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GSU View

University Newsletters

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8-28-2017

## GSU View, 2017-08-29

Office of Marketing and Communications  
*Governors State University*

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## News

### Welcome from President Maimon



In a [letter \(http://gsunews.govst.edu/president-maimon-welcomes-new-academic-year/\)](http://gsunews.govst.edu/president-maimon-welcomes-new-academic-year/) to new and returning members of the GSU community, [President Elaine P. Maimon \(http://www.govst.edu/About/The\\_President-s\\_Office/\)](http://www.govst.edu/About/The_President-s_Office/) welcomed all to the new academic year.

Dr. Maimon writes, "GSU's mission of inclusivity, diversity, and excellence has never been more important. Fulfilling that mission means that learning is at the center of all we do. All of us are life-long learners. And **HERE**, at GSU, **YOU**, whether you are a student, professor, administrator, staff member, alumnus, or community member, **ARE** an individual with unique strengths and ideas."

Read Dr. Maimon's full welcome letter [here \(http://gsunews.govst.edu/president-maimon-welcomes-new-academic-year/\)](http://gsunews.govst.edu/president-maimon-welcomes-new-academic-year/).

### Convocation 2017 Kicks Off a New Year



[Governors State University \(http://www.govst.edu\)](http://www.govst.edu) celebrated the beginning of its 48th academic year with [Convocation \(http://gsunews.govst.edu/convocation-2017-kicks-off-a-new-year/\)](http://gsunews.govst.edu/convocation-2017-kicks-off-a-new-year/) on Friday, August 25. In a time-honored tradition, the classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 gathered to march as they were welcomed to GSU by faculty members and administrative staff. Senior Justin Smith, president of the Student Senate, emceed the ceremony, introduced each class along with participants of the [Dual Degree Program \(http://www.govst.edu/ddp/\)](http://www.govst.edu/ddp/) Provost Deborah Bordelon introduced GSU's [newly reimagined brand identity \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Juzw9Hejzm4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Juzw9Hejzm4), showing a brand new [video \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8\\_pG9p\\_E60\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8_pG9p_E60) to the Convocation audience.

After welcoming new and returning members of the GSU community, President Elaine P. Maimon announced this year's award recipients. Receiving 2017 Excellence Awards were [Dr. DeLawnia Comer-Hagans \(http://www.govst.edu/Site\\_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/\)](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/), Assistant Professor in CHHS, [Dr. Jason Zingsheim \(http://www.govst.edu/Site\\_Navigation/Contact/Directory/izingsheim/\)](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/izingsheim/), Associate Professor in CAS, and [Dr. Natalia Ermasova \(http://www.govst.edu/Site\\_Navigation/Contact/Directory/nermasova/\)](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/nermasova/), Assistant Professor in CAS. Dr. Maimon also announced the 2017 Baysore Award winner, [Bonnie Gregg \(http://www.govst.edu/contact/directory/bgregg/\)](http://www.govst.edu/contact/directory/bgregg/) of the Division of Psychology and Counseling.

To view the video of Convocation 2017, click [here \(https://youtu.be/5jVILnr3zJ0\)](https://youtu.be/5jVILnr3zJ0).

### What's New at GSU

As today's classes begin, we are excited to welcome new students, faculty, and staff to [Governors State University \(http://www.govst.edu\)](http://www.govst.edu). 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 . . . \(http://gsunews.govst.edu/whats/\)](http://gsunews.govst.edu/whats/)





All students are invited to participate in the GSU Library Scavenger Hunt from **Wednesday, August 30 – Friday, September 1** for a chance to win one of two backpacks filled with GSU Gear. Get started by picking up clues for the scavenger hunt in the library or on the library's [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GSULibrary) (<http://www.facebook.com/GSULibrary>) page.

Click [here](http://gsunews.govst.edu/library-scavenger-hunt/preview/615904984af0e8b2be06ee9babf848c7b6f58f85) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/library-scavenger-hunt/preview/615904984af0e8b2be06ee9babf848c7b6f58f85>) to see the remaining steps.

