's time to have a new headshot photograph taken. Please refer to the [schedule](#) to find a convenient time.

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, IL, August 21, 2017

What's New at GSU

In the next few weeks, we are excited to welcome new students, faculty, and staff to Governors State University. We are delighted that you've chosen to be part of our vibrant campus community. To those returning to campus after a restful (or busy) summer, welcome back!

The summer may have seemed quiet on campus, but several exciting projects have been unfolding. With the beginning of the new academic year, these new additions and updates to campus will be officially ready for use.

The Health Center and Student Counseling Services

Members of the GSU community can now receive treatment for minor illnesses and injuries, as well as wellness checks, right on campus. In a partnership with Advocate Health Care, GSU has developed the Health Center and Student Counseling Services, the first health service in the university's history. Opening August 14 at 1 p.m., the Health Center will provide students access to healthcare offered by one of the largest providers in the Midwest. August clinic hours will be 1 – 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beginning September 1, hours will shift by one hour: 2 – 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The clinic will be staffed by Cassandra Brooks, a 2015 GSU graduate and certified family nurse practitioner employed by Advocate and supervised by Prentiss Taylor, M.D., Medical Director of Advocate at Work. Dr. Taylor, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and leader in patient satisfaction, will staff the clinic until Ms. Brooks begins on September 1.

GSU4U

At GSU, we take the word "community" to heart. The needs of one are the concerns of the whole. Inspired by the work of Linda Coleman, a [leader among students](http://gsunews.govst.edu/student-inspires-campus-change/) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/student-inspires-campus-change/>) at GSU, Governors State is proud to launch [GSU4U](http://www.govst.edu/gsu4u/) (<http://www.govst.edu/gsu4u/>), a resource assistance network that connects Jaguars with the support they need. Whether you are experiencing academic struggles or facing a food or housing crisis, GSU4U can help you find the resources you need both on and off campus.

Everyone struggles at some point, and GSU recognizes that it can be difficult to ask for help. That's why we've set up an easy online assistance request form. You can also call GSU4U at 708.235.2845, [email](mailto:gsu4u@govst.edu?subject=Assistance%20Request) (<mailto:gsu4u@govst.edu?subject=Assistance%20Request>), or stop by A2129.

Jaguar Den

In a similar spirit, the Jaguar Den has evolved from the former Student Lounge, located next to Student Life on the second floor of the A-building. Here, you can find valuable resources that will support your individual needs, such as the Food Bank, Career Closet, and more.

For more information on the Jaguar Den, stop by or email [Sheree Sanderson](mailto:ssanderson@govst.edu) (<mailto:ssanderson@govst.edu>).

New Divisions in the College of Arts and Sciences

Effective July 1, CAS has newly recombined their divisions in an effort to increase inter- and cross-disciplinary learning in the university's largest college. Students and faculty will be better able to work cohesively together with a greater sense of collaboration across units under this new organizational structure. The Division of Arts & Letters—combining the former Humanities and Social Sciences Division with Communications, Visual and Performing Arts—will be chaired by Lori Montalbano, and the Division of Science, Mathematics, and Technology will be headed by Steve Shih.

Undergraduate Advising Center

Supportive advising is a key element of GSU's undergraduate experience. To advance this experience for our students, GSU has developed a new Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC), which unifies the advisors into one central location. Students can now access an advisor at any time during normal business hours to obtain information. New appointed positions include Lisa Helm, Director of the UAC, and Pam Stipanich, Assistant Director of the UAC.

GSU utilizes Appreciative Advising techniques to get to work with the whole student. By understanding students' strengths, skills, and abilities, advisors help students achieve their ideal academic experience through course selection and goal planning.

To reach the UAC, email advising@govst.edu (<mailto:advising@govst.edu>) or call 708.534.8043.

Tagline

A strong brand platform is essential to any organization: it increases awareness and understanding of brand identity not only for those who are already members of the community but also for those who wish to enter. To strengthen our brand identity and its evolving perception, GSU has adopted a new brand platform and tagline.

