News

#DoTheFAFSA

Did you know that your chances of receiving more grant money are better the earlier you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? October 1 was opening day for the FAFSA. The earlier you complete yours, the better the chance you have of receiving federal (Pell) and state (MAP) grants...education dollars that you don’t have to pay back.

Check out this site developed by GSU that provides guidelines and resources for both students and parents to help you #DoTheFAFSA. In addition, a Spanish translation of the website is here.

Click here to view a list of documents to gather in advance. Once you are prepared, the process will take, on average, less than an hour.

Submit Nominations and Applications for Sixth Annual Student Leadership Institute
Nominations and applications are now being accepted for GSU's sixth annual Student Leadership Institute (SLI), a distinctive co-curricular certificate program designed for students seeking leadership development opportunities that will contribute to their personal development and help them achieve their leadership potential.

Applications are due by November 3.

Faculty and staff, please nominate students in your class or department/organization who would benefit from this program by October 27.

Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

It is critical that your contact information is up to date so we can keep you informed in case of events or changes that happen on campus. Please make sure that GSU has your current contact information.

If you are a student, please complete a Change of Student Information form and submit it to the Registrar's Office. You may submit the completed form, including a copy of your picture ID, via fax to the Registrar's Office at 708.534.1640, or you may drop it off in person at C-1300. If you have any questions, please contact the Registrar's Office or call 708.534.4500.

If you are a faculty or staff member, please complete a Name/Address/Phone Change form and submit it to Human Resources. You may submit the completed form to the Human Resources department in person in C1360 or via email. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at 708.534.4100.

Respond to Violence: Impact of Mental Health

Cook County Jail is now the largest mental health facility in the Unites States. More than 40% of the almost 8,000 inmates have mental health and/or severe poverty issues.

On Wednesday, November 1 from 4 – 6 p.m, the following panel will discuss this criminal and social justice crisis:

- Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart
- Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia, Cook County Department of Corrections Executive Director
- Moderator Brandis Friedman, correspondent for WTTW's Chicago Tonight
Taping will take place in Studio A, located in GSU’s Department of Digital Media and Learning Design. For more information, please contact Yevette Brown.

National Transfer Student Week

October 9 – 13 is the first ever National Transfer Student Week, a week devoted to "[celebrating] transfer students and the professionals who support them," according to the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students.

Governors State University has a long history of welcoming and supporting transfer students. From the university's inception as an upper division institution to the revolutionary DDP and DDP-MSI programs that clear the pathway from community college to GSU commencement, Governors State has been and always will be home for transfer students.

Read more . . .

Combined Undergraduate and Graduate Open House Saturday, October 14

All prospective students are invited to attend the second annual combined open house hosted by Admissions and Graduate Council this Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Register here.
Prospective students may attend sessions on financial aid, admission requirements, housing, and much more—and receive a waiver code for their application fee! (Programs requiring application through the Centralized Application Service are excluded.)

Click [here](#) for more information and to register, or email [Julie Anderson](#) or call 708.534.4086.

**Career Services: An Important Stop on Your Path to Success**

Are you a student in need of help with your resume, cover letter, job search, or more? [The Office of Career Services](#) has staff available to help you navigate every path leading to your success.

Take the first step by visiting during drop-in hours:

- **Tuesdays** from 2 – 4:30 p.m., in B1215 in the Student Success Commons
- **Thursdays** from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. with Alexis at the Library Technology Desk

Drop-in hours are on a first-come, first-served basis. Email [Career Services](#) for more information.

### Announcements and Events

**St. Francis vs. Governors State Volleyball Game**

Governors State will host St. Francis in a Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) match on **Tuesday, October 10** at 7 p.m. in the Athletics and Recreation Center. Admission is $5 for adults, and $2 for children under 12. GSU students, faculty, and staff gain free admittance with their myONECARD.

Click [here](#) to view live stats and video stream throughout the game.

**Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society**
GSU is inducting the Alpha Iota Alpha chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Provost Deborah Bordelon will accept the new chapter at the installation and first induction ceremonies taking place next **Tuesday, October 10** from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the E-Lounge.

Space is limited. RSVP to faculty chair [Dr. Katy Hisrich](mailto:katy.hisrich@gsu.edu) or student president [Jessica Dunahoo](mailto:jessica.dunahoo@gsu.edu).