### Friends of the Library Back to School Basket Sale



Be sure to stop by the [Friends of the Library](http://libguides.govst.edu/friends/) (<http://libguides.govst.edu/friends/>) 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 GSU 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](http://www.govst.edu/library/) (<http://www.govst.edu/library/>). To learn more about the GSU Friends of the Library, click [here](http://libguides.govst.edu/friends/) (<http://libguides.govst.edu/friends/>).

### 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 they enter the workplace.

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](mailto:ksledge@govst.edu) (<mailto:ksledge@govst.edu>) to become a member.

### Student Employment and Part-time Job Fair



Career Services is hosting the [Student Employment and Part-time Job Fair](http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/images/student-employ-2017.pdf) (<http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/images/student-employ-2017.pdf>) 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 and 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](mailto:Career%20Services%20%3ccareer@govst.edu%3e) (<mailto:Career%20Services%20%3ccareer@govst.edu%3e>) or call 708.235.3974.

## Workshop Proposals Requested for IDEAS Labs

[Intercultural Student Affairs](http://www.govst.edu/diversity) (<http://www.govst.edu/diversity>) 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](mailto:here) (<mailto:here>) by **Friday, September 1**. For more information, email [Intercultural Student Affairs](mailto:diversity@govst.edu) (<mailto:diversity@govst.edu>) or call 708.534.4551.

## Volunteers Needed for First Annual Department of Public Safety Car and Motorcycle Show

In cooperation with the [GSU Library](http://www.govst.edu/library) (<http://www.govst.edu/library>) and University Events Office, GSU's [Department of Public Safety](http://www.govst.edu/campus-safety/) (<http://www.govst.edu/campus-safety/>) is hosting its first Car and Motorcycle Show on **Friday, September 8** from 4 – 8 p.m., rain or shine. Enjoy a fun and memorable evening with the show's awards, goodie bags, dash plaques, and door prizes. A donation of \$10 is required to display your vehicle, and all proceeds benefit the Special Olympics Illinois. No admission will be charged for spectators. Contact [Lee Taylor](mailto:ltaylor1@govst.edu) (<mailto:ltaylor1@govst.edu>) for more information.

The Library is seeking 15 – 20 volunteers to assist with activities such as directing cars with parking, helping with key points of contact such as the children's area, the food and vendor areas, and in general help where needed. Volunteers should be available from 3 – 8 p.m. and will be provided with a meal. To volunteer, contact [Alexis Sarkisian](mailto:asarkisian@govst.edu) (<mailto:asarkisian@govst.edu>).

## Sculpture, Wine, and Dine

Join the [Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park](http://www.govst.edu/Nathan_manilow_Sculpture_Park/) ([http://www.govst.edu/Nathan\\_manilow\\_Sculpture\\_Park/](http://www.govst.edu/Nathan_manilow_Sculpture_Park/)) for a unique dining experience among the arts at Sculpture, Wine, and Dine, hosted by Wayne Johnson, host of *NBC5 Wayne's Weekend*. Dinner will take place on **Saturday, September 9** from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Following the dinner, attend the Afterglow party at 6:30 p.m. for live music, drinks, and dessert in the E-Lounge and Visual Arts Gallery, featuring the work of Vera Klement and Dan Ramirez.

Tickets are \$125 per person and benefit the [Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park](http://www.govst.edu/Nathan_manilow_Sculpture_Park/) ([http://www.govst.edu/Nathan\\_manilow\\_Sculpture\\_Park/](http://www.govst.edu/Nathan_manilow_Sculpture_Park/)). RSVP by **August 29**. For ticket information, contact Gina Ragland at 708.235.7559.

