GSU Awards Veteran Journalists and Social Activist with Honorary Degrees

Governors State University will honor three nationally recognized cultural figures with honorary degrees for their lifetime commitment to journalistic excellence, social equity and inclusion during its 47th commencement ceremony Saturday, May 19 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Investigative journalists Carol Marin and Don Moseley and social activist Martin R. Castro have devoted their lives and work to principles that mirror the mission of GSU, which seeks to be a cornerstone of the public square.

"Carol Marin, Don Moseley, and Martin R. Castro epitomize the highest ideals of their respective professions by shedding light on systemic inequalities," said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. Read more . . .

GSU Expands Partnership at Triton College: Now Offering B.S. in Information Technology

Beginning Fall 2018, GSU will offer its Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at Triton College through the university center partnership. An information session will take place on Wednesday, May 9 from 6 – 7 p.m., in Building H, Room 107, at Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave, River Grove, IL 60171.

“Our IT program aims to provide students with a combination of the theoretical and applied, preparing students for a smooth transition to employment upon completion of the program. Moreover, all of our faculty members have excellent credentials, in addition to experience working in and with industry," said Dr. Andrae Marak, Dean of the College of Arts and Science.
For more information, contact Michelle Sebasco at 708.235.3983.

**Home is Where the Art Is**

First-year students Marie Schelfo and Nathan Couwenhoben, in collaboration with MFA student Pete Cummings, developed "Home Is Where the Art Is": a short video connected to a GoFundMe campaign created to support the restoration of the artwork of French artist Henri Etienne-Martin that is part of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park collection on the campus of Governors State University.

The campaign, launched today, has now reached $575. Donate today to support the NMSP and help Schelfo, Couwenhoben, and Cummings' reach the campaign’s $25,000 goal by its target end date of May 17!

- **GSU President Elaine P. Maimon in the News**

NPR reporter and GSU alum Brian Mackey trekked through the Illinois State Capitol last week asking
legislators if Illinois would face another budget impasse this year. While searching for an answer, he interviewed GSU President Elaine P. Maimon, who was in Springfield for budget hearings. She told Mackey the lack of state funding has left buildings at GSU in disrepair, and without funding, the university would have to issue bonds to raise the money needed to fix the university’s roof. Read More.

President Maimon also spoke to Bernie Tafoya of WBBM radio about GSU’s success with Latino students. GSU is one of ten colleges and universities working with The Partnership for College Completion on ways to get Latino students to graduate at higher rates. Read More.

2018 Spring Student Senate Election Results

The Student Senate election results are in—congratulations to newly elected senators!

College of Arts & Sciences: Derrick Brown, German Cutz, Isaiah Moore, Cariesha C. Singleton
College of Business: Lester V. Moody III
College of Education: Natasha Dillard
Board of Trustee Student Representative: Linda A. Coleman

The newly elected senators will join Justin Smith, Trauvell Crawford, Juan Gutierrez, Kendall Wright, Akya Gossitt, Chicarin Mallett, Stephanie Zwartz, Angel Jackson, Lalit Karnam, Janelle Butler, Jasmin Garner, Brian Stone, and Jeremy Williams.

Conversations with Leaders: Aurélio Valente

Ask Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aurélio Valente about his career in higher education administration, and the conversation quickly swings to golf. Growing up in a town where most people graduated high school and then went to work at the factory where Titleist golf balls are produced, Valente was likely expected to work there, too. “Everybody in my family makes golf balls, and the irony is nobody golfs,” said Valente, whose parents and their siblings immigrated from Portugal beginning in the 1960s and settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. According to Golf.com, which profiled the extended Valente family in 2012, Aurélio Valente’s family was part of an ten-sibling so-called chain migration to the U.S. One after the other, they went to work at Titleist. Among the 11 family members who have worked at the rubber factory, Valente’s only brother has been there since 1997, and his mother retired recently after for more than 25 years. “My mom doesn't even have fingerprints anymore. She worked with rubber casings so long that she has no prints.” Valente wanted to make his own mark. He followed a path that led him to first earn a bachelor’s degree and then two advanced degrees in higher education administration, as well as an MBA. Read more . . .
Mix, Mingle, and Build Your Own Sundae!

Finals Week is almost here . . . bust some stress with ice cream and friends at an Ice Cream Social on **Tuesday, April 24** from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Game Lounge (located in the A building). Come out to enjoy ice cream, games, and more! Beginning at 3 p.m., join a pool tournament directly beside the Ice Cream social. Buy-in is $5, and a pot goes to the winner!

Can’t make it to Tuesday’s events? You’ll have additional chances to have some pre-finals fun throughout the week.

