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GSU View

University Newsletters

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GSU View, April 10, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
Governors State University

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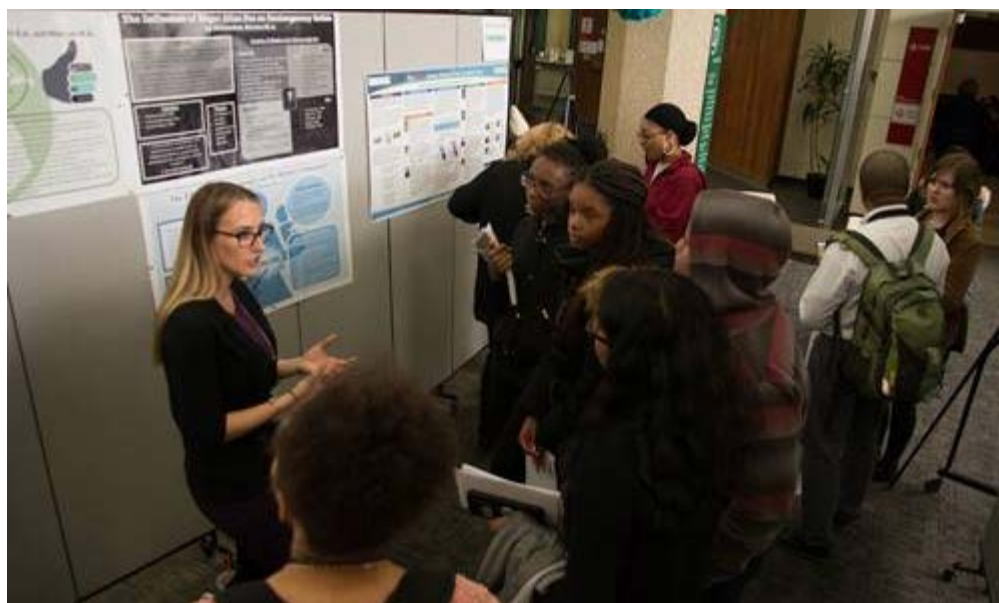
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News

Celebrating Scholarship: Research Day 2018



In the ultimate display of inquiry, GSU faculty and students gathered in the Hall of Governors and classrooms to share knowledge culled from projects and studies undertaken during the 2017-18 academic year through poster presentations and breakout sessions.

The third annual Research Day 2018 engaged the entire campus across interests and disciplines, rank and position, to celebrate inquiring minds and the resulting scholarship in a community of life-long learners.

More than 20 projects were discussed throughout the daylong event, during which 76 posters also were presented on topics and issues that ranged from how to remove lead from water to how to turn art into profit.

[Read more . . .](#)

Apply by Friday for a 2018 GSU Foundation Scholarship



Student Jarrell Harris, 2018 – 19 recipient of the Dual Degree Program – Male Success Initiative Scholarship

[Governors State University Foundation and Alumni Association scholarship funding](#) recognizes academic excellence with scholarships awarded to deserving students in pursuit of a GSU degree. More than 185 scholarships totaling more than \$200,000 are being offered for the fall 2018 semester to GSU students via this in-house program. Apply by **Friday, April 13**, for consideration.

View a full list of scholarships, as well as application guidelines, [here](#).

2018 Graduates Tell Their #myGSUstories



Governors State's 2018 Commencement is historic: this year, the first freshman class will graduate on **May 19**, together with an entire graduating class of over 1,500.

Each graduating student has [a unique story](#) to tell about the journey that brought them to this culminating day of pride and achievement. There are those who have overcome profound hardships; those who are first generation college graduates; or those who traveled to GSU from around the globe all sharing one common goal — success.

To inspire others along their educational path, we've captured a few of those stories for you to view and share. [Watch them here](#).

2018 Spring Career and Internship Fair



The Office of Career Services will be hosting the annual Spring Career and Internship fair this **Thursday, April 12**.

The fair will be held in the GSU gymnasium from 2 – 5 p.m. More than 40 employers are registered, with some seeking students for internships and jobs from any major. This is also a great opportunity for students to network, even if they are not ready to graduate yet.