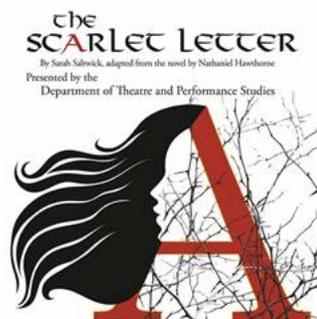
## 9/11 Day of Remembrance



In honor of **September 11**, the [Veterans Resource Center](http://www.govst.edu/veterans/) (<http://www.govst.edu/veterans/>) is hosting a day of remembrance honoring those lost in the 2001 tragedy. From 11:30 a.m. – noon, join the VRC by the flagpoles in front of campus for a moment of silence and remembrance ceremony.

Following the ceremony, there will be events in the Hall of Governors from noon until 5 p.m. For more information, contact [Kevin Smith](mailto:ksmith9@govst.edu) (<mailto:ksmith9@govst.edu>).

## Auditions for Adaptation of the Scarlet Letter



GSU's [Theatre and Performance Studies](http://www.govst.edu/cas/taps/) (<http://www.govst.edu/cas/taps/>) (TAPS) and [Center for Performing Arts](http://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/) ([http://www.govst.edu/About/Center\\_for\\_Performing\\_Arts/](http://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/)) (CPA) are seeking an inclusive, dynamic ensemble of six female-identified and four male-identified actors for a modern theatrical adaptation by Sarah Saltwick of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. To sign up, click [here](https://wejoinin.com/sheets/bdoto) (<https://wejoinin.com/sheets/bdoto>).

Rehearsals for this production will begin the week of **September 11**; tech weekend is **October 28 & 29**; and performances are **November 3, 4, and 5**. To see the full audition notice and read more about Saltwick's adaptation, click [here](http://www.govst.edu/audition-notice/).

## Constitution Day

In commemoration of Constitution Day, a day-long event hosted by Student Life will explore the First Amendment through student and expert perspectives starting at 10 a.m. on **Monday, September 18**.

All are invited to view a panel discussion among experts in their fields and participate in the closing poetry slam, and students can enter the narrative speech competition on the experience of being an immigrant in the United States. For more information, contact [Jayne Goode](mailto:jgoode2@govst.edu).

## Combined Undergraduate and Graduate Open House

All prospective students are invited to attend the second annual combined open house hosted by Admissions and Graduate Council. Register [here](http://www.govst.edu/GSU-openhouse/) to attend the open house on **October 14** from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

At the open house, prospective students may attend sessions on financial aid, admission requirements, housing and much more – including a waiver code for their application fee! (Programs requiring application through the Centralized Application Service are excluded.)

For more information, email [Julie Anderson](mailto:janderson13@govst.edu) or call 708.534.4086.

## Highlights

### DeLawnia Comer-HaGans



[Dr. DeLawnia Comer-HaGans](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/), one winner of the 2017 Faculty Excellence Award, holds a bachelor's degree and two advanced degrees in economics and sociology. For 13 years, she has taught the principles of macro- and microeconomics at the college level. Still, when asked about her passions, Comer-HaGans talks about diabetes, disabilities, access to care, and disparities in treatment.

Here's how an economics scholar-turned-healthcare-advocate points out the common denominator between finance and chronic illness.

[Read more . . .](http://gsunews.govst.edu/delawnia-comer-hagans/)

## Health and Student Counseling Center Opens Doors



Representatives from Advocate Healthcare joined GSU administrators and students to celebrate the opening of the new [Health and Student Counseling Center](http://www.govst.edu/health-and-counseling/) on Monday, August 21. The ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the center to students – a landmark event for the university as the first health center in its history.

## Workshops & Trainings

A complete list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found [here](http://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-oppo/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13b1fe19bbe3e3df7125f). Check out the Thought Leadership Workshop Series or workshops from Career Services.

**Faculty:** If you have not already done so, it's time to have a new headshot photograph taken. Please refer to the [schedule](http://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-oppo/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bffe19bbe3e3df7125f) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-oppo/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bffe19bbe3e3df7125f>) to find a convenient time.

