GSU View, May 8, 2018: Vol. 54, Issue 2
Banks, Zion

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To: Banks, Zion

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May 8, 2018 Vol. 54, Issue 2

News

GSU Ranked Among Best Online Programs in Illinois
Governors State has recently been ranked among the best online programs in Illinois. GSU was ranked #30 among the Best Colleges in Illinois 2018 by BestValueSchools.org, as well as #3 in the Top 15 Online MBA Programs in Illinois by Online MBA Today.com.

See all of GSU's rankings in our Points of Pride webpage.

**Graduating Students: May 19 is Commencement 2018!**
As the GSU community prepares for our annual Commencement ceremonies on May 19 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, we encourage graduation candidates, family, friends, as well as participating faculty, staff, and volunteers to review the important information and resources below and on our Commencement webpage, which includes updated security policies.

**College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business:** Ceremony begins at 10 a.m.; students arrive at the Tinley Park Convention Center by 8:30 a.m.

**College of Education and College of Health and Human Services:** Ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m.; students arrive at the Tinley Park Convention Center by 3 p.m.

**Please note:** Doors close at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., with admission into the auditorium suspended five minutes before the ceremonies in preparation for the procession of graduates, faculty, and platform party. *Late arriving students will not be permitted to enter and will not walk across the stage.*

**Two Doctoral Students Earn Prestigious Fellowships**
GSU doctoral candidates Leslie Contos (left) and Paulette R. Eason-Williams (right), studying in the Counselor Education and Supervision Ed.D. program, have earned fellowships of $20,000 each from the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As NBCC MFP Fellows, Contos and Eason-Williams will receive funding and training to support their education and facilitate service to underserved minority populations.

Read more.

**Undergraduate Students Present at Ntl and Int’l Conferences**

Six GSU undergraduate Honors students have presented at national and international conferences this year, an outstanding accomplishment for any student.

It’s especially impressive for Danuta Chlebek, a sophomore, who will present “Pilecki: The Modern Hero that the World Forgot About” in November at the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass.

Other presenters – all seniors – and their mentors have been:

Gabby Pierre-Louis, Juan Gutierrez, Kendall Wright – Presenters at the 2017 National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga. Mentor: David Rhea


**CSIFF Announces Films, Kicks off Summer**

![CSIFF Logo](https://example.com/csiff_logo.jpg)

Now that classes are behind us, Jaguars can look forward to summer. An hour’s drive isn’t much, but it can land you somewhere that gives you an entirely new outlook. Below are four options and opportunities, with distances ranging from 35 miles to less than 10 (a local hidden gem) from Governors State University. One is right in our own back yard, yet these spots will make you feel worlds away.

[Read more.](https://example.com/csiff_films)

**Conversations with Leaders: Charles Pustz**
It's been less than a year since Charles Pustz moved into the corner office of the Information Technology Services (ITS) wing at Governors State University, but his team is already thinking about next year.

"I ask them all the time, 'What can we do to change the game in 2019?' I am not looking for a specific answer, but I want us to think about our role in creating positive change," said Pustz, Associate Vice President of ITS, who offers a refreshing forward-looking perspective in a field that can be narrow. "I'm excited to set direction here and change the culture of the organization."

Read more.

**GSU Library Break Hours**

The GSU Library will be open Tuesday, May 8 through Friday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Library will be closed Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13, and will resume regular hours on Monday, May 14.

The GSU Library is also accessible online.

Announce events and Mobile Services

https://owa.govst.edu/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAADdqpB%2fh3VEZseAFCLrwRE8wb%2fdpqB%2fh3VEZseAFCLrwREAAAAAK91A8UITaV4z882x8yA%2bVfIACaYZ7jAAAJ&n=Print&psn=152
Secretary of State Mobile Services on campus, Tuesday, May 15, in the Hall of Governors from 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Renew or replace your driver’s license, purchase a sticker, and many other services. Cash only accepted.

Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing

Give back through golf! Join the Office of Institutional Advancement for its annual Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing on Tuesday, June 12, at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park, IL. Registration is at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Register here.

For more information, contact Cheri Garey (708.534.7892).

