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GSU View, May 15, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
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Coming This Saturday: Commencement 2018!

Governors State University is gearing up to celebrate its 2017 – 18 graduates at Commencement this Saturday, May 19. Participants, including graduation candidates, family, friends, as well as participating faculty, staff, and volunteers should 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.

This Doctor Wants to Heal Bodies and Emotions

For many, the desire to relieve pain and help people is what drives them to pursue medicine. But for Jason Berlongieri, a Governors State University graduate student, it was more than that—it was personal.

He was just a young child when his father, a mechanic, was injured: shattered vertebrae in his neck were the worst of multiple injuries. Although his father survived, the incident ended his career and left him battling a lifetime of pain, a struggle Berlongieri saw firsthand as he grew up.

His father and mother will be among those in the audience when Berlongieri, 30, receives his Doctorate of Physical Therapy on May 19. “My drive comes from living with him and knowing what it’s like to have that constant struggle,” he said. “I just want to see if I can make a change in anyone’s life for the better.”

Read more . . .

GSU Grad Earns Emory JD, MBA

For Kayla Randolph-Clark, a 2014 Governors State University student trustee and alum, personal
transformation took shape in her life at the same time the university was morphing into a new institution. Randolph-Clark (now Siam) is now set to graduate from Atlanta’s prestigious Emory University with Juris Doctorate of Law and MBA degrees. This month, GSU also marks a milestone in its evolution from an upper division school to a four-year university as it graduates its first-ever freshman class.

Siam was leaving GSU as the first freshmen were arriving in 2014. Now, Siam celebrates matriculation with trailblazing GSU graduates, and she is inspired by what she’s accomplished.

“I would have never imagined that through perseverance, time, and dedication the transformation that could have happened in just eight years,” said Siam. “I am a totally different person. I don’t think I could have imagined where I am right now.”

Read more . . .

Fourth Annual SALUTE Ceremony and Annual Military-Connected Student Cording

Twenty-nine student-veteran graduates of the Class of 2018 were recognized at last week’s fourth annual SALUTE Ceremony and Annual Military-Connected Student Cording. In total, 85 students connected to the military graduate from Governors State University this year.

Kevin Smith, Director of the Veterans Resource Center at GSU, said, “Less than 20% of veterans that are eligible to receive post-9/11 educational benefits use them. GSU’s graduating veterans represent the best of the best in their pursuit to serve others in after serving their country.”

Congratulations to all student-veterans graduating this year!

Graduating Student Body President Featured in IBHE Bulletin
This week’s IBHE Bulletin, a biweekly report from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, features a profile of Justin Smith, GSU’s graduating student body president of two terms, 2017 Lincoln Laureate, and Commencement speaker representing the First Freshman Class of 2014. The profile is part of story featuring three students graduating from colleges and universities throughout Illinois.

Read the newsletter.

AVP for Procurement and Business Services receives Distinguished Service Award

Tracy Sullivan, AVP for Procurement and Business Services at Governors State, was among those honored with a Distinguished Service Award at a recent conference hosted by the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC).
Aaron Carter, Executive Director of IPHEC, commented on Sullivan’s more than 20 years of commitment to Public University Procurement, her willingness to assist and serve others, and her ability to think strategically, work collaboratively, and lead in the field.

Sullivan said of the award, “I am so blessed to have a career that I am passionate about, at a place that I love, with the ability to enjoy the company of so many wonderful people while impacting the lives of our students, staff and the Jaguar community.”

Beginning July 1, Sullivan will be Chairperson of the IPHEC Board of Trustees representing all of the Illinois Public Universities for Procurement.

**Literacy Autobiography Winners Announced**

Winners of GSU’s Annual Literacy Autobiography Award Writing Contest were announced at a luncheon on Thursday, May 10 in the Center for Performing Arts. [View photos of the contest winners](#).

The annual contest is embedded in the freshman curriculum as a required assignment. In the first semester, students are asked to reflect on how writing and reading have shaped their lives. In the spring semester, the students revise their essays, sometimes multiple times, and then are invited to submit final versions to the contest.

Entries are judged by a committee of staff and faculty appointed by the President’s and Provost’s offices. Each year the prizes are funded by Drs. Elaine and Mort Maimon.

