News

Incentives Offered for New Study Abroad Affiliates

Governors State University has recently partnered with two study abroad program providers, both of which are providing incentives for GSU students.

Athena Study Abroad focuses on making the world accessible for students through affordable, smaller programs abroad. All GSU students who participate in their short-term programs will receive $200 off, or $500 off for semester-length programs. Athena also has a special Spring 2018 offer for GSU students to study on Paros Island, Greece for the same price of studying at GSU. One $1,000 scholarship is available for a first-generation college student to study abroad with Athena for the spring semester.

International Studies Abroad (ISA) offers multiple semester, summer, and winter programs, as well as service learning and internships across the globe. All GSU students who participate in their programs will receive a $200 discount.

For more information, click here or contact Amy Schoenberg.

Veteran Students Take Academic Lead at GSU

Through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), GSU has been awarded a prestigious grant that allows the university to explore and study veterans' contributions to the humanities. With a special emphasis on oral history and literature, the grant—written by Drs. Rosemary Erickson Johnsen and Andrae Marak of the College of Arts and Sciences— is one of only fifteen awarded by the NEH in 2017 for the Dialogues on the Experience of War program. That program is part of a broader NEH initiative titled Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War, an initiative which seeks to "support
advanced research in the humanities that explores war and its aftermath; promote discussion and deepened understanding of the experiences of those Americans affiliated with the armed services, whether active duty or veterans; and support returning veterans and their families.*

Read more... (https://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-student-veterans-take-the-lead-in-neh-class-on-war-and-trauma/)

Join the Conversation and #DoTheFAFSA

Who doesn’t love free money? Just one hour spent completing your FAFSA will equip you with all of the resources available to you, whether through loans (http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Financial_Aid/Loans/) (which you pay back), grants (http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Financial_Aid/Grants/) (which you don’t), or scholarships (http://www.govst.edu/scholarships/) (which require an additional application (http://www.govst.edu/scholarships/)).

Across social media (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/About/Offices_and_Departments/University_Marketing_and_Communications/FAFSA-social-toolkit.pdf) platforms, users are singing the praises of FAFSA—and for good reason, too. #DotheFAFSA (http://www.govst.edu/dothefafsa) so you know about all of the resources available to you. GSU has developed this FAFSA social media toolkit (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/About/Offices_and_Departments/University_Marketing_and_Communications/FAFSA-social-toolkit.pdf) to equip you with all of the knowledge and hashtags you need to join the FAFSA conversation. Join GSU in spreading the word on Twitter (https://twitter.com/Governors_State), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/governors_state/), and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/govstate/).

Touchnet Payment Plans begin Spring 2018

The Office of Financial Services (http://www.govst.edu/cashier) is excited to announce TouchNet payment plans—a convenient automatic monthly payment plan.

In response to student needs, payment plans for Spring 2018 will include a feature that automatically deducts monthly payments from students’ or parents’ debit or credit cards. Automatic deductions will allow payments to be scheduled and processed on the due dates with no additional action needed on your part.

Update Your Contact Information ahead of Winter Weather

Winter weather can cause class cancellations. Make sure your contact information is up to date so you receive all official GSU notifications—and prevent making the trek to campus in the case of closures.

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 C1300. If you have any questions, please contact the Registrar's Office (mailto:Regoffice@govst.edu) 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 (mailto:GSU-HR@govst.edu). If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at 708.534.4100.

International Education Week
The Office of International Services (http://www.govst.edu/ois) (OIS) is getting ready for International Education Week (http://www.govst.edu/About/Office_of_International_Services/Programs/International_Education_Week/) (IEW), November 13 – 17. IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of the university’s efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences.

To see our list of cultural programming, click here (http://www.govst.edu/About/Office_of_International_Services/Programs/International_Education_Week/). All members of the GSU community are invited to participate.

**Student Art Installations Connect With the Skylight Gallery in the Library**

A five-week series of student artwork exhibits is being featured in the GSU Library’s Skylight Gallery, developed in collaboration with Dr. Patrick Santoro’s (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/psantoro/) Performance Art course and the Visual Arts Gallery (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Visual_Arts_Gallery/).

Simone Thomas is the second featured student artist in the series. Her exhibit *The Real World* is an interactive mixed-media collage that asks the audience to participate in its creation.

In her artist statement, Thomas considers, “The world is made up of different cultures and ethnicities. This work focuses on diversity, encouraging people to interact with others different from them, to recognize the importance of accepting others, and to learn from others’ differences. This is, after all, what makes the world go ‘round—isn’t it?”