**Operation Healthy**

![Image of apples in a basket]

[Student Life](http://www.gsualumni.org) would like to welcome all GSU students to participate in **Operation Healthy** events on **October 11** and **November 15** in the Hall of Governors. Students are encouraged to visit from 3 – 4:15 p.m. to get some fresh produce while supplies last. We look forward to seeing all of you and to promoting a healthier life style on campus!

**Potbelly Sandwich Shop Fundraiser to Benefit Friends of the GSU Library**

![Image of Potbelly Sandwich Shop]

Support the [Friends of the GSU Library](http://www.gsu.edu/library/friends) by having dinner at Potbelly Sandwich Shop in Matteson on **Friday, October 13** from 4 – 7 p.m. Twenty-five percent of all sales will go directly to the Friends of the GSU Library.

Ann Manning Nagle, President of the Friends of the GSU Library, says, “Recently, we were able to purchase shelving for the GSU Archives and carpeting and furniture for the GSU Balcony and Stress Free Study Zone with the funds we have been raising.”

Potbelly is located at 406 Town Center Drive, Matteson, IL 60443. Call 708.228.5502 for more information.

**Jaguar Treks: Fright Fest Trip**

Enjoy thrills and spooky activities at Six Flags Fright Fest on **Saturday, October 14**. Your $25 ticket includes admission and transportation. Visit Student Life, A2100 to purchase tickets *if you dare!*

Tickets available on first-come, first-served basis. Jaguar Treks off-campus excursions are sponsored by
Diwali Celebration at GSU

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, signifying the victory of light over darkness. Join us in Sherman Hall on Monday, October 16 from 5 – 7 p.m. for an evening of performances including music, dance, stories, cultural dress, henna, food, and—most of all—light!

Film Screening of “Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric”

GSU’s Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSX) program, the GNSX student club, and the GSU Library will host a screening of "Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric" on Monday, October 16 at 4:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Refreshments will be provided by the GNSX club.

Following the screening will be a discussion and Q&A session facilitated by GSU faculty members Dr. Ellie Walsh, Associate Professor of History, and Dr. Lara Stache, Assistant Professor of Communication and Coordinator of the GNSX Program.

To register, email the library.

Conversational Café by the Office of International Studies (OIS)
Join GSU’s English as a Second Language (ESL) program this semester for a monthly meeting to share experiences through conversation. Help students improve and practice their English communication skills while sharing cultures over afternoon treats.

**October 18:** Halloween Fun in the Lakeside Lounge, 2:30 – 4 p.m.
**November 8:** Giving Thanks in the Lakeside Lounge, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

**Starting Over: A Love Story for LGBT History Month**

On **October 21 at 8 p.m.**, MPAACT Theatre of Chicago presents *Starting Over*, a story of love, tolerance, and identity. Shown as part of LGBT History Month, this production follows a young biracial couple from an intolerant small town to a major city years later.

Tickets for the event are $28 for the public, $25 for seniors 65+, and $10 for students.

Find out more about *Starting Over* [here](#).

**C200 Reachout at Governors State University**
C200 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 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.

Healing, Hope, & Restoration: Becoming the Author of Your Story

Join us for a fishbowl conversation with men impacted by mass incarceration as they share their experiences as a starting point for healing and collective responsibility towards social change.

This event, sponsored by Generating Hope and an Intellectual Life Grant, takes place Monday, October 23 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. It is the fifth in a series of forums that focus on bringing awareness to the issue of mass incarceration and collateral consequences that exist after incarceration for returning citizens and their families.

For more information, email Dr. Lorri Glass or call 708.534.4919.

Order of the Rose Brings Magic to GSU

GSU’s Center for Performing Arts will come alive with magic on Friday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. Israel Mandrake, known as “the Madman of Mind Magick,” will perform as part of a special fundraiser for the Computer Tech Club’s Order of the Rose Scholarship.

A Las Vegas performer, Israel Mandrake is donating his time and all proceeds to the scholarship fund. Tickets are $30 and may be purchased online.

For more information, contact Steve Hyzny.