Prerequisite Checking Begins for Fall 2018



A prerequisite is an academic course that students must complete before enrolling in the next desired or required course—and they're put in place to ensure your academic success.

Starting April 16 for fall 2018 registration, your prerequisites will be checked through the electronic registration system to ensure that you've fulfilled the requirements of the next course in which you plan to enroll. [Learn more](#).

[Make an appointment to meet with your advisor](#) to determine if you have satisfied all prerequisites for

your fall courses.

2018 Commencement Speakers: Call for Student Nominations!

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony, **Saturday, May 19**. This year, both a commencement speaker from the freshman class of 2014 and a commencement speaker who represents the student population will be selected.

As a result, there will be two commencement speakers at each ceremony, and we are seeking nominations for candidates who represent all colleges. Students may self-nominate, but they must have a faculty member complete the recommendation form.

Submit the [Student Commencement Speaker nomination form](#) (and faculty recommendation form if needed) no later than **Friday, April 13**.

Nominees must be available to attend the mandatory interview on **Friday, April 20** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Library Jam: April 23 – 26



Students looking for help with research papers or finals, or seeking a stress-free study zone, can visit the GSU Library during Library Jam, April 23 – 26 from 8:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily.

Writing and ARC tutors will be on hand, and events will include visits from Sandy the GSU Library Therapy Dog and her friends, a chair massage sponsored by the Psychology Club, games, coloring pages, group meetings, and much more. A complete schedule of events will be available next week.

Email GSUlibraryinfo@govst.edu for more information.

VRC Offers Personal Finance Workshop

On **April 10**, Governors State's [Veterans Resource Center](#) (VRC) in partnership with Wayne Casey of Casey Wealth Management is offering a free workshop to help veterans manage personal finances and explore government funded strategies to help pay for education. Free pizza will be provided. The workshop will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the VRC GMT 104. Please RSVP with Scott DeBoer at 219.793.4229.

National Poetry Month at GSU



April is National Poetry Month, and all at GSU are invited to stop into the Library Skylight Gallery to view or participate in the *Share Your Favorite Poem* exhibit.

“We are pleased to have an Object Poetry exhibit in the library through the month of April,” said [Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library](#). “As part of the exhibit, we have also devoted space where students, faculty, and staff can write a line or more from their favorite poem or their own poetry on paper and put it into the clear sleeves hanging from the wall,” she said.

The exhibit will be up through April, and all are encouraged to participate. If you have questions, please contact [the GSU Library](#).

GSU Featured in Equity Webinar



GSU, one of thirteen institutions that participated in a three-year effort to craft campus-based strategies to advance equity in higher education, has been selected to contribute to a web-based panel discussion, [A Vision for Equity: Campus-Based Strategies for Committing to Equity and Inclusive Excellence](#), on **April 19**.

The national webinar is timed with a recent release of a 60-page report by the same name, said Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students, who led the GSU project and will present the university’s findings during the webinar hosted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). The report can be downloaded for free by [clicking here](#).

[Learn more about the Vision for Equity Project.](#)

Student Short Film Submissions Now Being Accepted for Chicago Southland International Film Festival



[GSU](#) is launching a film festival with two events to take place over six weeks in August and September. The inaugural [Chicago Southland International Film Festival](#) (CSIFF) will showcase emerging talent as it serves its mission to support the visual and performing arts in Chicago's Southland.

A feature film showcase will kick off the CSIFF on **August 4**. The showcase is a community-wide film screening and discussion event to provide filmmakers with a public performance and the opportunity to participate in facilitated post screening Q&A sessions with a diverse audience. The CSIFF planning committee will announce its film selections in the coming months.

The CSIFF is now accepting film submissions for its second event, an international student short film competition to be held **September 15 – 16**. Short film submissions are being accepted in the narrative and documentary categories from high school, college, and graduate students. Visit [CSIFF](#) to review categories and entry guidelines.

Find out [how to submit](#).

Reserve Your University Sustainable Garden Plots



Begin preparing your gardening tools to use at the University Sustainable Garden! Beginning April 16, GSU will once again offer garden plots for the 2018 growing season. The University Sustainable Garden gives faculty, staff, students, and community members an opportunity to grow organic vegetables of their choice. Facilities Development & Management has expanded the size and number of plots based on demand. Make 2018 a healthier year for you and your family! Stay tuned for more announcements in the upcoming weeks.