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Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? [Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](http://www3.govst.edu/adecastro/GSUview/guidelines.html) (<http://www3.govst.edu/adecastro/GSUview/guidelines.html>)



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**Governors State University (<http://www.govst.edu>)**

1 University Parkway,

University Park, Illinois 60484-0975

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University Park, IL, August 28, 2017

## President Maimon Welcomes New Academic Year

Dear Members of the GSU Community,

As the new academic year begins, Governors State University is alive with activity.



On August 21, students, faculty, staff, and neighborhood residents came together as a community to watch the solar eclipse. That stunning event reminds us that the human drama takes place within a shared universe and that we all travel together on Planet Earth. Universities play a significant role in that journey. We are the agents of civilization. "More and more," says twentieth-century author H. G. Wells, "civilization is a race between education and catastrophe."

Catastrophic events, most recently in Charlottesville, remind us that education is the key to a positive future. GSU's mission of inclusivity, diversity, and excellence has never been more important.

Fulfilling that mission means that learning is at the center of all we do. All of us are life-long learners. And **HERE**, at GSU, **YOU**, whether you are a student, professor, administrator, staff member, alumnus, or community member, **ARE** an individual with unique strengths and ideas. We mentor one student at a time and that individual attention leads to civic engagement, successful careers, and fulfilling lives.

We believe in identifying a mission before selecting a major, committing to a graduate degree, or planning a research agenda. At every level, we focus on what you want to accomplish in the world as it revolves on its axis.

2017-18 is a landmark year for GSU. On May 19, 2018, we will graduate our first freshman class, demonstrating the transformations possible through our award-winning undergraduate program. Our Dual Degree Program (DDP) graduates will march with cords braiding the colors of their community college with GSU's black and white. Many graduates will be the first (but not the last!) in their families to receive a university diploma. Students achieving advanced degrees—master's and doctorate—will walk across the stage with the symbols of their high accomplishments. All will be better prepared to fulfill their life-time missions.

**HERE** in the Chicago suburbs, we are committed to opening up the world for **YOU** and helping you to discover who you **ARE**.

With hope and confidence, I joyfully welcome you to the new academic year at Governors State University.

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.

President



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) (<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/).

# Welcome Week

## FALL 2017

### MONDAY, AUGUST 21

#### SERVICE & LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Weeklong seminar for freshmen and new and transfer students. Advance registration required.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

#### MALE SUCCESS INITIATIVE OVERNIGHT RETREAT

Camp Manitocqua

### MONDAY, AUGUST 28

#### SWEET TREATS WITH MS. GSU

Meet Ms. Governors State University  
Hall of Governors, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

#### STUDENT LIFE OPEN HOUSE

The Jaguar Den (formerly Student Commons)  
A2140, noon – 4 p.m.

#### NATIONAL BOWTIE DAY

Support the Male Success Initiative by wearing bowties.

#### LGBTQA 101: INTERACTIVE LGBTQA DISCUSSION

Lakeside Lounge, 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

#### GSU ROCKS THE VOTE! BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER

Hall of Governors, Noon – 5 p.m.

#### TOGETHER WE CAN: FOOD PANTRY DONATION DRIVE

The Jaguar Den A2140, Noon – 4 p.m.

#### STEP IN THE NAME OF DIVERSITY: GRAB YOUR STEPPING PARTNER!

Hall of Governors, 3 – 4:15 p.m.

#### GET THE SCOOP ON YOUR RIGHTS: LEARN YOUR STUDENT RIGHTS.

Free ice cream.  
Prairie Place, 6 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

#### MULTI-FAITH CONVERSATIONS

Open dialogue focused on hope and faith.  
A1150, Noon – 1 p.m.

#### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND PART-TIME JOB FAIR

Hall of Governors, 2 – 5 p.m.

#### SPLASH BASH

Must show GSU student ID. Swimsuits and towel required.  
GSU Pool, 7 – 9 p.m.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

#### LIVE BROADCAST BY 107.5 WGCI

#### STUDENT ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT FAIR

GSU Lake, Noon – 6 p.m.

#### GSU CARNIVAL

1 – 5 p.m.

