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9-18-2017

GSU View, 2017-09-18

Office of Marketing and Communications
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Recommended Citation

Office of Marketing and Communications, "GSU View, 2017-09-18" (2017). *GSU View*. 872.
<http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/872>

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News

GSU Celebrates Constitution Day



On September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was signed by the Founding Fathers. Today, GSU celebrated Constitution Day, a national holiday recognizing the creation of the most influential document in American history, through a day-long event hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Arts and Letters, and Student Life.

To kick off the day, a panel of professionals weighed in on the importance of the First Amendment to their fields. Students participated in a speak-off of narrative presentations following the theme "We Are America." The event concluded with an invigorating contest of spoken word, poetry, and rap.

Ned Laff Featured on National Webcast



Ned Laff, Director of GSU's Center for the Junior Year (CJY), shared his expertise on the most recent edition (<https://academicminute.org/2017/09/ned-laff-governors-state-university-design-thinking/>) of *Academic Minute*, a New York-based national weekly webcast that "features researchers from colleges and universities around the world, keeping listeners abreast of what's new and exciting in the academy and of all the ways academic research contributes to solving the world's toughest problems and to serving the public good."

Read more about Dr. Laff in this story (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/ned-laff-featured-on-national-webcast/>) by the GSU Newsroom, and listen to the full segment here (<https://academicminute.org/2017/09/ned-laff-governors-state-university-design-thinking/>).

National Suicide Prevention Month at GSU

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and the GSU Health and Student Counseling Center (<http://www.govst.edu/health-student-counseling-center/>) will be hosting Embrace Mental Health, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the stigma of mental illness by educating college students about depression and suicide. Embrace Mental Health will be providing three hour-long training sessions on the College Signs of Suicide (College SOS) program

Tuesday, September 19, in the Lakeside Lounge: 11 a.m. – noon, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., and 3 – 4 p.m. These sessions are open to all.

A suicide support group facilitated by a professional counselor will also take place in the Meditation and Interfaith Prayer Room (A1115) on Tuesday from noon – 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Amina Dahleh (<mailto:adahleh@govst.edu>), Clinical Mental Health Counselor at the Health and Student Counseling Center.

Announcements and Events

MSI Hosts Dress to Impress Workshop

The Male Success Initiative (<http://www.govst.edu/msi>) is hosting a unique workshop and discussion for men about style, trends, grooming, and accessorizing to take their fashion game to the next level.

The workshop takes place on **Tuesday, September 19**, from 2 – 3 p.m. in the Jaguar Den, and the first 20 attendees to arrive will receive a free accessory for men.

“Indigenous Conquistadors: Indigenous Allies to the Spanish Empire”

All are invited to observe Hispanic Heritage Month by attending this presentation by [Dr. Laura Matthew](http://gsunews.govst.edu/dr-laura-matthew/preview/b1ca80b3424f0580385d3239c31319df2b7d89a3) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/dr-laura-matthew/preview/b1ca80b3424f0580385d3239c31319df2b7d89a3>), a historian of southern Mesoamerica during the Spanish colonial era. The event takes place **September 19** at 5 p.m. in E1540 and is co-sponsored by an Intellectual Life Grant, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Association of Latin American Students.

To read Dr. Matthew’s bio, click [here](http://gsunews.govst.edu/dr-laura-matthew/preview/b1ca80b3424f0580385d3239c31319df2b7d89a3) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/dr-laura-matthew/preview/b1ca80b3424f0580385d3239c31319df2b7d89a3>).

Creating Support Systems for DACA Students

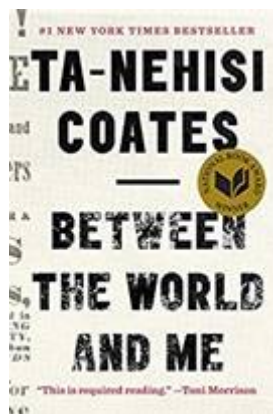


Creating Support Systems for DACA Students, hosted by the [IDEAS Lab](http://www.govst.edu/Diversity/) (<http://www.govst.edu/Diversity/>), will be presented by Jason Vignone on **Thursday, September 21** from 3 – 4:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

Jason is a Transfer Specialist at GSU who has spent almost two years researching and working with undocumented students. He is currently working on his graduate thesis, “Using Self-Disclosure Theory to Provide Academic Advising for Undocumented Students.”