Begin Preparing for GSU’s Annual Research Day: Attend a Workshop Scheduled for Saturday, October 28

Research Day at GSU is held in April each year. Students and professors of every discipline are encouraged to present research completed for a class, undertaken with a professor, or collaborated on with other students. Funded by GSU’s Intellectual Life Grant and organized by the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) advisory board, this two-part workshop will guide you through the process of making your research presentation ready.

The first workshop will take place Saturday, October 28 from 10:30 – noon on the library balcony and will focus on the varied approaches research can take: from theatre and history to biology and psychology. We will give examples of successful projects and some insight into how to begin. Brunch/snack items will be served.
Part two, which will take place during the first week in December at a time selected by participants, is about getting things done. The result of attending the second workshop is to produce a proposal for Research Day. We will also talk about the process of transforming a piece of written research into a presentation format that an audience can appreciate.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP and send any questions to Kerri K. Morris, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum.

**Provide Feedback through “Let Us Know” in the GSU Library**

All are invited to answer questions posed on whiteboards located throughout the GSU Library. Responses will remain anonymous and will “Let Us Know” more about our service through feedback about what could be modified.

Email the library with any questions.

### Highlights

#### Jason Zingsheim

In *Human Village*, poet Maya Angelou wrote, “We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike.” Governors State University (GSU) Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Jason Zingsheim agrees—in spirit—but encourages us to dig deeper.

“Our differences and diversity are strengths—something that should be celebrated,” said Zingsheim, an intercultural communication scholar who is passionate about all things related to genders and sexualities. “We shouldn't all be the same. That would be really boring. Our differences should make a difference in better ways rather than being used to oppress and discriminate,” said the prolific writer, researcher, and innovator who started blazing a trail at GSU in 2008.

[Read more...](#)

**Congratulations to This Year’s Global Service Learning Scholar!**
OIS is excited to announce that Jamal McPherson has been chosen to be this year's Global Service Learning Scholar. Jamal is a veteran, full-time junior transfer student, and first generation college student. His experience will be documented prior to departure, while on the brigade, and upon return. You will have a chance to hear Jamal's story and follow his progress towards personal and professional development. Congratulations Jamal!

Through the Excellence in Equity Grant, the Office of International Services (OIS) has created the Global Service Learning Scholar Award, which consists of $750 towards participation in the Public Health Brigade to Nicaragua in January 2018. The award will allow one student the opportunity to participate in a high-impact practice, develop leadership skills, enhance social responsibility, improve writing skills, and identify their path toward career development. Together with Dr. Phyllis West and other departments, OIS will assist in helping the student complete various duties in order to reach each of these goals.

**College of Business and Alumni Association Hosted Student Reception**

GSU's [College of Business](#) and [Alumni Association](#) hosted a reception for students in select majors Wednesday, September 27 in Engbretson Hall. Three recent graduates shared their educational and career journeys with the audience, highlighting the value of business degrees from [GSU](#). Learn more about the alum speakers and view photos from the event [here](#).
One Book, One University Selection Inspires Successful Panel Discussion

The “Between the World and Me: Experiences of Being African American in the US and Abroad” panel discussion with GSU students, moderated by Dr. Phyllis West, University Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work, was attended by over 50 students, staff, and faculty members on September 21. See images of the event and read more here.

CAS and COE Win “GSU Drives Away Hunger”

GSU hosted a food drive "competition" among faculty members of the four colleges with food collection boxes in the library. This event took place between from September 25 – 29 in support of Hunger Action Month and in conjunction with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. All proceeds went to the GSU Food Pantry.

Drs. Bose, Radovic-Fanta, and Goode thank Lydia Morrow Ruetten and Alexis Sarkisian for their support and extend their deepest appreciation for the generosity of their colleagues.
Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found here, including FAFSA Completion Workshops, the Career Services Drop-in schedule, Writing Center Workshops, and the OIS Fall Global Lunch Series offerings, among others.

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.
University Park, IL, October 09, 2017

Jason Zingsheim

In Human Village, poet Maya Angelou wrote, "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike." Governors State University (GSU) Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Jason Zingsheim (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/zingsheim/) agrees—in spirit—but encourages us to dig deeper.

“Our differences and diversity are strengths—something that should be celebrated,” said Zingsheim, an intercultural communication scholar who is passionate about all things related to gender and sexuality. "We shouldn't all be the same. That would be really boring. Our differences should make a difference in better ways rather than being used to oppress and discriminate,” said the prolific writer, researcher, and innovator who started blazing a trail at GSU in 2008.