#### SECRETARY OF STATE MOBILE SERVICES

Hall of Governors, 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

#### POP-UP FOOD PANTRY

Hall of Governors, Noon – 6 p.m.

#### PEPSI CORPORATION

Cool off with an ice-cold Pepsi

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

#### MR. & MS. GSU INFO. SESSIONS

Be the next Mr. & Ms. GSU!  
Jaguar Den, A2140; Noon and 3 p.m.

#### RECYCLE MANIA: RECYCLE UNWANTED PAPERS

Hall of Governors, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH BRIGADE MIXER: INFORMATION SESSION

Hall of Honors, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL GAME VS. SILVER CROSS

GSU Gym, 7 p.m.

#### WELCOME BACK PARTY: HOSTED BY BLACK STUDENT UNION

E-lounge, 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

#### WELCOME BACK COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA

Comedy show hosted by B. Cole. Featuring Kenny Howell & Just Nesh, Headliner: Melanie Comarcho. \$25 admission, \$10 GSU students w/ valid student ID. Presented by Generating Hope, The Darryl Cooke Live show and Chicago's 106.3 WSRB. Tickets available at Center for Performing Arts Box Office or [centertickets.net](http://centertickets.net), 7 p.m. show time.

For more information about any event, visit [www.govst.edu/jaguarconnection](http://www.govst.edu/jaguarconnection) or Student Life, [slco@govst.edu](mailto:slco@govst.edu)



**Governors State**  
UNIVERSITY

1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484



Chicago, IL, August 29, 2017

## Library Scavenger Hunt

All students are invited to participate in the GSU Library Scavenger Hunt from **Wednesday, August 30 – Friday, September 1** for a chance to win one of two backpacks filled with GSU Gear. Get started by picking up clues for the scavenger hunt in the library or on the library's [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GSULibrary) (<http://www.facebook.com/GSULibrary>) page.

Next, you will need to take a selfie or photos to show that you were at the correct location as indicated by the clues. (Please do not disturb anyone working in the area.) Please note that every place you find has donated something for the backpack.

Finally, email your photos to [the Library](mailto:librarygovst@gmail.com) (<http://librarygovst@gmail.com>). Be sure to tell us which photos are for which question. Include your name, email address, and phone number with your submission so that we



know how to reach you. All submissions must be received by Midnight on Friday, September 1, and winners will be contacted on Wednesday, September 6.

"We welcome new, transfer, graduate and doctoral students to participate in the scavenger hunt," said Diane Nadler, Reference Desk Manager, Social Media Coordinator and First Year Student Contact. "The scavenger hunt is an enjoyable event, and an excellent way to learn about the library, and GSU," she said.

GSU Gear has been donated to the Library Scavenger Hunt from the President's and Provost's offices, Athletics, the Book Store, Center for Performing Arts, Office of Enrollment Management, Student Life, the Writing Center, Career Services and of course the library.

For more information about the Library Scavenger Hunt, email [dnadler@govst.edu](mailto:dnadler@govst.edu) (<mailto:dnadler@govst.edu>).

Remember, the GSU Library is your Research Resource 24/7



University Park, IL, August 28, 2017

## DeLawnia Comer-HaGans

[Dr. DeLawnia Comer-HaGans](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/) ([http://www.govst.edu/Site\\_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/dcomer-hagans/)) of [Governors State University](http://gsunews.govst.edu/) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/>) (GSU) holds a bachelor's degree and two advanced degrees in economics and sociology. For 13 years, she has taught the principles of macro and micro economics at the college level. Still, when asked about her passions, Comer-HaGans talks about diabetes, disabilities, access to care, and disparities in treatment.

Here's how an economics scholar-turned-healthcare-advocate points out the common denominator between finance and chronic illness.