For more information, click [here](#).

Announcements and Events

Library Offers 2018 Excel Workshops

The GSU Library is offering the following Excel workshops. For full details, view the Workshops and Training Opportunities webpage. To register for any or all workshops, email [Diane Nadler](mailto:Diane.Nadler).

- **Introduction to Charts:** Tuesday, April 10, D2401B, 10 a.m. – noon
- **Mail Merge:** Monday, April 16, D2401B, 10 a.m. – noon
- **Pivot Tables, Conditional Formatting and What If Function:** Tuesday, April 17, D2401B, 10 a.m. – noon

Contact [Linda Geller](mailto:Linda.Geller) with questions.

Gender and Sexuality Club Presents FriGAY the 13th Variety Show



Celebrate [FriGAY the 13th](#) with the GSU Gender and Sexuality Club's Second Annual Spring Variety Show on **Friday, April 13** at 7:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall.

Join us as we explore and poke fun at queer horror tropes that have dominated film and television for decades. Featuring burlesque, comedy, original music, drag, dance, and more!

Admission is free to GSU students with ID and \$5 for community members.

Urbanization Posters on Display

More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion. This urbanization will bring huge social, economic, and environmental transformations.

Dr. [Xiaoyong Chen](#), Professor of Biology, and Nadine Kahl, an undergraduate student in GSU's [B.S. in Biology program](#), have completed a project that addresses urbanization issues. The project provides the updated information on the issues leading to the urbanization, the effects of urbanization on human health and environments, and the stratagems for sustainable management of our cities.

A total of six posters derived from this project are on display along the walkway on the first floor in the F Building. The exhibition will be on display through **April 13**.

Multicultural Fashion Show on April 12



The [Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) and student club [International Cultural Organization \(ICO\)](#) are teaming up once again for their annual Multicultural Fashion Show. The event will take place in the CPA Lobby on **Thursday, April 12** from 3 – 4:30 p.m. We invite all community members to join in celebrating our cultural diversity at GSU through fashion, song, dance, and friendship!

Meet Exotic Animals on Campus

[Meet and greet up to 10 exotic animals on campus](#) on **Thursday, April 12** from noon – 3 p.m. on the outdoor area outside of the Hall of Governors.

The Affection Section is an educational encounter made possible by Scales & Tales, a refuge for a variety of unusual pets. Their techniques blend warmth and wisdom, drawing on personal knowledge and experience. This experience is tailored to suit specific studies in the environment, endangered species, predator-prey relationships, and animal care and compassion.

Professional trainers and animal handlers closely supervise each encounter and maintain an atmosphere of excitement with vivid tales of life in the animal's natural surroundings. This hands-on experience exposes guests to the wilder side of the animal kingdom, and everyone is sure to learn something new about these amazing animals.

Sponsored by [Student Life](#).

Minors to Open Your World and Welcome Opportunity In



Fluency in global culture is your passport to a world of career opportunities, from education, government, and social services to health care, tourism, and media.

Have you wanted to learn more about GSU minors in Global Studies, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latina/o Studies, or American Studies? Do you want to gain new skills in Spanish? Faculty in these areas of study will be at a table outside of the GSU Library near the Cube to answer your questions from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 17** and **Wednesday, April 18**.

Please contact [Dr. Novia Pagone](#) or advisor [Lisa Helm](#) for more information.

GSU4U Link Card Application Workshop



Illinois Hunger Coalition will be on campus to assist GSU students with Link Card applications on **Tuesday, April 17** from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in A2140. Bring a photo ID and information about your income.

[Appointments](#) recommended; walk-ins welcome. Questions? Contact [GSU4U](#) or call 708.235.2845.

Need food now? Visit the Food Pantry in the Jaguar Den (A2140).