Highlights

Christine Dyslin

As she works on her latest research, Associate Professor of Psychology Christine Dyslin sometimes finds herself having to take a step back when what she is reading hits a little too close to home.
At Governors State University (GSU), her research projects, Spiritual and Faith Development Among LGBTQ Persons and Political Targeting of Transgender Women, are driven, in part, by her own background as a transgender lesbian. Read more.

18th Annual Honors Program Banquet

Celebration was in the air as the Honors Program celebrated its 18th Annual End-of-Year Banquet on Friday, April 20. A full house of almost 80 students, guests, and university leaders packed Engbretson Hall for the event. The student-driven event was headlined by guest speaker and honors program alumna Megan Boots (CAS, 2017), who noted the benefits the honors program had on her career.

Awards were presented to Juan Gutierrez (HP Levinson Award) for his service to GSU and the local community and to Prof. Laura White (English, HP Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award) for her profound impact on honors program students over the last four years. Medallions also were awarded to 15 students graduating with university honors at this special night celebrating a great year for honors program students.

Alpha Iota Sigma Honors Society Welcomes 40 New Members

The Governors State Chapter of Alpha Iota Sigma Honors Society recently celebrated the induction of 40 GSU students into the chapter, now the largest in the nation. New members comprised the largest group of inductees in the short history of the GSU chapter started in 2015.
The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSS) students were selected based on grade point average, faculty recommendation and their commitment to professional development and collaboration. Program Chair Crystal Harris said, “It is exciting to see such a large group of honorees joining Alpha Iota Sigma. There has never been a better time to be engaged as an IDSS student at GSU.”

**Thought Leader’s Viewpoint: Renee Crews**

Thought Leader’s Viewpoint (TLV) host Dr. Felicia L. Townsend interviewed Renee Crews, president of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce. Click [here](https://www.govst.edu/foce) for the latest episode. Crews provided tips to help small businesses communicate more effectively with their customers via different mediums. In order for customers to have a better encounter with their customers, Crews states that employers should “train their staff and empower them to make decisions because an empowered employee is a more engaged employee.”

**Workshops & Trainings**

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including the next Marketing and Communications Brown Bag and Library workshops, can be found [here](https://www.govst.edu/foce).
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.
GSU Students Named NBCC Minority Fellows

GSU doctoral candidates Leslie Contos and Paulette R. Eason-Williams, studying in the Counselor Education and Supervision Ed.D. program, have earned fellowships of $20,000 each from the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As NBCC MFP Fellows, Contos and Eason-Williams will receive funding and training to support their education and facilitate service to underserved minority populations.

“The NBCC MFP helps ensure that the behavioral health needs of all Americans are met, regardless of language or culture, thereby reducing health disparities and improving overall community health and well-being,” said Patricia A. Robey, Interim Division Chair of GSU’s Division of Psychology & Counseling. “This statement of intention from NBCC is consistent with the Governors State University mission, vision, and core values, which emphasize the GSU commitment to diversity, stewardship, inclusiveness, and cultural growth in a global society.”

Congratulations to Leslie and Paulette for this achievement!
University Park, IL, May 08, 2018

Summer in the Southland

Now that classes are behind us, Jaguars can look forward to summer. An hour’s drive isn’t much, but it can land you somewhere that gives you an entirely new outlook.

Below are four options and opportunities, with distances ranging from 35 miles to less than 10 (a local hidden gem) from Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu/). One is right in our own back yard, yet these spots will make you feel worlds away.

You should be in pictures

The university is launching a first-ever film fest (https://gsunews.govst.edu/international-film-festival-begins-in-august/) that will take place over six weeks beginning in August. The fest will include a student film competition as well as a screening of two films, Minding the Gap and Little Wound’s Warriors (http://www.thomcreekproductions.com/), directed by Seth McClellan, a GSU alum.

Read more here (https://gsunews.govst.edu/international-film-festival-begins-in-august/).