Thomas’s exhibit will run through November 3. Click here (http://gsunews.govst.edu/student-art-installations-connect-with-the-skylight-gallery-in-the-library/preview/f5ea89fe6ad84198da5c4ede3765fa4343c92bec) to read more or email the Library (mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu) with questions.

**Act Now for Spring 2018**

Spring 2018 registration is now open for all students, current and new. Register now to get the schedule you need!

The Spring 2018 graduation application is also now open. Students who will be finishing degree requirements during the spring semester may apply to graduate through the MyGSU portal.

**Announcements and Events**

**Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Gender Questioning Support Group**

The Health and Student Counseling Center (http://www.govst.edu/health-student-counseling-center/) is currently running a support group every Wednesday from 2 – 3 p.m. in room D34090. Students, staff, and faculty are welcome.
Respond to Violence: Impact of Mental Health

Cook County Jail is now the largest mental health facility in the United 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](mailto:ybrown@govst.edu).

Get a Head Start on Holiday Gifts with the Annual Fall Vendor and Craft Sale

Get ready for the holiday season with gifts from over 30 unique crafters and vendors at the annual Fall Vendor and Craft Fair on **November 1 – 2** from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

Proceeds will benefit Civil Service Senate programming and causes throughout the year.

GSU Volleyball Hosts Seniors Night

GSU Volleyball will honor its senior class at the home finale of **IU South Bend vs. Governors State** on **Tuesday, October 31** at 7 p.m. in the Athletics and Recreation Center.

View live stats and video ([link](https://portal.stretchinternet.com/gsujaguars/)) throughout the game. Admission is $5 for adults or $2 for children under 12. GSU students, faculty, and staff get in free with myONECARD.

Charlottesville: Symptoms of Hate and Intolerance in America

Join us on **Thursday, November 2** from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall for a public forum about freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, the impact of Confederate symbols, and the resurgence of hate.
Moderator Professor Vince Jones, keynote speaker Gia Orr, and a host of faculty, students, and community members will take part in these important discussions.

This program is sponsored by GSU Campus Inclusion, the Master of Public Administration Program, and Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society (NASPAA).

**Patrick Russell Presents “War and Trauma”**

The Dialogues on the Experience of War program presents “War and Trauma” with Patrick Russell, president and treasurer of The Making History Project, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to preserve veterans’ stories.

After returning from the war against fascism in Europe and the Pacific, veterans did not have resources to talk about the trauma they had experienced. Many of these veterans, later in life, have decided to share their stories on the ways in which combat, or being a military nurse/doctor, has caused them long-term trauma.

This event will take place November 6 at 5 p.m. in D34115. Pizza will be provided for students after the talk. Please RSVP to Sandi Kawanna (skawanna@govst.edu) or call 708.534.4011. This event is part of The Dialogues on the Experience of War program, made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Education for Sustainability**

Join the Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) for Education for Sustainability, a political action event addressing homelessness, domestic violence, long-term illness, and disasters, on Monday, November 6 from 3 – 5 p.m. in the E-lounge.

Guest speakers will focus on children and families who are having personal difficulties or are in traumatic situations and discuss how these circumstances affect their learning, health, and well-being. They will provide strategies for educators, social workers, and psychologists on working with these populations. Those who attend will be equipped with new knowledge and ways of thinking which are necessary to improve our community.

To RSVP, contact Michelle Westergaard (mwestergaard@student.govst.edu); for more information, contact Brianna Fabsits (bfabsits@student.govst.edu).

**Ending the Epidemic**

#ItEndsHere
Join the Students of Addiction Studies Club (SASC) on **November 8** from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Hall of Honors for the event focused on increasing awareness of the current opioid and heroin overdose epidemic and reducing the stigma surrounding those impacted by it.

The afternoon kicks off with a dynamic presentation by Vantage Clinical Consulting LLC, followed by a Q&A session with our panel of experts. Then, stick around for a free screening of the Netflix documentary *Heroin[e]* and a post-screening open forum.

**Conversational Café by the Office of International Studies (OIS)**

Join GSU's [English as a Second Language](http://www.govst.edu/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.

The next session of Conversational Café will be “Giving Thanks” in the Lakeside Lounge on **November 8** from 2:30 – 4 p.m.