Register for Safe Use of Social Media for Educators (and Others)



Mark your calendars for a workshop **Wednesday, April 18**, from 3 – 4:15 p.m. in D2401A in the library to attend a workshop conducted by lecturer Steve Hzyny, Cisco CCNA, CCAI, Microsoft MCSE, Novell MCNE, CNI Comptia A+, Network+ CTT+, Server+, Security+, Project+, Certified Advanced Security Practitioner CISSP.

The workshop will focus on the dangers of connecting, outcomes that can impact tenure, and a review of best practices for using social media to connect safely with parents and students. A Q&A will follow.

This workshop is open to all in the GSU community and is presented by the GSU Library, Student Education Association, and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society. Please RSVP by **April 16**, to [Hannah Gruben](#). For information, please contact [Alexis H. Sarkisian](#).

Spring Open Market

GSU's Civil Service Senate is sponsoring the Annual Spring Open Market on **Wednesday, April 18 – Thursday, April 19** from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Please join us as we welcome vendors, crafters, and artisans to campus who will offer a variety of products for sale to the GSU community.

For more information or to become a vendor, email civilservice@govst.edu. This event is open to all.

In Their Shoes: Understanding and Experiencing International Students' Social, Cultural, and Academic Lives



Have you experienced classroom-based cultural miscommunication, confusion, or missed cultural expectations with international students/classmates? On **Friday, April 20** from 1 – 3 p.m. in Engbretson

Hall, come learn and share to understand and experience international students' lives at GSU and work toward a truly internationalized classroom and campus.

Students participating in this event will have an opportunity to win one of three \$20 gift cards.

For information, please contact [Akiko Ota](#), 708.534.3142

This event is sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee in cooperation with the English Language Learning Center and School of Extended Learning. Co-facilitators for this program are Akiko Ota, Director of the English Language Learning Center, and Chris Greiner, Instructor in the English Language Learning Center.

Peace with a Purpose: Information Fest



Join the Southland Community Forum for Peace with a Purpose Information Fest on **Saturday, April 21** from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Information Fest is an opportunity to reconnect the Southland. Learn how to reduce your monthly expenses through mortgage restructuring; raise credit worthiness; prepare for the expungement summit; acquire knowledge on navigating new hiring practices in a technologically advancing job market; industry trends to help strengthen, develop and expand new business start-ups, existing businesses and individuals who have an interest in entrepreneurship.

Please [RSVP here](#) by April 18 or call 708.339.3018.

College of Business Information Session

Join the [College of Business](#) for its information session on **Saturday April 21**, at 10 a.m. in the F1622 lecture hall. During this session, you will have the opportunity to meet faculty members, current students in graduate programs, and staff and program coordinators.

This is a great opportunity to learn about business program and how business impacts your life. The AACSB-accredited College of Business programs are offered in online, on-campus, and hybrid formats to fit your academic needs.

[Registration](#) is required.

Bringing People Together with Music, Celebrating the Language of Our Times

Join us for a one-night only concert exploring the rich blues legacy of our region and its parallels to hip hop. [The Blues Hip Hop Experience](#) on **Saturday April 21** at 8 p.m. combines poetry, performance, and perspective for a multigenerational audience.

“These African-American oral traditions bridge generational and cultural divides, uniting people from all backgrounds for a shared experience that brings the rich musical legacy of Chicago and our production from Millennium Park to life in the southland,” says co-host and producer Sylvia Ewing. “This is our chance to show that the Blues is a relevant vibrant art form and hip hop is more than controversial music videos and questionable rap lyrics,” she adds.

[Tickets](#) are \$28, \$10 for students, and \$25 for GSU staff and faculty.

Joliet Slammers Fundraiser



The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) are hosting a May 30 social and fundraiser at the 7 p.m. [Joliet Slammers](#) game on the Silver Cross Field in Joliet. The Slammers, a professional baseball team, will be battling the Washington Wild Things in one of the first games of the season.

There was a great turnout at this event last year; SEA leaders, faculty, and staff from GSU brought their family and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tickets are \$10 per person; portions of proceeds of ticket purchases will go to both organizations. Contact any leader of the SEA to purchase tickets (tickets must be purchased for cash from a student leader). For more information, contact [Hannah Gruben](#).

Highlights

Deborah James



Listening to Associate Professor [Deborah James](#) talk about [Media Studies](#), you can hear the passion and pride she holds for the program and her students.