The program aims to ensure that the expectations and outcomes for undocumented students are equal to those of all other student groups on campus. For more about the IDEAS Lab, click [here](http://www.govst.edu/Diversity/) (<http://www.govst.edu/Diversity/>).

Between the World and Me: Experiences of Being African American in the US and Abroad



All members of the GSU community are invited to attend an insightful and enlightening panel discussion inspired by the One Book One University selection: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, on **Thursday, September 21** from 3 – 4:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

GSU students will share their experiences of being African American in the U.S. and abroad in this panel moderated by [Dr. Phyllis West](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/pwest/) (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/pwest/), Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work.

There will be a drawing for a variety of travel items, and refreshments will be served. Attendance is free, but all are asked to register [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/between-the-world-and-me-tickets-37727538082) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/between-the-world-and-me-tickets-37727538082>). This event is sponsored by the [Office of International Services](http://www.govst.edu/ois) (<http://www.govst.edu/ois>) through a grant from the GSU Intellectual Life Committee.

Student Athletes Score a Slam-Dunk with the GSU Library Athletes Study Hall

In a partnership with GSU Athletics, the library is providing organized study hall time for GSU athletes. The program has already had 55 check-ins, according to Amy Holman, Library Circulation Manager. Due to the success of last year's program, library study hall hours have been expanded to include 6 – 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. – 5 p. m. on Saturday; and 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Athletes must check in and out of study hall.

Contact [Amy Holman](mailto:cholman2@govst.edu) (<mailto:cholman2@govst.edu>) with questions.

Student Education Association to Host Teacher Success Panel

The [SEA](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Student_Education_Association/) (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Student_Education_Association/) will host a Teacher Success Panel on **Thursday, September 28** in the E-lounge. Guest speakers include first-year, veteran, and retired teachers, as well as a professional edTPA coordinator and scorer. Stephanie Henning and Jessica Dunahoo, the President and Vice-President of SEA respectively, wrote the National Education Association (NEA) Create Grant awarded to SEA that supported this event with GSU Assistant Professor Dr. Katy Hisrich as the principal investigator.

This event is open to any student in an education program, but they must RSVP to [Stephanie Henning](mailto:shenning@student.govst.edu) (<mailto:shenning@student.govst.edu>) by **September 21** with their name, email, division, major, and year in school. The 30 spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis (preference may be given to those students seeking licensure and those graduating in 2017 and 2018). Dinner will be provided to students who RSVP and attend the panel. Faculty may also attend the event, keeping in mind that dinner is reserved for students.

Lyric Opera Singers Pay Tribute to All Things Animal at CPA

THE Animal Instinct



The popular Opera Up Close series at GSU's Center for Performing Arts has done it again. Known for unique, themed pairings of opera, food, and wine, series producer John Concepcion stretches his creativity once again with an animal-themed feast of song. *The Animal Instinct* (http://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/All_Events_by_Date/The_Animal_Instinct_-_An_Opera_Feast_for_the_Senses/) is the newest addition to the Center's innovative opera line-up, to be performed only on **September 24** at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and include a sampling of "animal-friendly" vegetarian dishes including warm spinach and artichoke dip, caramelized onion and chevre tarts, exotic mushroom arancini, a glass of wine, and more.

[Read more . . .](#)

(http://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/All_Events_by_Date/The_Animal_Instinct_-_An_Opera_Feast_for_the_Senses/)

Got Talent? Student Talent Show Auditions



Get ready to show your talent during the Family & Friends Weekend Student Talent Show on Friday, October 6. *Student Life* (<http://www.govst.edu/studentlife>) is seeking a student to host, as well as all forms of talent: musicians, rappers, singers, poets, dancers, comedians, actors, magicians, and more!