The winners, all students in Professor Laura White’s class, are

- Madeline Lomeli – First – $200
- Alexandria Pavloski – Second – $100
- Marina Ibrahim – Third – $50
- Eunise Lukose – Honorable Mention – $25
- April Sanchez – Honorable Mention – $25

Congrats to all winners!
GSU 2018 Signing Day

With high school graduation still days ahead for some, the members of the class of 2022 received a warm welcome to Governors State University May 9 at a special ceremony to celebrate their commitment to GSU.

Dozens of incoming freshmen, flanked by smiling family members, turned out for the university’s third annual Signing Day, an event originally launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2015 to shine a spotlight on students preparing to attend a college or university. Those who committed to attending GSU by May 1 received a $200 bookstore voucher and an invitation to a buffet dinner and celebration at GSU’s Center for Performing Arts.

Read more . . .

Second Annual CAS Newsmagazine Published

The College of Arts and Sciences has published its second annual CAS Newsmagazine—entirely student-produced under the guidance of English faculty member Laura White.

Read the 2017 – 18 issue.

Study Abroad Students Reap Benefits of Global Opportunity
Groups of students from GSU’s College of Education and College of Business are currently studying abroad, gaining valuable academic experience and international perspective.

The Education and Counseling Study Abroad Program is currently in Slovenia, working with the University of Ljubljana. Students are gaining an understanding of language development and the impact of culture on development in Slovenia while interacting with students and faculty at the university. They will also visit health service centers and local schools of various grades and examine teachers and instruction in another country. The site visits provide opportunities for students to observe typical/ataypical language development and various ways to support development. This experience better prepares preservice teachers to instruct and differentiate lessons for English Language Learners. During their time, the group will also visit Croatia and Italy.

Follow the Education and Counseling students on their blog.

The College of Business has taken their annual program abroad, this year to Eastern Europe. Students are visiting Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic to learn about the business and culture of those emerging countries. The experience will help globalize our students and allow them to stand out as they pursue their goals in business and other disciplines.

**GSU Earns Runner-Up Divisional Finish at PGA Minority Collegiate Championship**
The Governors State men's golf team will return home from the Treasure Coast with a prize of its own after earning a second-place crystal trophy at the 32nd PGA Minority Collegiate Championship, considered collegiate golf's most culturally significant Championship.

Read more . . .

Library Summer Hours

During the summer, the GSU Library will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., and closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Questions? Contact GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

GSU View to Take Memorial Day Break

The GSU View will not be published the week of May 28 as it takes its annual Memorial Day holiday. Please reserve all stories to be published upon its return on June 5.

Announcements and Events

Secretary of State Mobile Services

Secretary of State Mobile Services is on campus today, May 15, in the Hall of Governors until 6 p.m. Renew or replace your driver's license, purchase a sticker, and many other services. Cash only accepted.

Take a Moment for Dinner and Support the Friends of the GSU Library
On **Tuesday, May 22** from 4 – 8 p.m. at the Matteson Chipotle (4815 W. 211th Street), you can have dinner and 50% of the proceeds with be donated to the Friends of the GSU Library. When you are checking out, be sure to **bring a print or electronic version of this flyer**, or mention that you are supporting the GSU Friends of the Library.

Questions? Email **GSULibraryinfo@govst.edu**.

**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**

**Department of Social Work Hosts Graduation Reception**
On Friday, May 4, GSU’s Department of Social Work hosted a party to celebrate the achievements of its 2017 – 18 graduates. The event also recognized the upcoming retirement of Dr. Elizabeth Essex, Associate Professor of Social Work.

View more photos from the event.

Many thanks to Glenn Coffey for his photos of the event, and congrats to all BSW and MSW graduates!

**Health and Benefits Fair**

On May 3, GSU hosted a successful Health and Benefits Fair featuring vendors who provide benefits to our faculty and staff. Our students, faculty, and staff received valuable information, health screenings, and massages. A special thanks to everyone who participated and to all of the staff and vendors who made this event a success.

View a highlight video of the event.