James joined the [Governors State University](#) faculty in 2011 to help grow and develop the media studies program, which officially launched in 2014. “We’re in year four and we’ve had constant growth,” she said.

At the dynamic intersection of multimedia forms, content and delivery, the program she helped launch began with one concentration in *Media Industry and Production* with a focus on live television and cross-platform production.

[Read more . . .](#)

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly Visits GSU



U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly recently visited with faculty, staff, and students at GSU and spoke on a wide range of topics, including housing and jobs in the Southland.

The GSU chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), the global honor society for public affairs and administration, frequently brings in public officials to engage with students in small settings. Congresswoman Kelly, whose second congressional district includes GSU, spoke with about 70 people during her campus visit.

[Read more . . .](#)

Students Pledge Commitment to Supporting Sexual Assault Awareness



On Thursday, April 5, the Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention Team joined forces with the Male Success Initiative to bring awareness and insight to males on campus about the victims of sexual assault. Facilitated by Amanda Evans, University Lecturer in the Division of Psychology and Counseling, and Sean Smith, Coordinator of the Male Success Initiative, the program was well-attended not only by members of the MSI and the GSU Men's Basketball team, but other male students as well. The session covered the definitions related to sexual assault and sexual harassment, reviewed language that GSU uses when receiving sexual assault claims, and discussed how men can avoid compromising situations and how to not be innocent bystanders. Participants signed a pledge affirming their commitment to supporting the movement to prevent sexual assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the ASAP team has plenty more events coming up, for more information about the events, click [here](#).

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including the next Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag, Writing Center workshops, and Library workshops can be found [here](#).

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.](#)



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University Park, IL, April 09, 2018

Celebrating Scholarship: Research Day 2018

In the ultimate display of inquiry, GSU faculty and students gathered in the Hall of Governors and classrooms to share knowledge culled from projects and studies undertaken during the 2017-18 academic year through poster presentations and breakout sessions.

The third annual Research Day 2018 engaged the entire campus across interests and disciplines, rank and position, to celebrate inquiring minds and the resulting scholarship in a community of life-long learners.

More than 20 projects were discussed throughout the daylong event, during which 76 posters also were presented on topics and issues that ranged from how to remove lead from water to how to turn art into profit.

Math Professor Chris Tweddle wanted to know the impact of aerodynamics on bike speed. In his "Modeling and Simulation of a Bicycle Race," Tweddle used a modified standardized speed equation to account for and incorporate changes in technological advances over the past 40 years.



Assistant Professors Amy Vujaklija, Jelena Radovic-Fanta, and Jayne R. Goode co-presented "First Ever First Year Student Adjustment to College." Their interest in the student experience inspired them to lead a GSU grant-funded study exploring GSU's transformation to a four-year institution to learn how to improve the first-year experience.

Their Research Day presentation included student responses to questions centered around what worked and what didn't during their first year, including what resources were available for struggling students, how the cohorts aided in their integration to the university, and how personal situational factors impacted their success.

"What helped me succeed was my relationship with professors," one student reported. "We want more mentorship, more juniors and seniors who can connect with us," another student responded.



Input is what senior Trauvell Crawford was seeking as the sole male student participating in the "Black Girl Magic" presentation of undergraduate research experiences of successful African-American women at GSU. "Our male population isn't performing as well as the women," Crawford said. "We want to mimic their success."

Crawford and his three co-presenters questioned the roles of race and gender in the achievements of GSU students as part of an [Equity Grant](http://www.govst.edu/EquityProject/) (<http://www.govst.edu/EquityProject/>) secured to

identify equity-focused, campus-based strategies for student success.

"How do African-American women succeed in their junior year at GSU?" asked senior Akya Gossitt who answered her own question during the course of the study. Gossitt discovered a resilience that allowed her to move forward despite losing three family members, including her mother, in less than a 12-month span.