Auditions will be held on **September 26 – 27** by appointment. Be prepared to audition on stage with your music and/or props. Acts must not exceed three minutes; only one act per student audition is allowed, with the exception of students auditioning to host.

Register in the Hall of Governors or Student Life (A2100) no later than **Friday, September 22**. Email [Konya Sledge \(mailto:ksledge@govst.edu\)](mailto:ksledge@govst.edu) or [Ashley Richards \(mailto:arichards4@student.govst.edu\)](mailto:arichards4@student.govst.edu) with questions.

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](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLS17) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLS17>) to submit your workshop proposal by **October 6**. For more information, click [here](mailto:http://gsunews.govst.edu/mens-leadership-summit-2017---call-for-workshops/preview/693afe67f06478808cddde62f5ea918c20351f28a) (<mailto:http://gsunews.govst.edu/mens-leadership-summit-2017---call-for-workshops/preview/693afe67f06478808cddde62f5ea918c20351f28a>), email [Intercultural Student Affairs](mailto:Intercultural Student Affairs (mailto:diversity@govst.edu)) (<mailto:diversity@govst.edu>), or call 708.534.4551.

C200 Reachout at Governors State University



C200 (<https://www.c200.org/>) is a community of the most successful women in business, representing companies with more than \$1.2 trillion in combined revenue and employing more than 2.5 million people. They have partnered with Governors State University to host their 2017 Reachout event at GSU (<http://www.govst.edu/C200Reachout/>) on **October 20**. This event provides an exclusive opportunity for you to connect with corporate executives from C200.

C200 provides scholarships to outstanding women students who exemplify extraordinary leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, and a commitment to supporting other women. Currently, they are taking applications for their 2017 C200 Scholars—three female students will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. For scholarship requirements, deadlines, and to apply, click [here](http://www.govst.edu/C200Reachout/) (<http://www.govst.edu/C200Reachout/>).

Sign Up to Become a Volunteer Literacy Tutor

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day by volunteering to be a literacy tutor for adults of all ages seeking better reading skills. This year's theme is "Reading the Past, Writing the Future," and is done in partnership with Prairie State College.

All are eligible to become literacy tutors: all you will need to do is complete some training and regularly meet at the GSU Library with a person seeking help. Email the [Library](mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu) (<mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu>) for more information.

Highlights

Erin Grey-Avis



For as long as she can recall, Governors State University (GSU) Assistant Professor Dr. Erin Grey-Avis has been drawn to water. As a child, she lived near beaches in her native Delaware and saw bodies of water as living troves that contained and reflected dynamic worlds. As an adult, Grey-Avis entered the field of marine biology. Her work reminds her of a popular crime television show franchise, she said.

[Read more . . . \(http://gsunews.govst.edu/erin-grey-avis/\)](http://gsunews.govst.edu/erin-grey-avis/)

Winners of Library Scavenger Hunt Announced



Students Kennedy Roberson and Ellen Rukavina were the two winners of the Library Scavenger Hunt. Their prizes were backpacks filled with GSU gear.

“We wanted to offer students an enjoyable way to learn more about the Library and our partners who donated GSU gear to the backpacks,” said Diane Nadler, Library First Year Liaison, who said that student response was very positive as they learned more about the Library, the website, and locations in and around GSU.

The Library would like to thank the Offices of the President, Provost, and Enrollment Management, The Center for Performing Arts, Student Life, Athletics, and the GSU Bookstore for generous contributions of GSU gear.

Friends of the GSU Library Featured in The Voice for America’s Libraries



The Friends of the GSU Library's ten-year anniversary celebration highlighting the newly-remodeled GSU library archives was recently featured in article by *The Voice for America's Libraries*, a publication by United for Libraries that has a national distribution to over 4,500 libraries and friends organizations throughout the country.