Come to a ping-pong tournament on **Wednesday, April 25** at 2 p.m. ($5 buy-in and a pot to the winner), or to a 3 v. 3 basketball tournament on **Thursday, April 26** at 4 p.m. in the gym ($2 buy-in).

These events have all been designed by First-Year Writing students as part of their Community Engagement projects. All in the GSU community are invited, so come out to enjoy a treat and get to know your fellow Jaguars!

2018 Graduates Tell Their #myGSUstories

Governors State’s 2018 Commencement will be historic, with the first freshman class graduating on **May 19**, together with an entire graduating class of more than 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; and those who traveled to GSU from around the globe. And all share 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.]

- **Stock Up on Spring Flowers and Benefit Friends of the GSU Library**

You can preorder flats of flowers and plants now through Thursday, May 3 at 5 p.m. to benefit the Friends of the GSU Library.

All flowers are sold in full flats of 48 plants per color only (no mixing). Flowers include petunias, impatiens, dianthus, marigolds, vinca, begonias, dusty miller, and salvia. The cost is only $12 per flat, or $11 per flat for four or more. Orders and payment must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 3.

Flowers will be delivered by Sunrise Greenhouses on **Monday, May 7** and all flowers MUST BE PICKED UP between 2 and 6 p.m.

Please contact Cheri Garey, x7892, for more information.

**Library Jam: April 23 – 26**

Students looking for help with research papers, preparing for 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, a chair massage sponsored by the Psychology Club, games, coloring pages, group meetings, and much more. [View a complete schedule of events.]

Email GSUlibraryinfo@govst.edu for more information.
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 with fall 2018 registration, which began yesterday, 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.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Attend (SAAM) events throughout the month, and stop by the B-wing display case to learn more about sexual violence awareness and prevention.

Events are sponsored by GSU’s Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) team, which is committed to creating a campus culture that promotes sexual and relationship health through education and training to prevent sexual violence.

Announcements and Events

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. today and tomorrow, April 17 – 18.

Please contact Dr. Novia Pagone or advisor Lisa Helm for more information.

Honors Seminar Hunger Awareness Bake Sale – Donate, Purchase, or Both!

The Spring Honors Seminar Class will be hosting a Hunger Awareness Bake Sale on Wednesday, April 18 from noon – 5 p.m. in the D Atrium.

Donated baked goods will be sold and all proceeds will go to the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Baked good donations are encouraged and appreciated.

Spring Open Market
GSU’s Civil Service Senate is sponsoring the Annual Spring Open Market on **Wednesday, April 18 and 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, email civilservice@govst.edu. This event is open to all.

**Take the Bored Out of Board Games This Thursday and Friday**

Take the board out of bored games later this week: stop by the GSU Library for fun and games on **Thursday, April 19** from 3:30 – 5 p.m., and **Friday, April 20** from noon – 2 p.m.

This opportunity is part of a First-Year Writing project in collaboration with the GSU Library. Email the Library with questions.

**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, 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 F1622. Meet faculty members, current students in graduate programs, and staff and program coordinators and learn about business programs 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.”
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.

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**Highlights**

**New Sculpture Arrives at GSU for Spring**

Art exists to inspire if not to evoke thought or emotion, and so it is with a new nearly seven-foot piece in the breezeway between GSU’s E and G buildings. A bronze sculpture depicting intertwined figures stands just outside the wing that houses art classrooms and performing arts in Sherman Hall, said Jeff Stevenson, director & curator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery. The artist Abbott Pattison (American, 1916-1999) signed and inscribed “Firenze” (Italian for Florence) c. 1960 across the bottom on the piece, which was professionally restored in 2015 to its original dark green patina by Barry Tinsley.

Read more . . .

**Faculty Authors Reception 2018**
“The Faculty Authors and Sponsored Grant Recipients Reception last Wednesday was an opportunity for us to thank and acknowledge the faculty for their scholarly efforts throughout the past year,” said Ann Marie Nagel, President of the GSU Friends of the Library.

Over thirty-five members of the faculty, staff, and administration were on hand to hear a few words from Beth Cada, Interim Provost, David Golland, and Jennifer Morehead Framer who thanked members of the faculty and staff for their research, publications, and other scholarly efforts.

“We in the library have always enjoyed partnering with the Friends of the Library to honor faculty and staff at our annual Reception during National Library Week,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library.

A listing of the Faculty Authors and Sponsored Grant Recipients will soon be posted on OPUS. The list will be found here.