Out in the woods, close to home

Brand new cabins, tent spaces, and even “instant camper” gear rental that includes a sleeping bag, tent, and binoculars are waiting at Camp Bullfrog Lake (http://bdcc.com/camping/camp-bullfrog-lake), part of Cook County Forest Preserve District’s new and revitalized camp sites. Set in the middle of the hilly Palos Preserves, it’s a great wilderness getaway. Rent a canoe, hike or bike the trails, then settle back under the stars for the night. (30 miles)

The story of American opportunity

A visit to Pullman Historic Center (https://www.nps.gov/pull/index.htm) is a brush with history, from the 1880s when George Pullman built the first planned community for his workers to 2015 when President Obama declared the site a national monument. See the distinctive Pullman row houses that provided “luxuries” like indoor plumbing. Nearby, the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, honors contributions made by African Americans to America’s labor movement. (25 miles)
At 200 mph, with drivers “trading paint,” it’s going to be loud and it’s definitely fast. At Chicago Speedway (https://www.chicagospeedway.com/?homepage=true) in Joliet, the smells and noise are unreal. Seating from anywhere is great. Before the race, choose from amazing food, not just hot dogs and burgers. It looks great on TV but it’s even better in person. Got your ticket? Let’s go racing! (20 miles)

For a quick break

Sometimes simple is best. One of the quickest ways to relax is to rent a kayak for an hour and float in the Monree Reservoir (https://www.visitchicagosouthland.com/369/MONREERESERVOIR). Life jackets, soothing atmosphere and sunrise provided. No experience is necessary. (6 miles)
University Park, IL, May 08, 2018

Charles Pustz

It’s been less than a year since Charles Pustz joined the Information Technology Services (http://www.govst.edu/About/Offices_and_Departments/Information_Technology/) (ITS) team at Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu/) but he admits they are already thinking about next year.

“I ask them all the time, ‘What can we do to change the game in 2019?’ I am not looking for a specific answer, but I want us to think about our role in creating positive change,” said Pustz, Associate Vice President of ITS, who offers a refreshing forward-looking perspective in a field that can be narrow. “I’m excited to set direction here and change the culture of the organization.”

During his 35-year career, Pustz has managed large teams at corporations, launched new technology, and implemented multimillion programs and systems, driving efficiencies and profits.

Pustz holds a Masters of Business Administration degree, as well as Project Management Professional (PMP) and Six Sigma certifications.

At GSU, he leads a lean department and co-chairs a newly revived Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) that is exploring all aspects of technology from comprehensive enterprise resource planning systems to student interfacing programs like Blackboard to maintenance schedules to equipment.

Pustz can talk systems and integrations, technology, and applications all day, yet he knows the value of human interface and collaboration. “I want to be a partner—not just a service provider—to identify technology and systems that help create the best experience for students, faculty, and staff.”

As TAC co-chair, Pustz insisted on partnering with the academic side of the house to ensure all perspectives are being considered when the discussion turns to faster and more efficient technology in classrooms, conference areas, labs, and student lounges.

Together with Associate Provost Colleen Sexton, Pustz leads the cross functional TAC, comprised of faculty, staff, and students. The committee recently recommended the university pilot a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) that would revolutionize desktop computing and the way students learn.

VDI would replace bulky towers and desktop units with a so-called thin client. “You basically have a smart monitor with keyboard, mouse, and USB peripherals. The actual operating system and programs run in GSU’s data center.”

The benefits are more working space and more efficient use of power, as well as greater access to students across the world to GSU programs such as Wolfram Mathematica and Microsoft Project.

For those who have security concerns, Pustz says, “That’s part of the pilot, determining how this is secured in our environment. But in the end, if it works, what better way to allow global students to have the power of our resources. It goes right to our mission: providing accessible education for students anywhere.”

Some students are already seeing his digital footprint in classrooms. In the spring, B-building classrooms received technology facelifts with new wiring, HD projectors, and lighting operated by new touch screens.
Plans are now underway to duplicate the technology across campus in classrooms and conference rooms, Pustz said. "We just want to make this the best experience for students possible and sharp images are part of that."

Across the Southland region, Pustz is collaborating with the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) to leverage each institution's resources, saving precious dollars and delivering highly sought services to create classrooms of the future.

Pustz spent much of his professional past in industry before he brought his technology skills to education, which forced him to try something new. "I fell in love with the camaraderie and how everyone works together for a common cause. You get to meet, see, and talk to your customer from an IT perspective, that's not always the case."

He also teaches a business course, which gives him an up-close and personal view of what students want. Pustz said it's all part of his plan to be more than just a service provider to the university.