"We were all pleased that the GSU Library and GSU Friends of the Library were featured in *The Voice for America's Libraries*," said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. "It was an opportunity to showcase our GSU Archives and the impact and contributions that the Friends of the GSU Library have made on both the library and the archives."

For more information, email the [Library \(mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu\)](mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu).

Art Faculty Wins Prestigious Juried Competition



Leanne Cambric, assistant professor in the Division of Communication-Visual and Performing Arts received top honors in the 25th Annual Strictly Functional Pottery National. Of over 700 entries, 150 pieces were accepted. Of Cambric's two accepted works, *Trophy Bowls* won first place. Please extend congratulations to Professor Cambric on her achievement.

Introducing the UAAC Advisors

The Undergraduate Academic Advising Center (<http://www.govst.edu/academicadvising/>) (UAAC) is a new service now available to all undergraduate students. To usher in the UAAC, the GSU View will feature weekly profiles of the advisors who provide guidance for students at every level of the undergraduate experience.

This week's featured advisor is Tina R. Hughes-Burke.

Tina has been an employee of GSU since joining in 2004. When she first arrived to GSU, she worked as the assistant director and academic advisor in the TRiO student support services program: a federally funded program that assists first generation college students. Presently she serves as the senior academic advisor in the Interdisciplinary Studies program. Tina is passionate about sharing her experiences in higher education with the students she advises. She is also an adjunct professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Tina plans to continue working with students to ensure their success in college academically, personally, and professionally. She believes that student success is her best achievement. Tina says that her goal is to assist students as they develop into successful graduates and to introduce them to the many opportunities that GSU has to offer while taking advantage of the benefits of student life and student organizations.

Tina is passionate about paying it forward. She is a mentor and wishes to pass along her desires to help students excel. She believes everyone that has a desire to be successful in college will succeed with the right advice and resources.

During her free time, Tina enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her family.

Workshops & Trainings

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-ops/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bfbe19bbee3e3df7125f) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-ops/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bfbe19bbee3e3df7125f>) 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.](http://www3.govst.edu/adecastro/GSUview/guidelines.html) (<http://www3.govst.edu/adecastro/GSUview/guidelines.html>)



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University Park, IL, September 14, 2017

Ned Laff Featured on National Webcast



Ned Laff, Director of the Center for the Junior Year at Governors State University, shared his expertise on the most recent edition of *Academic Minute*, a New York-based national weekly webcast that "features researchers from colleges and universities around the world, keeping listeners abreast of what's new and exciting in the academy and of all the ways academic research contributes to solving the world's toughest problems and to serving the public good."

Laff, who connects students at GSU with internships and post-graduate opportunities that allow them to put their degrees to work, shared his views on the need to reassess the way that we think about liberal arts education.

"Those trying to defend the liberal arts tend to fall prey to 'either/or' arguments about degree marketability that rely on conventional ways students and parents are taught to think about majors," Laff said. "What is missing in the discussion is design-thinking. Design-thinking challenges our conventional understanding of college curriculum."

You can listen to the whole segment [here](https://academicminute.org/2017/09/ned-laff-governors-state-university-design-thinking/) (<https://academicminute.org/2017/09/ned-laff-governors-state-university-design-thinking/>).



University Park, IL, September 18, 2017

Erin Grey-Avis

For as long as she can recall, **Governors State University** (<http://www.govst.edu/>) (GSU) Assistant Professor **Dr. Erin Grey-Avis** (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/egrey-avis/) has been drawn to water. As a child, she lived near beaches in her native Delaware and saw bodies of water as living troves that contained and reflected dynamic worlds. As an adult, Grey-Avis entered the field of marine biology. Her work reminds her of a popular crime television show franchise, she said.

"In CSI, the investigators use a variety of tools to figure out a mystery. In my case, we are trying to solve environmental cases," said Grey-Avis, who joined GSU in 2014 after studying and leading research at other universities including University of Chicago, Tulane University, and University of Notre Dame.