First, our brand platform: *Passion First. Purpose Forever.* The degrees achieved at GSU aren't a terminal experience—they are the beginning of a lifelong journey. We encompass this with our new tagline: *Here, you are.* Because accessibility is at the heart of our mission, this message adheres to our goal of creating a campus where every individual belongs.

Finally, we have created the Brand Room to show you how to effectively use our new brand platform and tagline. In the Brand Room, you will find key messaging to all of our audiences, visual and verbal guidelines, and how to put it all together. View the Brand Room [here \(http://www.govst.edu/brandroom/\)](http://www.govst.edu/brandroom/).

GSU 2017

CONVOCATION

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

GSU's 48th Annual Convocation

While convocation is always exciting, this year holds a special significance: the first entering freshman class will take part in its final march before commencement. These students are the first to complete a four-year undergraduate degree at GSU.

During the ceremony, students will receive commemorative Convocation pins, and following the ceremony is the annual ice cream social. Convocation 2017 also welcomes the Class of 2021 to GSU and recognizes the winners of the Faculty Excellence Awards and the Baysore Award.

When: Friday, August 25, 2017 | Time: 3 – 4 p.m. | Where: Center for Performing Arts at GSU

Let's Get Social

Help us spread the word about Convocation 2017 on social media using the hashtag #gsuConvocation2017. Encourage the GSU and local communities to attend the ceremony.

On the day of the event, we want to hear about your experience.

How to Get Social

Take photos, record videos, and post it all on social media. Always use the hashtag #gsuConvocation2017 on your posts. When you want to mention GSU, use #GovState.

If you are using your personal account, be yourself. Let your personality come through. Please bear in mind, though, that you are representing GSU in your posts.

For starters, you can use any of the following suggested social media posts. Feel free to modify them. Click here to find relevant visuals for each of your posts below.

BEFORE AUGUST 25

#GovState is set to celebrate its 48th Annual Convocation. Join us! #gsuConvocation2017
<http://ow.ly/zQXy30ek1vZ>

The first entering freshman class will take part in its final march at #gsuConvocation2017 before commencement. <http://ow.ly/zQXy30ek1vZ>

Join us in welcoming new students to #GovState at the #gsuConvocation2017. <http://ow.ly/zQXy30ek1vZ>

If you want to talk about previous convocations, use #TBT (Throw Back Thursday) on Thursdays or #FBF (Flashback Friday) on Fridays:

As #gsuConvocation2017 looms, let's throw it back to #gsuConvocation2015. #TBT <http://ow.ly/2UsV30ek3fQ>

ON AUGUST 25

Happy #gsuConvocation2017!

Welcome to #GovState, Class of 2021.
#gsuConvocation2017

We're proud of you, Class of 2019!
#gsuConvocation2017

Help us spread the love in welcoming Class of 2021 to #GovState. #gsuConvocation2017

In addition, share images and videos from the ceremony. Don't forget to include the hashtag #gsuConvocation2017.

USE TWIBBON

Add pizzazz to your Facebook profile picture by using the GSU Convocation 2017 Twibbon design. Click [here](#)



USE GSU'S SNAPCHAT GEOFILTER



Be sure to add your snaps to our campus story named "Our Story." To do that:

1. Snap a photo or video
2. Choose one of the GSU geofilters by swiping left and right.
3. Click on the blue arrow on the right bottom of your mobile screen. Don't touch the upload link from the same screen.
4. Select 'My Story,' 'Our Stories' and other people you want to send the snap and tap the 'Send' button on the bottom right corner.

CONNECT WITH GSU



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Governors State University



University Park, IL, August 21, 2017

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen

A British literature scholar and the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, Dr. [Rosemary Erickson Johnsen](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/rjohnsen/) (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/rjohnsen/) was the perfect recruit to co-design a Humanities course where [Governors State University](http://www.govst.edu/) (GSU) student veterans could articulate their war experiences.