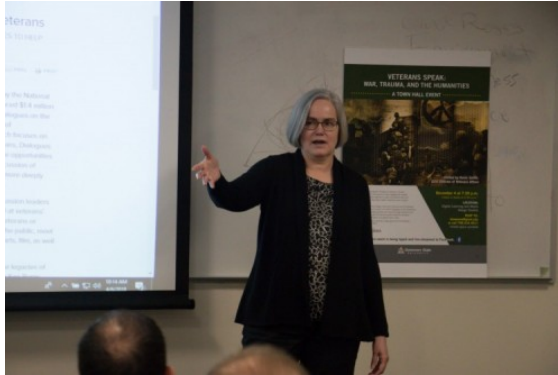
In a separate session for student-veterans, Gossitt also discussed the impact of leaving her infant son when he was deployed and then losing friends in combat.

Before his presentation, student-veteran Victor Garcia wondered, "How can the humanities help war veterans heal?" He and Gossitt co-facilitated a "War, Trauma, and the Humanities" (<https://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-student-veterans-take-the-lead-in-neh-class-on-war-and-trauma/>) class sponsored by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In the class, students learned how to process deep losses by connecting with stories or poems penned by soldiers of past wars and conflicts. For example, reading "Operation Homecoming" helped Gossitt cope with leaving her son while other works showed her she had something in common with World War I soldiers. "They had PTSD, too. They just called it shell shock."

Research Day, an extended Q & A session guiding many presenters to discover answers to their questions, while some researchers were left wanting more.

Sean Smith, coordinator of the Male Success Initiative (<https://www.govst.edu/msi/>), co-led a student team to Port Arthur, Texas for an Alternative Spring Break mission to clean up following Category 4 Hurricane Harvey, which dumped 50 inches of rain across parts of Texas last August. The Office of Civic Engagement (http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Civic_Engagement/) and AmeriCorps sponsored the trip to promote an institutional core value among students and faculty.



In March, a GSU crew of six students opted to spend Spring Break removing moldy and muddy debris Harvey left in its wake. Asked if he was glad he went senior Lester Van Moody did not hesitate. "This gave me a different perspective on life."

He and other students report learning more about themselves and the world than they would have during a traditional break.

However, they were left with questions about why certain areas – where people seemed not to have as many resources – were flooded when the city promised they were not in harm's way. Further, seven months after the storm, many were still without clean water and living in devastated communities while others had moved on. "We can't prevent it because it's a natural disaster," said senior Joy Thomas. "But, what can we do to not have so many lives broken?"



University Park, IL, April 10, 2018

Deborah James

Listening to Associate Professor [Deborah James](#)

(http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/djames/) talk about [Media Studies](#) (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Division_of_Arts_and_Letters/Media_Studies/), you can hear the passion and pride she holds for the program and her students.

James joined the [Governors State University](#) (<http://www.govst.edu/>) faculty in 2011 to help grow and develop the media studies program, which officially launched in 2014. “We’re in year four and we’ve had constant growth,” she said.

At the dynamic intersection of multimedia forms, content and delivery, the program she helped launch began with one concentration in *Media Industry and Production* with a focus on live television and cross-platform production.



Today, the program also offers a second concentration, — *Social Networking and Participatory Culture*, which focuses on the convergence of communication technologies, mass media, and social practices, as well as online production and distribution — along with a host of courses on trendy topics such as Netflix, and a senior seminar to help graduating students focus on their careers and internship opportunities.

Governors State University provides James an “experimental and open” atmosphere to develop

the program and continue her own research, she said.

“It has given me a significant opportunity to do amazing work,” said James, whose work has been published in journals including “Feminist Media Studies” and the “Journal of Communication.”

One of her greatest pleasures is working with students in a variety of internships – from guiding interns of Sports Broadcasting in the GSU television studios, to advising students interning with industry partners in Chicago, to working alongside student interns producing the international 24-hour live-stream for Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project in New York City.

James, a recipient of the 2014 GSU Excellence Award, noted the extensive internship opportunities stemmed out of a desire for her students to have a direct connection to the industry. “There’s a lot of mentoring that goes on here,” she said.

GSU Newsroom: One of your classes is about Netflix. How is Netflix changing media today?