**Call for Auditions**

Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS) and the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) are calling for auditions for two upcoming productions

Audition for *Caroline or Change*, presented by Southland Area Theatre Ensemble on **Sunday, November 12** from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the CPA. Callbacks are invitation only and will be held November 13. [Schedule your audition](https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/uehla) and [download an audition packet](http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/Slate_Theatre/Caroline%20or%20Change%20Audition%20Packet%20(002).pdf).

for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf, presented by TAPS, will hold auditions on two dates: **Wednesday, November 15** from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. in the E-Lounge, and **Saturday, November 18** from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall. [Schedule an audition](https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/hdgtd).

**A Reading by R.M. Ryan**
Join poet and memoirist R.M. Ryan on **November 14** from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors for a reading from his memoir *There's A Man With A Gun Over There*, an autobiographical novel based on his military experiences.

Ryan says of his memoir: "All of us men with guns were pretty scary—even scarier is the realization that most of the people who come through the American military are trained killers. These people are your neighbors. They’re your relatives. We need to face up to what we're doing, both to peasants in the Third World and to our own children."

Pizza will be provided for students following the reading. Please RSVP to Sandi Kawanna (mailto:skawanna@govst.edu) or call 708.534.4011. This event is part of The Dialogues on the Experience of War program, made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**The ABC’s of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

All in the GSU community are invited to attend a panel discussion covering the details of the Affordable Care Act, led by Dr. Ning Lu, Full Professor of Health Administration, on **November 14** from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Engbreton Hall.

Panelists include Health Care Administration students Brittnee Harris, Dhupina Patel, and Lisa Purdy, officers of the Student Health Care Management Club. GSU’s Dr. Rupert Evans, a regent of the American College of Health Executives for Metro Chicago, will also speak.

Refreshments will be served. This event is hosted by the GSU Student Health Care Management Club and supported by a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee. Contact the Library (mailto:gsulibraryinfo@govst.edu) with questions.

**I AM A ZEBRA: A Curiously Entertaining Story of Illness**
Join Ingrid Masterton, creator and performer of I AM A ZEBRA (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/Library_flyer_Zebra_1017.pdf), on her journey of trials met with humor, pain muted by joy, and the absurd kind of amusement that only the world of medicine could provide. Have fun with her as she tries to discover how she’ll next use her peculiar identity to undertake the reinvention that illness demands.

This free performance (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/Library_flyer_Zebra_1017.pdf), directed by Anne Marie Scheffler, will take place November 15 at 4:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall. Click here (http://gsunews.govst.edu/i-am-a-zebra-a-curiously-entertaining-story-of-illness/preview/1f4b3f3a4906f414b6c0d74f376d12b13b18496038) to learn more.

Professional Networking Event

The Office of Career Services (http://www.govst.edu/careerservices/) and the GSU Foundation (http://www.govst.edu/Alumni_and_Donors/GSU_Foundation/) are partnering to provide a professional networking event on Thursday, November 16 from 3 – 4 p.m. in the Lakeside Lounge. Students will network with faculty, staff, and employers to expand their professional etiquette skills so that they may become more comfortable and better prepared for opportunities within their chosen field.

Register by November 3 for the 2017 Men’s Leadership Summit

The 2017 Men’s Leadership Summit will take place 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.

This year’s keynote address will be given by Kevin Powell, who has authored 12 books, including his newest title, The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy’s Journey into Manhood. His writings have also appeared in CNN.com, Esquire, Ebony, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, Rolling Stone, The Guardian, ESPN.com, and Vibe Magazine, where he worked for many years as a senior writer.

Register (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLSREGISTER) by November 3. Conference attendees will be eligible for a chance to win tickets to see Jay-Z in Chicago. For more information, email the Office of Intercultural Affairs (mailto:diversity@govst.edu) or call 708.534.4551.

MLK Commemoration: Save-the-Date

Save the date for GSU’s annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program on Monday, January 15 at 10 a.m. in Sherman Hall. This year’s keynote speaker is publisher, editor, and educator Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti, founder and president of Third World Press, the oldest independent publisher of Black thought and literature in the country.
Donations of nonperishable food items for the GSU Food Pantry are suggested. This program is presented in collaboration with the University Park Library and University Park MLK Committee.

Highlights

Documentary Screening Celebrates LGBTQ+ Month

In recognition of LGBTQ+ Month, GSU’s Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSX) program, in cooperation with the GSU Library, hosted a recent screening of Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric.