"I want people to know students can come to Governors State where technology is part of all we do and provides them an exceptional educational experience."
University Park, IL, May 08, 2018

Christienne Dyslin

As she works on her latest research, Associate Professor of Psychology Christienne Dyslin (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/cdyslin/) sometimes finds herself having to take a step back when what she is reading hits a little too close to home.

At Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu/), (GSU), her research projects, Spiritual and Faith Development Among LGBTQ Persons and Political Targeting of Transgender Women, are driven, in part, by her own background as a transgender lesbian.

Dyslin is in the process of collecting essays from sexual and gender minorities describing their relationship with religion and spirituality and their own stories in this political climate. The project includes Dyslin’s own story of coming out, her crisis of faith, and her reactions to the political climate as it relates to the LGBT+ community.

“There’s a certain political element that portrays us as dangerous, mentally ill, unstable, and sinful,” said Dyslin, who joined Governors State’s faculty in 2006. “I hope to bring more of a human face to that and try to disabuse people of those sorts of ideas because they’re not grounded in reality.”

Dyslin wants to compile the essays and publish them in a book. She also will use the essays to conduct qualitative research to examine the writers’ experiences and the commonalities they share.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Dyslin teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in the College of Education’s Division of Psychology and Counseling (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Division_of_Psychology_and_Counseling). Today, she serves as the program coordinator for GSU’s Masters of Arts Psychology (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Academic_Programs/Graduate/Counseling, Master of Arts) Program and supervises clinical interns in that program. She has explored the role of religion and human behavior.

Her work has been published in Mental Health, Religion & Culture, the Journal of Psychology and Christianity, Individual Psychology, and Military Medicine. Her recent work is driven by not only her own personal experiences but the political climate and the issues facing the LGBT+ community. “Somewhere ideas get so deeply held or protected that it’s hard for us to look at them,” she said. “So many of us are told don’t talk about politics and religion,” but I think, why not?”

GSU Newsroom: Can you discuss the LGBT+ affirmative counseling course you developed and teach?

Dyslin: We need people in the mental health professions who are not just tolerant. Just being ‘cool’ with us doesn’t mean that you understand what approach is needed to be most effective.

I try to introduce the concept of LGBT affirming therapy or counseling. In the last ten years, our accrediting bodies have all published guidelines for working with sexual and gender minorities, and I try to help students learn to apply those guidelines in practice.

Some of the concepts we talk about are the difficulties of living in society where anything other than being heterosexual and cisgender (not transgender) is viewed as abnormal, or worse.
One example is the realities of coming out as a lifelong process versus an event. We come out all the time and have to make decisions about whether it’s safe to do so. For example, when I go to get my car fixed and the cashier says “Your husband must be really tall,” do I say, “Yeah, he’s huge,” and lie or do I say, “I don’t have a husband, I have a wife,” and now I’m coming out to the clerk, and everyone else in line with me. These are things that heterosexuals don’t have to think about, but they’re everyday experiences for gay people. My hope is to train more people to be able to go out there and offer sensitive and affirmative mental health care to sexual and gender minorities.

GSU Newsroom: What key tool do you think your students need to be good therapists or counselors?

Dyslin: My passion is training really good therapists. What I tend to focus on a lot with students is self-understanding and self-awareness. A lack of self-understanding is what gets practitioners in trouble ... at best they do poor quality work; at worst, they make ethical blunders. With countertransference, a therapist can project something that’s their own unfinished business and react in a way that they don’t even realize if they lack self-awareness.

We’re never going to be perfect, but we need to understand what we bring as human beings to the therapeutic relationship.

GSU Newsroom: What got you interested in the field of psychology?

Dyslin: I’m just an absolute bleeding heart. I feel for people and I hate seeing people in pain and I want to do what I can to alleviate the suffering.

GSU Newsroom: What steps can people take for good mental health?

Dyslin: I think we have to wake up. You cannot have good mental health unless we are aware and awake. We need to be mindfully aware of the present moment and be aware of what we are doing and what’s going on around us. That presence, that being in the here and now, is a huge step toward being mentally healthy. But often we’re scattered all over the place. Being mindful is a discipline. It takes an effort to remind myself to be in the moment, whatever it is and to not beat myself up when I fall short.

GSU Newsroom: What is a motto you try to live by?

Dyslin: Be real. I try to be authentic and bring my whole self to my teaching endeavors and my research.