"I understand the need for and the value of programs like this. My father did two tours in Vietnam, and he does not talk about it. End of discussion. So what begins to converge is what I know about it personally and my academic and teaching background," said Johnsen, who co-wrote the *Dialogues on the Experience of War* grant. In conjunction with Dr. [Andrae Marak](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/amarak/) (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/amarak/), Dean of the [College of Arts and Sciences](http://www.govst.edu/cas/) (<http://www.govst.edu/cas/>), Johnsen has brought a unique opportunity to students at GSU.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) selected the GSU project—one of 15 nationally—and is providing \$100,000 funding for the eight-week course, *War, Trauma, and the Humanities*, this fall. The grant will also cover the cost to train five student veterans who will be embedded in the classroom, drawing on their own experiences to lead group discussions on poetry, films, memoirs, oral histories—even soldiers' letters during a unit that focuses on women in combat. An end-of-semester town hall meeting and spring roundtable discussion are part of the inaugural project Johnsen is team-teaching with Marak.

The humanities—the study of the human experience through literature, art, music, and other cultural expressions—have long been used as a means of understanding and expressing feelings about war. From Homer's reflections on the Trojan War to Warsan Shire's poetic portrayal of today's refugees, people have long used the arts as an outlet for the complex feelings brought about by war.

"*The Iliad* and *Odyssey* are about war and what happens after. It's a way to capture the human experience that is unrivaled," said Johnsen, pointing also to the graphic imagery of World War I depicted by British soldiers Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and Isaac Rosenberg.

"Their work contributes to our understanding of what it was like and develops empathy," Johnsen said.

Johnsen has published extensively on the inter-war period between World War I and World War II in Great Britain, and her piece on the practice of "gaslighting" was recently published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She is a scholar primarily of crime fiction, though, with a particular interest in "contemporary representations of urban spaces and the increasingly complex border between the genre and literary fiction."

Johnsen also has expertise in women's literature and is affiliated faculty with the [GSU Gender and Sexuality Studies](http://www.govst.edu/cas/gnsx/) (<http://www.govst.edu/cas/gnsx/>) program. A third-generation Michigan State University graduate, Johnsen earned her Ph.D. there and has been teaching, researching, and serving at GSU since 2006. In 2015, she won the prestigious Faculty Excellence Award for her work in all three areas.



GSU Newsroom: Why is the *War, Trauma, and the Humanities* course important for GSU students?

Johnsen: Our demographic is ideally suited to contribute to this and to benefit from it. Many of the students here are older and coming back or starting later. I see our veterans as an intensive subset of the students here. They are committed to education, and they've had life experience.

This course is important, internally at GSU, because it provides an opportunity for students to contribute to a better understanding and dialogue on campus. That's a clear benefit to GSU. Also, this is a prestigious grant and external recognition that there are good things going on here.

GSU Newsroom: How does literary study in higher education help interpret today's political climate?

Johnsen: The humanities have been devalued in higher education. This is a mistake on so many levels. These students learn valuable skills—critical thinking, analysis of text and context, and oral/written communication—that prepare them for jobs now and in the future. People who engage the humanities not only encounter some of the great thinking of the past, they develop greater empathy and improve their communication skills through close study of literature. There's been a lot of research done on reading and its effects on the human brain that supports these claims.

GSU Newsroom: What conclusion do you come to in your gaslighting piece?

Johnsen: What we've seen in the last year or so is a crisis of people not being able to understand when they are being bamboozled. People skilled in literary study are better placed to sort through misinformation, fake news, and the misrepresentation of implications. For example, the subject of my dissertation, Patrick Hamilton, wrote *Gaslight* in 1938, the same year *Time Magazine* named Hitler "Man of the Year." From Hamilton's play we get the term "gaslighting," which is regrettably relevant these days. Looking closer at the original text helps us better understand what gaslighting is and how to resist it. Literary study offers tools for attentive reading; dealing with unreliable narrators in novels turns out to be good preparation for sniffing out misdirection in statements by public figures.

GSU Newsroom: In your opinion, how did the GSU Faculty Excellence Award influence the NEH grant process?

Johnsen: It's encouraging. I'm truly grateful to my colleagues for recognizing my work through the Faculty Excellence Award.