Over twenty-five GSU community members attended the screening, which was followed by a discussion facilitated by faculty affiliated with the GNSX program: Dr. Ellie Walsh, Assoc. Professor of History and Dr. Lara Stache, Asst. Professor of Communication and Coordinator of the GNSX Program.

GSU Research Day Preparations Begin

Students, faculty, and members of the Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) board met in a weekend workshop on the library balcony to begin discussions on best practices for research and proposal writing for GSU'S Research Day which will take place on April 6, 2018.

Click here to read about this weekend’s workshop and the upcoming proposal workshop which will take place after Thanksgiving.

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found here, including FAFSA Completion Workshops, APA Workshops, Research Day 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.
University Park, IL, October 30, 2017

**GSU Student Veterans Take the Lead in NEH Class on War and Trauma**

Say soldier, and the world replies hero. It hums anthem and shouts flag, then it whispers suicide, homeless, PTSD. There is a vocabulary surrounding soldiers and veterans being designated by platforms, observers, and critics, and that language reflects a polarized view of the military experience, one that fails to acknowledge the complexity of soldiers’ lives. A small group of U.S. military veterans and their professors at Governors State University—thanks to a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) co-authored by Drs. Rosemary Johnsen and Andrae Marak—are partnering to tell the full story, and they’re doing it in the classroom with words like professionals, leaders, and scholars. Their lexicon acknowledges the lofty themes and hard realities—it has to—but at GSU, the focus is on learning. In addition to support services provided by the Veterans Resource Center (VRC), the university is invested in the academic journey and contributions of U.S. military members.

For six weeks, five veterans—all students at GSU—met Drs. Johnsen and Marak to talk about the body of creative work that has sprung from the war experience. They read Wilfred Owen’s poetry and they watched documentaries on political performance art. They read Tim O’Brien’s fiction and debated its veracity and meaning, and they did all of this in preparation for the full class—War, Trauma, and Humanities, an upper-level English course in which the veterans serve as discussion leaders for other students.

They were chosen by the professors, both members of GSU’s College of Arts and Sciences, after a round of interviews. Each student veteran is being compensated for participation.

Jermaine Drayton, an Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSS) student who served 21 years in the U.S. Army, said he felt surprised when he learned about the class.

“You know, you can be in a crowd of military people and we can vibe. We don’t even have to know each other. When [civilians] want to know the things that we’ve been through—and we want to share it—and they want to understand what we went through and why we feel the way we feel, it shocks me,” Drayton said. “I was an engineer in the military. That’s totally different from poems, but when we got into the dialogue and were actually taught how to read poetry, it was eye opening. Somebody way before us wrote it down on a piece of paper. We can read what he was feeling when he was deployed, and it’s the exact same things we’re feeling now.”

And vibe they do. Before class begins, they chatter and joke like friends who have known one another for years. Their conversations roll from football to news to the week’s readings inside of a minute. When the subject of service arises, they trade anecdotes—most laced with laughter, some more somber.

Victor Garcia, another student leader from IDSS, spent four years in the Marine Corps. In his own words, he carried the responsibility of lives under his command in Iraq.

“I didn’t want an easy job in the Marine Corps,” Garcia said. “When I got to the fleet, I was made a team leader, then I was made a squad leader, and I left as a platoon sergeant. Each of them carried more and more responsibility and responsibility for subordinates. You worry about their lives, along with the command and...
In 2004, Garcia's squad leader was killed in combat, and that leadership was put to the test.

"The moment he was killed, it fell on my shoulders. I remember going through his gear and thinking 'Now is not the time to grieve because I have guys to lead. We have to continue on because we have to continue on with the mission.' The leadership never left. I never had a chance to let the feelings go until I got out," Garcia said. "Part of the mechanism of my transition back to civilian life was actually writing about my experiences."

Long before Johnsen and Marak conceived of the course, Garcia wrote his story of Fallujah—a city 50 miles west of Baghdad—to cope with his grief, and it became part of a collection of veterans' stories at University of Chicago. Like the authors he studied—from WW I to Vietnam—Garcia found relief in committing his experience to paper.

Garcia fought in the first battle for Fallujah and returned as relief during the second, taking over for other Marines who had engaged in combat during the first push, he said. Kevin Smith, director of the VRC, shared some insight on the significance of the two battles.

"[Fallujah] was one of the hardest times in Iraq—our forces ran into a lot of issues and lost a lot of lives," Smith said.