**SEA Builds Community and Networks**

Students in the Student Education Association at GSU have been hard at work giving back to the
community on both the national and local scale, as well as building their professional profiles. Read about their Literacy Project, Disaster Relief Project, and attendance at the Spring Illinois Education Association conference in Springfield—all completed during the Spring 2018 semester.

The Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship Benefit

A benefit kicked off the Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship before the first performance of the TAPS program’s production of for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf on Thursday, April 5.

It was a spectacular and successful event: over $400 was collected that evening, and donations are still pouring in. The goal amount is $25K for the Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship to become an official GSU scholarship endowment.

View more photos of the event.

GSU Hosts Ukrainian Visitors
On Friday, April 8, Governors State hosted visitors from Ukraine’s Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University.

**Sandy Will Visit GSU Twice During Library Jam!**

To my fellow GSU Jaguars,

It’s getting to be crunch time isn’t it? Lots of papers and finals are due. To help out, I get to be on campus twice next week. I’ll be on the Library Balcony during my usual times on Monday from 1 – 4:30 p.m. and then again on Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. So, mark your calendars and stop in to see me. I look forward to having fun with you!

Yours with Jaguar Pride,
Sandy
Your GSU Library Therapy Dog.

Workshops & Trainings
A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including the next Office of Marketing and Communications WorkZone training, 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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Thanks-

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Conversations with Leaders: Aurélio Valente

Ask Governor's State University's Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aurélio Valente about his career in higher education administration, and the conversation quickly swings to golf.

Growing up in a town where most people graduated high school and then went to work at the factory where Titleist golf balls are produced, Valente was likely expected to work there, too. “Everybody in my family makes golf balls, and the irony is nobody golfed,” said Valente, whose parents and their siblings immigrated from Portugal beginning in the 1960s and settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

According to Golf.com, which profiled the extended Valente family in 2012, Aurélio Valente's family was part of an ten-sibling so-called chain migration to the U.S. One after the other, they went to work at Titleist.

Among the 11 family members who have worked at the rubber factory, Valente's only brother has been there since 1997, and his mother retired recently after for more than 25 years. “My mom doesn't even have fingerprints anymore. She worked with rubber casings so long that she has no prints.”

Valente wanted to make his own mark. He followed a path that led him to first earn a bachelor's degree and then two advanced degrees in higher education administration, as well as an MBA.

Prior to joining GSU, Valente spent nearly 20 years studying strategies of first-year students and deepening the engagement of university students at six institutions, mostly on the east coast. He has a baseball cap from each one proudly displayed in his office.

He arrived at GSU in 2012 just in time to help launch the university’s first freshman class, part of a transformation from an upper division institution to a full-service university that includes student athletics, clubs, and organizations.

And while his mom may not have fingerprints, Valente's prints are stamped across campus.

Among the higher profile programs he helped launch: Intercollegiate athletics, which today boasts seven teams, including the champions men's basketball team; the bustling Prairie Place dorm; the serene Meditation and Interfaith Room; the Student Leadership Institute's robust portfolio of leadership initiatives; and a global service learning group that allows students to study abroad with the Office of International Services. Earlier this year—the third in a row—students visited Nicaragua as part of Valente’s vision for broader learning.

He prides himself on helping to create a student experience that will ultimately better prepare them for the workforce.

“Before, GSU was more transactional. Students came to campus, went to classes, and went home. They were getting a quality degree—but not necessarily a full educational experience. That’s what we tried to change here—really providing students a comprehensive and meaningful educational experience that delivers on the
transformative potential of a college degree. That way, when one of our students interviews alongside the student from Loyola, for example, they can be just as competitive."

For all the first-year student programs and services, Valente said the most promising students are those who answer affirmatively to two simple questions: "Do I belong here?" and "Can I succeed here?"

"If we can get a student’s inner voice to say ‘yes’ to those questions, the more resilient they are when they have that roommate argument, or when they get their first bad grade."

Resilience has been a constant for Valente, an immigrant who says, "By any measure, I shouldn't be here."

He came to the U.S. at age 12 and lived a secluded life, surrounded by dozens of other Portuguese-speaking immigrants. Valente found himself stifled by expectations of his tightly knit community.

Like his cousins and their parents before them, Valente went to trade school and studied commercial art and drafting, "the trade shop discipline that was least disagreeable," he said.

After attending Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational High School, Valente went to work as a draftsman in a civil engineering firm. But by age 20, he was laid off and listless. At the urging of co-workers, Valente enrolled at University of Massachusetts and commuted to classes.

Like many GSU freshmen taking developmental courses, Valente need extra help with college classes, inspiring Smart Start (http://www.govst.edu/smart-start/) years later. He points out one huge difference. "Our students are in Smart Start for two weeks. I had to do a year of developmental work."