Remember, Benefits Choice Open Enrollment ends May 31, 2018. Make your changes now: visit MyBenefits.illinois.gov; call Customer Service at 1.844.251.1777 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**GSU Friends of the Library Flower Sale a Success!**

"We would like to thank all who purchased the flats for the recent Friends of the Library flower sale. Your support is so very important to our success," said Ann Nagel, President of the Friends of the GSU
Library, continuing "I would also like to give a special thank you to Cheri Garey, Treasurer, who coordinated this sale."

“All proceeds from our fund raising efforts go to supporting the library, and that includes books, furniture, carpeting, and other materials that are needed by the library to support our student success,” she added.

Questions? GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

**Workshops & Trainings**

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including the LGBTQ+ support group schedule and Career Services drop-in hours, 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.
University Park, IL, May 14, 2018

This Doctor Wants to Heal Bodies and Emotions

Medicine is a special calling, a profession that can require years of rigorous training. For many, the desire to relieve pain and help people is what drives them. But for Jason Berlongieri, a Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu) graduate student, it was more than that—it was personal.

He was just a young child when his father, a mechanic, was injured; the car he was working underneath, suspended by chains, fell at one end. “He was in a lunge position when it landed on him,” Berlongieri said. Vertebrae in his neck were shattered, the worst of multiple injuries. While his father survived, the incident ended his career and left him battling a lifetime of pain, a struggle Berlongieri saw firsthand as he grew up.

His father and mother will be among those in the audience when Berlongieri, 30, receives his Doctorate of Physical Therapy (http://www.govst.edu/DPT) at Governors State University on May 19. “My drive comes from living with him and knowing what it’s like to have that constant struggle,” he said. “I just want to see if I can make a change in anyone’s life for the better.”

Berlongieri’s journey has been practical from the beginning, but it has not been easy. To get funding for college, he joined the U. S. Army after graduating from Beecher High School. An infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division, he earned the rank of sergeant in just two and a half years and served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. “We were on the front line going on select missions—the stuff you see in the movies,” he said. “I was very lucky not to have any serious injuries.”

At the end of four-and-a-half years, he was encouraged to apply to officer training school. But Berlongieri’s sights were set firmly on his goal. He enrolled at Chicago State University and he earned a BS in pre-physical therapy in just three years, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. “I thought the pre-PT program would give me the best shot at getting into PT school, since it’s so competitive,” he said.

The university’s award-winning Veterans Resource Center (http://Medicine is a special calling, a profession that can require years of rigorous training. For many, the desire to relieve pain and help people is what drives them. But for Jason Berlongieri, it was more than that—it was personal. He was just a young child when his father, a mechanic, was injured; the car he was working underneath, suspended by chains, fell at one end. “He was in a lunge position when it landed on him,” Berlongieri said. Vertebrae in his neck were shattered, the worst of multiple injuries. While his father survived, the incident ended his career and left him battling a lifetime of pain, a struggle Berlongieri saw firsthand as he grew up.

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learn the best," he said. "It's especially great to have time with the professors. Both of the orthopedic professors, Dr. David Diers and Dr. Dale Schul, are the best I've ever learned from. Every time I was in an orthopedic rotation during my internship, I utilized things they taught me." With his doctorate in hand, Berlongieri is ready for even more specialized training. He is one of just two fellowship recipients to begin a one-year residency program in neurological physical therapy at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. After an intense year of coursework and clinical experience, he will take one last exam to become a neurological certified specialist. "After I get my NCS, I'll jump on any PT job working with patients who have had a stroke or a spinal cord injury; I just have a drive to do it. There are lots of good futures for both."

In fact, research he completed during his internship at GSU has been published in the Journal of Student Physical Therapy Research (http://jstptjournal.org), making him a published author.

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University Park, IL, May 10, 2018

GSU Grad Earns Emory JD, MBA

For Kayla Randolph-Clark (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/Dual_Degree_Program/Dual_Degree_Program_Student_Success_Stories/DDP_Student_Success_Stories_-_Kayla_Randolph-Clark), a 2014 Governors State University student trustee and alum, personal transformation took shape in her life at the same time the university was morphing into a new institution.

Randolph-Clark (now Siam), once an unfocused young adult, is now set to graduate from Atlanta’s prestigious Emory University with Juris Doctorate of Law and MBA degrees. This month, GSU also marks a milestone in its evolution from an upper division school to a four-year university as it graduates its first-ever freshman class.