Raw footage of the second battle there reveals still streets occupied by tanks, fallen bricks from mosque walls spilling into dust, and the report of machine gun fire and artillery echoing off of buildings from rooftops. Between rounds, soldiers call out and—occasionally—force smiles. Before either battle, Muriel Williams, an Army Reservist for over nine years, was deployed to Iraq to help rebuild infrastructure in the northern part of the country. Although her unit wanted to assist in Fallujah, they never made it there—their interpreter advised against it.

"I was a Civil Affairs Specialist. We were considered the people people. Our job was to go out and embrace the people and help society get back up and running. I was part of the public facilities team, so water, sewage, electrical—that was on us to go out and reestablish. It's a two sided coin. We're still trying to defend ourselves and wrap our arms around the civilians. There were many places where our assistance was well-received. Then there were others that did not want our presence at all. We desired to do work in Fallujah over the summer of 2003, but our interpreter had strongly advised against it. He said Saddam [Hussein] couldn't control the people there."

Marak, who serves as dean of CAS at GSU, talked about the veterans' experience and pointed out the intellectual exchange occurring in the classroom.

"Our student veterans have found themselves and each other in the poetry, literature, and correspondence that we have covered," he said. "In doing so, they've learned more about themselves even as they have created some unique channels for expressing their combat experiences with the rest of us who have never faced similar dangers."

Rob Mason, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve who served in Saudi Arabia and a student in GSU's Independent Film and Digital Imaging (http://www.govst.edu/cas/ifdi/) program, said he joined the class as a discussion leader so that he could continue exploring his own and other veterans' stories.

"I've talked with veterans on campus and veterans in other areas of my life—I'm part of the VFW—about their experiences, and I really want to do something in film that focuses specifically on veterans' stories. It's not the easiest thing to do to get veterans to talk about our experiences. We may do a one-on-one or a small group setting, but if there are too many people that have not had that kind of experience—it just doesn't grow into
something more. When I saw this class being offered, I saw an opportunity to do that, because I knew I would be sitting with [veterans] who really want to tell their stories and who identify or have an opportunity to identify with the material that's already been written," Mason said.

In talking, Mason referenced the value of telling stories against the backdrop of veteran suicide.

"The stats for veteran suicide are extremely high. I've come in contact face-to-face with at least three veterans that I knew well within 24 hours of them taking their lives. I wish I had known a little bit more about the situation before I left their presence, but—you know—that situation, I'm real close to, and I would like to use a project like [filming veterans' experiences] to help bring those stories out, to keep us from going down that road. Because a lot of times when we're there in that place, we feel like the enemy has invaded on our home turf and that we're fighting this battle alone. And we're not, but it appears that way because we hold so much in, and we're not talking about it."

Akya Gossitt, the youngest of the class leaders at 31, served four years in the U.S. Army and is finding camaraderie through both her classmates and the literature, and she sees the class as an opportunity to tell real war stories.

"My life is real and my experiences and the friends I've lost are real ... [this class] creates a safe space for us to communicate with each other and realize [you're] not the only one and learn with other veterans. I'm learning that the things I experienced in recent wars are no different than any other wars that happened generations before," Gossitt said. "The stories that I have are not saluting the flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Those aren't my experiences. Challenging those narratives and those visuals of what [people] think being a veteran is about is extremely hard sometimes, because people think they know. It's life. It's real life that has been glorified in the media, and the grit of the things we do to protect our country has been overshadowed."

In addition to the course, the NEH grant is being used to bring veterans' stories to the entire Governors State community through several on-campus programs.

On November 6, oral historian Patrick Russell will present a talk on his mission of collecting WW II combat stories (https://www.facebook.com/events/1699588030091982/?acontext=%7B%22action_history%22%3A%22%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22page%5C%22%7D%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22page_upcoming_events_card%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra_data%5C%22%3A%7D%5C%22has_source%5C%22true%7D%7D) and archiving them in the U.S. Library of Congress. November 14, poet and memoirist R.M. Ryan will give a reading from his book *There's a Man With a Gun Over There* (https://www.facebook.com/events/1624569900941576/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%22%2C%22ref_newsfeed_story_type%22%3A%22regular%22%2C%22feed_story_type%22%3A%22117%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D)—recollections from his experience during the Vietnam era—and on December 4, a special town hall discussion will be held and filmed on campus, featuring all five student veterans.
University Park, IL, November 03, 2017

I AM A ZEBRA: A Curiously Entertaining Story of Illness

Join Ingrid Masterton, creator and performer of I AM A ZEBRA (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/Library_flyer_Zebra_1017.pdf), on her journey of trials met with humor, pain muted by joy, and the absurd kind of amusement that only the world of medicine could provide. Have fun with her as she tries to discover how she'll next use her peculiar identity to do the reinvention that illness demands.