By the time he finished his undergraduate degree, Valente was well on his way to a new life he discovered as a resident assistant his senior year. "It took me out my bubble – away from my family and the immediacy of the Portuguese community into a space where I could question my own identity and values."

Despite having spent six years earning a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, Valente pursued higher education administration. For his doctoral thesis, Valente studied the first-year experiences of 12,000 students and confirmed what he already knew. "Campus life is more than pizza parties and movie nights. It can have educational outcomes, as well. I learned that universities, at their best, are ‘dream factories’ for students. They come here with dreams and we help students achieve them."

Valente brought that promise to GSU in and went to work implementing programs and initiatives to deepen school experiences and improve outcomes. On campus, he’s as high profile as his programs, frequently lunching with students, one on one, and a mainstay on Twitter (@GSUDean (https://twitter.com/jsudean)).

His drive to connect and engage has earned him a reputation, though. "People say I’m pushy. I say, ‘I’m pushy with a purpose.’ " Student success is urgent.

"I've always felt like what we do matters. That's especially true here. If not for GSU, many of our students would not have a degree, which means they wouldn’t have an education, which means they can't transform their life. Our students are here now and they don’t have time to wait."
University Park, IL, April 16, 2018

GSU Awards Veteran Journalists and Social Activist with Honorary Degrees

Leading up GSU’s 2018 commencement, the GSU Newsroom is telling the stories of inspiring graduates and honorees. This week, we are featuring our honorary degree recipients Journalists Carol Marin, Don Moseley, and Social Activist Martin R. Castro.

Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu/) will honor three nationally recognized cultural figures with honorary degrees for their lifetime commitment to journalistic excellence, social equity and inclusion during its 47th commencement ceremony Saturday, May 19 at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Investigative journalists Carol Marin and Don Moseley and social activist Martin R. Castro have devoted their lives and work to principles that mirror the mission of GSU, which seeks to be a cornerstone of the public square.

“Carol Marin, Don Moseley, and Martin R. Castro epitomize the highest ideals of their respective professions by shedding light on systemic inequalities,” said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon.

Ms. Marin and Mr. Moseley form an intrepid reporting team who has investigated and reported on politics, misdeeds, and corruption for more than three decades.

In 2015, the George Foster Peabody Award Committee hailed their reporting as “relentless and unrivaled” and recognized the team for the second time following their investigation that exposed Chicago police misconduct surrounding the death of Laquan McDonald.

The team has also won two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia awards and two national Emmys. As founders and co-directors of the DePaul Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence, the Marin-Moseley team is continuing their legacy of truth seeking and justice through teaching the next generation.

Mr. Castro is a passionate social activist recognized as a cultural champion and one of the most influential Latinos in the world.

In 2009, Mr. Castro was appointed to lead the Illinois Human Rights Commission by Governor Pat Quinn, and in 2011 President Barack Obama named him as the first Latino Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Since 2016, he has served as interim CEO of Casa Central, one of the largest Hispanic social service agencies in the Midwest, and as founder of Castro Synergies, he consults with businesses, entrepreneurs, and agencies seeking social change.
New Sculpture Arrives at GSU for Spring

Art exists to inspire if not to evoke thought or emotion, and so is with a new nearly seven-foot piece in the breezeway between GSU’s E and G buildings.

A bronze sculpture depicting intertwined figures stands just outside the wing that houses art classrooms and performing arts in Sherman Hall, (http://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/AllEvents_by_Date/The_Scottsboro_Boys/) said Jeff Stevenson, director & curator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery.

The artist Abbott Pattison (http://www.hpattison.com/abbott/pattisonbiography) (American, 1916-1999) signed and inscribed “Firenze” (Italian for Florence) c. 1960 across the bottom on the piece, which was professionally restored in 2015 to its original dark green patina by Barry Tinsley.

Pattison, whose work dots Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive and complements landmarks such as University of Chicago and Anshe Emet Synagogue, is seen an important figure in the Chicago art world.

Stevenson said GSU is honored to have the new piece, which Pattison left untilled to create room for wonder. “The artwork is realistic enough to let us know they are figures but mysterious enough so we don’t know what they are doing,” Stevenson said, adding the site selection extends the artistic experience of those visiting the eastside of campus.

“We chose this space because it evokes thoughts of struggle, dance and movement,” Stevenson said.

Sean Susanin donated the 400-pound piece to the GSU Foundation Collection after attending the Sculpture, Wine and Dine event last year to advance the mission of arts and education. It is part of the university’s permanent collection.