Grey-Avis' curiosity has carried her to marine habitats across the globe, from Japan to the Gulf of Mexico where her highly sought collection of blue crab larvae [placed her in the center](http://www.climatecentral.org/blogs/the-scariest-thing-is-that-we-dont-know-reflections-on-the-gulf-oil-spill?page=26) (<http://www.climatecentral.org/blogs/the-scariest-thing-is-that-we-dont-know-reflections-on-the-gulf-oil-spill?page=26>) of a media hunt following the historic 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Her findings helped government policy-makers better assess the impact of the explosion that dumped millions of barrels of oil into the gulf. Her research also helps the multi-billion dollar fishing industry craft regulations. Currently, Grey-Avis is

developing statistical tools to predict costly biological invasions to the Great Lakes.

Beyond leading research that makes an economic and environmental impact, Grey-Avis says she wants to inspire her graduate and undergraduate students in the **College of Arts and Sciences** (<http://www.govst.edu/cas>) to embrace science as a way to solve environmental mysteries while discovering careers.

GSU Newsroom: Why are you studying invasive species in the Great Lakes?

Grey-Avis: I'm part of a team that received a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to study how invasive species are transported around the world on shipping vessels. For example, the zebra mussel came to the Great Lakes in the 1980s from the Ukraine and Russia in the ballast tanks of commercial ships. Lake Michigan is clear now, but it didn't used to be that way. The zebra mussel filters out everything, and it's really disrupted the food web. Plus, these tiny organisms end up clogging factory pipes. Invasive species cost in the billions every year in the harms they cause. So there's a lot of interest in predicting and preventing new invasions.

GSU Newsroom: What is the connection between dragonflies and water pollution?

Grey-Avis: Most people don't know this but the adult dragonfly only lives a month or two. Most of its life cycle is in ponds in a stage we call nymph. If we can better understand the nymphs, they can tell us about pollution in ponds because they can be sensitive to pollution. You might say we're tracking dragonflies to get a better handle on water quality.

GSU Newsroom: Why was the international media so fascinated with your blue crab research in 2010?

Grey-Avis: As a post-doc researcher at Tulane University, I was studying the blue crabs in the Gulf of Mexico. People love the blue crab down there. And, their behavior is interesting because adults live near the coastline but the females go tens to hundreds of miles off shore to spawn their eggs, and the larvae live offshore for a

while. We wanted to study that. I started a project there, and two days later the Deepwater Horizon oil spill happened, and the whole study changed. I was the only person collecting blue crab larvae in Louisiana at that time, and people were concerned about what was going to happen to them. We were trying to find out if there was a decline in the larvae and how the larvae had been impacted by the dispersant used to break up the oil. We didn't find any decline in crab larvae, so that was good.



GSU Newsroom: What inspired you to become a scientist?

Grey-Avis: My grandfather was a Mexican immigrant who had a degree in chemistry. He married my grandmother, and she had a master's degree in biochemistry. He formed a company and they became a great American success story. He invented a popular antacid and became wealthy. I would visit him in California when I was young, and he took me on trips to England and Spain. Our trips always involved the ocean because he loved sciences. It really rubbed off on me.

GSU Newsroom: What's your response to those who are skeptical about Chicago area students majoring in marine biology?

Grey-Avis: I took the job at GSU to teach and inspire students. I've always believed education is the great equalizer. In previous positions, I felt like wasn't making a big difference in students' lives. I spent so much time at institutions where they have so many resources like University of Chicago, where I got my master's and doctorate degrees in ecology and evolution, and at Tulane and Notre Dame, but I wasn't making an impact with students. Now, I live in Gary right next to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. So many people seem scared of nature. We need to get students out and into the parks. There are great jobs in the parks—federal positions and environmental jobs. Those are good careers. Not everyone is going to be a marine biologist, but if they have a strong foundation in math and science, the world is their oyster.