Siam was leaving GSU as the first freshmen were arriving in 2014. Now, Siam celebrates matriculation with trailblazing GSU graduates, and she is inspired by what she’s accomplished.

“I would have never imagined that through perseverance, time, and dedication the transformation that could have happened in just eight years,” said Siam. “I am a totally different person. I don’t think I could have imagined where I am right now.”

Where she is is firmly planted on the launch pad of her life.

This summer, Siam plans to take the bar exam and join one of the city’s largest law firms, Seyfarth Shaw, in September where she will specialize in transactional law. She worked in the firm’s Atlanta office while she attended Emory.

Siam admitted she “was so lost” before she arrived at GSU in 2012. She returned home and to school after losing a job in a telemarketing firm.

“I still remember living with my family again, sleeping on their couch trying to figure out what to do next,” said Siam, the daughter of GSU Associate Professor Byron Waller, (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/bwaller/)

While she was searching, GSU was identifying community college partners for its new Dual Degree Program (http://www.govst.edu/DDP/), including Joliet Junior College (JJC) where Siam had earned an associate’s degree in 2012.

Though her mom had always encouraged Siam to study law, she became serious in a JJC computer class. That seed later grew at GSU where she took two business law classes. When selecting a law school, however, she also kept an eye out for one that also offered a strong MBA program. Emory offered both.

“So many attorneys I had talked to said they wished they would have gotten an MBA,” she said, adding that she knew a business background would come in handy as she pursued a career in corporate law.

She finished her bachelor’s degree in business administration at GSU on the same day her then fiancé Rashad proposed marriage.

Rashad moved to Atlanta with her so she could attend Emory and cooked more than a few meals so she could study late. He plans to finish his degree once they return to Chicago.
While at Emory, Siam was involved in the Black Law Students Association and has been published in the Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal, where she served as the publication’s Notes and Comments Advisory Committee Editor this year.

She said she just continued what she started at GSU as part of DDP and student government. One of the practices she started here was seeking out mentors and solid advice.

Among her trusted mentors at GSU was Rashaunda Ross, Director of New Student Programs and Leadership Development Initiatives (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Services_and_Resources/Academic_Resource_Center/New_Student_Programs/Meet_Our_Staff/). The two still keep in touch and occasionally meet for lunch when Siam is home for a visit.

She also found encouragement along the way from other GSU faculty, staff and alumni. Getting involved in student activities, including student government, also was key to her success. Even President Elaine P. Maimon played an active role.

Before Siam graduated in 2014, she thanked President Maimon for offering public speaking advice when she first arrived at GSU. “You said to me ‘A good speaker always says something about that event,’” Siam told the Board of Trustees during her last meeting. “I will hold what you have taught me when I leave here.”

Four brief years later, as Siam plans to return to her hometown, she offers this advice to the GSU class of 2022. “Because (GSU) is smaller, you have people who are willing to invest in you,” Siam said. “If you have a vision, they help you get there.”

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GSU EARS RUNNER-UP DIVISIONAL FINISH AT PGA MINORITY COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Men's Golf - Sun, May 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM

(L-R): John Orowick, Matt Contey, Casey Domke, Jack Calderone, Mark Haines and Sam Billman / Photo courtesy of PGA

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL — The Governors State men's golf team will return home from the Treasure Coast with a prize of its own after earning a second-place crystal trophy at the 32nd PGA Minority Collegiate Championship, which concluded Sunday at the PGA Golf Club. The event is considered collegiate golf's most culturally significant Championship.

GSU finished eight strokes behind the University of Houston-Victoria, which captured the NAIA Division for the third-straight year. Bethune-Cookman won the NCAA Division I competition (for the 10th time) with a 10-under 854 while Cal State Dominguez Hills finished atop the NCAA Division II leader board with a 314. UConn's Nabeel Kahn defended his individual title with a 12-stroke victory, finishing with a 1-under 215. A total of 110 golfers representing 29 schools competed in the Championship.