In 2010, Zingsheim chaired the steering committee that formed the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Division_of_Humanities_and_Social_Science/Gender_and_Sexuality_Studies/Gender_and_Sexuality_Studies_Bachelor_of_Arts/) (GNSX) and served as its inaugural program coordinator before becoming the unit coordinator for Communication (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Division_of_Communication_Visual_and_Performing_Arts/Communication), Media (http://www.govst.edu/cas/mpa), and Performing Arts (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Division_of_Communication_Visual_and_Performing_Arts/Theatre_and_Performance_Studies/Theatre_and_Performance_Studies_Bachelor_of_Arts/) programs. The programs are housed in the College of Arts and Sciences (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/).

The GNSX studies program grew out of an annual GSU-based international Gender Matters Conference (http://www.govst.edu/gendermatters/) coordinated by Zingsheim. The two-day forum brings together students, activists, and researchers to discuss the ongoing role of gender in structuring society.

An Arizona native, Zingsheim has traveled the world (visiting Kenya once and Vietnam twice) to assess and train members of the LGBT community in media advocacy. At GSU, he teaches a full load of undergraduate and graduate communication classes, including an online offering he designed, Communication and Identity.

Year after year, the equality advocate’s drive and research have brought him recognition. In 2017, he won the peer-nominated Faculty Excellence Award—his second in five years. 2016 brought the Excellence in Innovation Award, and in 2015, he was named Top Faculty Paper.

To Zingsheim, the awards are shiny reminders that he must remain steadfast to the age-old principles of dignity and respect for all, especially during October, LGBT History Month.

“What I’m doing—focusing on communication to foster diversity and inclusiveness—can make a difference for students and anyone who engages these topics in their everyday lives. The only way we see social change at the broad level is for people to embrace social change at the individual level. I’m honored by the recognition from my peers and still driven by the desire to see the world more equitable and at the same time more diverse than it has been.”

GSU Newsroom: The GNSX program is in its second year. What about it makes you most proud?

Zingsheim: There is an energy around the program that we saw during a recent screening of the documentary Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric. There was a great turnout, and I saw students coming into the room and recognizing each other even if they hadn’t met before. It makes me proud to have helped create a space where students who often don't feel safe or comfortable sharing parts of themselves are able to do so.
GSU Newsroom: Why is the GNSX major important at GSU?

Zingsheim: What could be more important than studying that which affects us all? Gender and sexuality are fundamental to the ways we each experience the world from our individual interactions. GSU is no different. Our students reflect the larger world and are subject to social institutions that function to structure our world in ways that are often unequal. Giving our students the opportunity to examine this interplay to study how genders and sexualities have been shaped over time and across space—provides the tools to begin reshaping those relationships. We all have a gender identity and a sexual orientation. For example, not all straight men are straight or masculine in the same ways, and gender doesn’t only apply to women or transgender people, and LGBTQ folks aren’t the only ones with sexual orientations. Understanding these subject positions better—and how they relate to others and society—benefits all of us. This can be particularly liberating for those of us whose sexual orientations and/or gender identities are less common and less represented.

GSU Newsroom: In the two years leading up to the 2017 Excellence Award, you published one book, two book chapters, and two academic studies. Which of these writings has been most impactful and why?

Zingsheim: *Discursive Negotiations of Kenyan LGBTI Identities: Cautions in Cultural Humility* examines sexual and gender minority identities in Nairobi, Kenya. We used participant observation and creative focus groups with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) community members and journalists in Nairobi to demonstrate the necessity of cultural humility, the willingness to suspend assumptions about a person or group based on generalizations about their culture. This was an important study because so much of what we know in the field of communication about sexual orientation and gender identity minorities is limited to Western experiences. This piece contributes to our understanding of what it means to be LGBTI in Kenya, which has a very complicated relationship with the West. We are able to name the problematic cultural myths about LGBTI folks that circulate in Kenyan media and share strategies we use in the United States for how activists and journalists can work together to challenge and upend those myths by representing the full humanity of LGBTI Kenyans. We are watching to see how quickly perspectives there change. If we can bring greater equity to Kenya, we can change the world.