This program has been the vision of GSU physical therapy professor Dr. Robbie O’Shea (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/roshea/), who says, “Ingrid masterfully presents a world of conflict and decision making. Occasionally, we as health providers and future health providers find ourselves as patients and recipients of healthcare. It can be uncomfortable and confusing when we, as health care recipients, are not aligned with those charged with our personal health care and systems work against us. This wonderful show brings these conflicts into the open and creates a meaningful and poignant dialogue using humor and fact.”

This free performance (http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/zMiscellaneous/gsuView/Library_flyer_Zebra_1017.pdf), directed by Anne Marie Scheffler, will take place November 15 at 4:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall. I AM A ZEBRA is presented by the GSU physical therapy program and supported by the Intellectual Life Committee.
University Park, IL, November 03, 2017

GNSX Documentary Screening Celebrates LGBTQ+ Month

In recognition of LGBTQ+ Month, GSU’s Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSX) program (http://www.govst.edu/cas/gnsx/) in cooperation with the GSU Library (http://www.govst.edu/library/) hosted a recent screening of Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric.

Over twenty-five GSU community members attended the screening, which was followed by a discussion facilitated by faculty affiliated with the GNSX program: Dr. Ellie Walsh (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/ewalsh/), Assoc. Professor of History and Dr. Lara Stache (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/lstache/), Asst. Professor of Communication and Coordinator of the GNSX Program.

Dr. Stache commented, “We had a great turn out to discuss an important and relevant topic revolving around definitions of gender, language, and perception. Students and community members took the opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on some of the concepts from the film, while faculty and activists in the transgender community found an opportunity to facilitate that necessary dialogue. Overall, this event was a great success!”

Students in Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies offered the following responses:

- “After watching the movie, I found it very interesting because there was a lot of things I didn’t know or even thought about. I would say I look at things different now and have a more open mind.”
- “The movie was informative and I liked having a transgender woman there to answer any questions first hand that maybe our professors could not have answered….it was a great addition to our studies and helped raise many discussion starting questions.”
- “I learned that transgendered people should not be judged and they are just like ‘normal’ people.”
- “I found the experience very interesting and informative. I loved getting to learn through the video and also through discussion. I really enjoyed the viewing. It was informative, and I appreciate that GSU does these kinds of things.”
- “I learned a lot about gender assignment and about the hostility and oppression that transgender and a sexual individual face….I found that the screening was successful in educating everyone there and also brought us all together. Awesome experience!!! Thanks!”

Dr. Walsh said of the screening, “I was heartened to see that the documentary provoked many thoughtful questions and comments, extending even beyond the 7:00 p.m. closing time. Additionally, students showed both openness and strong interest in discussing the complexities of gender and sexuality and demonstrated their sharp analytical skills through their insightful questions. Of course, I was particularly thrilled when students in the GNSX class made connections between the theories and concepts we’ve been discussing in class and issues presented in the film. This shows their ability to transfer what they learn in the classroom to life outside the classroom.”

Please write to the Library (mailto:gsulibraryinfo@govst.edu) if you have any questions or comments.
University Park, IL, November 02, 2017

**GSU Research Day Preparations Begin**

Students, faculty, and members of the Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) board met in a weekend workshop on the library balcony to begin discussions on best practices for research and proposal writing for GSU'S Research Day which will take place on **April 6, 2018**.

The day began with a welcome by **Dr. Colleen Sexton** (mailto:csexton@govst.edu), Associate Provost/Associate Vice President Academic Affairs who encouraged all to visit abstracts from previous research days (http://opus.govst.edu/research_day).

**Dr. Kerri K. Morris** (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/kmorris2/), Director of WAC, said of the workshop, “It was exciting to see how many faculty and students are interested in research and extending this research outside of the classroom. Writing and research are both high impact practices. What students learn in the classroom when extended outside of the classroom makes the learning more transferrable or usable. This type of workshop can help faculty know how to integrate research in the classroom and students learn that their research matters not only in the classroom, but outside.”

A second workshop “Getting Down to Work” will take place after Thanksgiving and will provide a chance for those interested to work on proposals for Research Day, due **February 9**.

This series of WAC workshops is cosponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee. For questions regarding WAC, please write to **Dr. Morris** (mailto:Kmorris2@govst.edu).