"If you look at what healthcare costs and what diabetes costs to treat—hundreds of billions per year—we can't sustain it," is the message Comer-HaGans shares with her graduate and undergraduate students as an associate professor of [Health Administration](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/Department_of_Health_Administration/) ([http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges\\_and\\_Programs/College\\_of\\_Health\\_and\\_Human\\_Services/Department\\_of\\_Health\\_Administration/](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/Department_of_Health_Administration/)) in the highly esteemed GSU [College of Health and Human Services](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/) ([http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges\\_and\\_Programs/College\\_of\\_Health\\_and\\_Human\\_Services/](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/)). Comer-HaGans joined the GSU family six years ago. Before that, she taught economics at Dallas' Richland College.

The daughter of an accountant, Comer-HaGans studied economics and earned a Master's of Business Administration in Management Science and Statistics at the urging of her mother. Then the healthcare bug bit her a decade ago, and she became focused on diabetes, the metabolic syndrome that creates high glucose (blood sugar).

Today, the self-described health economist is enjoying the recognition her research has won from peers, academic journals, and charitable government foundations that fund her work. Recently, the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-New Connections (RWJF) gave Comer-HaGans \$98,000 to analyze the lifestyle and self-management trends among individuals with diabetes as well as those with disabilities—a group close to the heart of her husband, chief financial officer for a non-profit organization devoted to assisting the disabled.



She was awarded the prestigious Faculty Excellence Award at GSU on August 25, 2017.

### **Why are you so passionate about diabetes?**

Growing up, a lot of racial minorities in our neighborhood were sick, and it seemed like the thing that everybody had was diabetes. So I was fascinated with it early on. Both sides of my family have diabetes. My mom has diabetes, and my best friend's mother passed away from diabetes and had diabetes retinopathy, the subject of my dissertation in 2010, *Disparities in Dilated Eye Exams among Adults with Diabetes*. And, as I study diabetes, I see it's tied to so many other illnesses like heart disease. You are twice as likely to die of a cardiovascular event if you have diabetes. And it doesn't seem to be decreasing because of our behavior—eating processed foods with a lot of salt and chemicals. If you are eating all that and not exercising, it can be catastrophic. But people don't see diabetes the same way as, say, lung cancer. They continue to partake in risky behavior.

### **How do you marry healthcare with macroeconomic principles for your economics students?**

I don't consider myself a true economist who studies quantitative statistics and analysis. I'm more of a social economist out to save the world. With my students, I teach them that economics is the study of behavior and scarcity. You have to make choices and every choice comes with an opportunity cost. I try to always incorporate diabetes or disabilities in my assignments. That's how I bring my research into the classroom. So, when they are working on a fantastic health literacy project idea, I say to them, "How you are going to finance this? If you develop a program you have to be able to sustain it beyond the initial grant."

**What have you discovered about the role of behavior in influencing health outcomes?**



I'm working on two projects that look at two different groups, but what's interesting is the impact of people's behavior on their disease outcomes.

The GUIDE Training and Research is a University of Illinois (Chicago)-Governors State collaboration funded by the National Institute of Health National Cancer Institute. I am an early stage investigator mentee on this project which looks at African-American women who have a history of breast cancer and why they do or don't go to genetic counseling. We found a lot of women don't want to know the truth, and in some cases, women are not participating in preventive

screenings such as mammograms that might detect cancer in its early stages.

In 2015, the RWJF gave me a grant to look at individuals with diabetes and disabilities. I'm the principal investigator on this project, and I'm examining secondary data to see if individuals are keeping up with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' goals outlined in Healthy People 2020. For example, there is a goal that people with diabetes should see a dentist once a year.

In both projects, we see where the patient's behavior—to seek genetic counseling and to meet the goals and objectives outlined by the DHHS—can have significant positive impacts on health outcomes.

**Do you think Governors State is well-positioned for your healthcare and disabilities research? If so, why?**

We serve a predominately racial minority base in the South Suburbs of Chicago. This is the area where we see a high incidence of diabetes and other chronic illness, as well as a lack of economic resources. Ultimately, I want to partner with groups and agencies that serve individuals with disabilities and chronic illness. Individuals with disabilities really are an underserved population. It takes incredible resources, and with the health care system not being as great as we'd like, someone has to help and I feel like it's my calling.