Playing on the 6,854-yard Wanamaker Course — ranked as the 32nd-best course in Florida by Golf Digest — GSU compiled a line score of 316-308-310. The Jaguars' 54-hole total of 934 was lower than five Division I teams (including Chicago State) and better than four Division II schools in the 18-team field. Sunday saw just nine holes played after a forecast calling for rain prompted tournament organizers to tack nine holes of the final round to Saturday's bill.

Matt Contey won NAIA Division Medalist honors with a 6-over 222, breaking GSU's 54-hole record by six strokes. He started the day with two bogeys before setting in with seven straight pars. When Contey's Titleist Pro V1x ball found the 18th cup, he closed a two-year career at GSU which produced six medal finishes, four individual titles, 14 Top-10 performances and the best scoring average (76.3) in school history.

Casey "Doc" Domke shot a 78 in his 51st career round to finish at 232, four strokes ahead of teammate John Orowick Jack Calderone recorded a 249 while freshman Sam Billman carded a 256.

"We had Houston-Victoria in our sights, but just couldn't catch them today," said GSU Head Coach Mark Haines. "Overall we had a really good tournament and shot lower than quite a few NCAA schools."

Today's competition was not only the season finale for men's golf, but closed out the 2017-18 GSU Athletics calendar as well.

Results
University Park, IL, May 15, 2018

GSU 2018 Signing Day

With high school graduation still days ahead for some, the members of the class of 2022 received a warm welcome to Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu) May 9 at a special ceremony to celebrate their commitment to the university.

Dozens of incoming freshmen, flanked by smiling family members, turned out for the university’s 3rd Annual Signing Day, an event originally launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2015 to shine a spotlight on students preparing to attend a college or university. Those who committed to attending GSU by May 1 received a $200 book store voucher and an invitation to a buffet dinner and celebration at GSU’s Center for Performing Arts.

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, GSU president, welcomed students to the GSU family. “We know there are a number of questions going through your mind right now, like ‘Did I make the right choice?’ ‘Yes,’ she assured them, ‘you did.’ Dr. Maimon also acknowledged other unspoken concerns, posing questions and answering them easily.

“The biggest question you have is, ‘Will I make friends?’ We’ve thought about that for you, and one thing we know, because we’re researchers, is that if we put you in what we call learning communities—and what that means is you’ll be taking at least two classes with the same group of students—you can’t help but make friends because you’ll be sharing those experiences in the classroom.”

Dr. Maimon addressed her next point to family members as well as incoming students, noting that the FBI has rated GSU’s campus the safest in Illinois and the eighth safest in the country.

As for academics, Dr. Maimon said, “You will have a freshman experience like no other. Every class you take will be taught by a full-time faculty member, and no class will be larger than 30 students.”

Elizabeth Cada, GSU Provost, also extended a warm welcome. “We are so excited. As you are committing to us, we are committing to you,” she said.

“This is a very symbolic and celebratory evening. This is an opportunity for us to get to know you. Because we know how hard you worked through your high school years, and the decisions you had to make to choose a program and college that’s going to begin you on your journey.”

Incoming students also got helpful advice from Justin Smith, Student Body President and graduating senior. “When you get here, find a study buddy, Find your community. Find a friend,” he said.
Among those at the celebration were Colton Kraska of Monee. The valedictorian of Peotone High School’s class of 2018, he chose GSU for its accounting program and also its location close to home. His first visit to campus the summer before his junior year made a strong impression. “Everyone was very friendly,” he said. “I really felt welcome here.”

Colton was awarded the Presidential Scholarship, a renewable award that covers tuition, fees, housing and $500 each semester toward books each year for four years.

A second scholarship, the Deans Scholar Award, went to Maya Walker of Glendale, Ariz. It will cover $2,500 toward GSU expenses each year as well as a stipend of $500 each semester for bookstore expenses.

Paul McGuinness, GSU Executive Director for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, said the number of incoming freshmen, nearly 90, is slightly higher than last year, and added, “We always want more students to make early decisions because we know it increases the odds of their success.”

It’s not too late to pay your $50 deposit and attend the next Resources, Orientation, Advising and Registration (ROAR) orientation on Wednesday, June 13. Every GSU freshman, regardless of major, will receive a laptop and join a cohort that be focused on one of three overarching academic themes: Civic Engagement, Global Citizenship or Sustainability.

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