James: Netflix is a bit of an upstart company, just over 20 years old, but it really broke with traditional American television structure and delivery in that it is a subscriber-based model for television production. In traditional broadcast television, the advertiser decides the content. In contrast, Netflix monitors their subscribers and based on what people watch they can—with a very complex algorithm—determine what people will watch or what they want to watch.

Are they the first to do this? No. Are they the best to do it? One would argue that right now, yes. From a creative perspective, Netflix has had a significant impact on storytelling and scriptwriting.

In traditional shows, you would write a season of say 13 episodes with each script written to fill time from commercial break to commercial break. Everything has to be written to accommodate those breaks. In Netflix originals, you see a different approach to story and character arc that some describe as more like a novel. They're not creating a story made up of 13 episodes; they're creating an epic multi-hour story, where one episode flows into another and the audience can check in or check out whenever they want. You can sit there and watch multiple episodes or one episode of the story and it's visually pleasing and it's intellectually engaging.

From an industry perspective, over the next 10 years, industry leaders have indicated that broadcast TV could be increasingly replaced by streaming TV, international production partnerships, and stories from around the world. Our students need to understand how these changes impact the creative production end of things and the meaning of how stories are constructed, as well as the impact of media forms of production and distribution methods. To meet this need, we offer a series of courses that focus on emerging trends impacting the meaning of television, as well as courses for our students planning on working behind the scenes within the media industry.



GSU Newsroom: How does your senior seminar fit into a student's development?

James: This course assists senior students as they transition from undergraduate study to graduate school or a professional work environment. It provides students the tools to develop a professional portfolio, review and demonstrate what they have learned over the course of their degrees.

Students enroll in this course in their final semester before graduation at the time they are preparing for the next stage of their lives and figuring out how to fulfill their life and career aspirations. I'm a big believer in planning backed up by action and this course serves them individually by helping each student identify their best course of action. We partner with [Career Services \(http://www.govst.edu/careerservices/\)](http://www.govst.edu/careerservices/) and through conducting research, attending workshops, interviewing professionals in their industry, and often applying for graduate school, internships and jobs throughout the semester, they are better equipped to make a plan of concrete steps to meet these aspirations.

GSU Newsroom: What is your current research project?

James: My area of research is looking at production practices in media, documentary or performance media.

Currently, I'm focusing on developing a research project in the Florida Keys where I have lived on and off since the 1980s. The project goal is to explore the local community and its relationship with the Florida Reef, the only living coral reef in the continental U.S. through the stories and underwater videos. Of value to both humanities scholars and the public, this project explores the unique role of underwater documentary footage and divers' filmmaking practices and narratives to better understand how we inhabit, interact with, and interpret life within our oceans, lakes, and waterways through documentary media.

This project got started once I learned that there are over 300,000 underwater videos shot in the Florida Keys and posted to YouTube. Some have garnered more than a half million views, making anyone with the will to go diving a potential documentarian with a global audience. I find this concept of holiday action-video meets conservation at a time of climate change fascinating and worthy of study.

GSU Newsroom: What is one bit of advice you would give your students?

James: Dream big. And while you are at it, be nimble and continue to learn and change with the industry. To stand out, you need to be a strong communicator, network-builder, and critical thinker.



University Park, IL, April 09, 2018

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly Visits GSU

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~~U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly recently visited with faculty, staff, and students at Governors State University.~~
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(GSU) and spoke on a wide range of topics, including housing and jobs in the Southland.

The GSU chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), the global honor society for public affairs and administration, frequently brings in public officials to engage with students in small settings. Congresswoman Kelly, whose second congressional district includes GSU, spoke with about 70 people during her campus visit.

Seated before her guests, Congresswoman Kelly shared her views and listened to opinions on student loan forgiveness for public servants, the Higher Education Re-authorization Act, a controversial citizenship questions proposed for the 2020 U.S. census, as well as healthcare and educational disparities.

Only a small fraction of Millennials turned out in the last election, Congresswoman Kelly told the audience. "We're paying for people not voting now," she said. "We have to find a way to get more people involved."

The GSU Chapter of PAA, a member of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) was named the 2016 Global Chapter of the Year. Professor Mary Bruce, (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/mclark/) who serves as faculty advisor of the university's chapter, was named 2016 Advisor of the year.