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GSU View, June 19, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



June 19, 2018

Vol. 55, Issue 3

News

Take Pride, GSU



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Carefully weighing his words, Swift does reveal that his journey of self-discovery and resiliency was a long road that led him to GSU.

“Governors State was a second chance for me. My time here reminds me I am capable of achieving my goals,” said Swift who completes his doctoral therapy externship this month just in time to celebrate Pride Month.

[Read more . . .](#)

2015 Honorary Degree Recipient Passes Away After Tragic Bicycling Accident



The [Governors State University](#) community is deeply saddened by the passing of Chicago journalist [Elizabeth Brackett](#). In 2015, Brackett became a GSU alumna when she was awarded an honorary doctorate degree for her outstanding work as a journalist. After she was awarded the degree, Elizabeth immediately began serving as a dedicated member of the President's Advisory Council. Elizabeth was injured earlier this week in a bicycling accident and died on Sunday, June 17.

The GSU community extends heartfelt condolences to her family, colleagues, and friends, including the ones she made at Governors State.

Planting Seeds of Love for Father's Day



Elroy Brown Jr. learned a lot about life from working in a garden with his father. "The main takeaway was just how much he cared for other people. That's what I really got—selflessness."

As an infant toddler teacher at GSU's [Family Development Center](#) (FDC), Brown saw firsthand that his father planted seeds of love. Growing up in Arkansas, he pitched in when his dad acquired vacant lots and turned them into gardens, cultivating vegetables that he sometimes gave away to neighbors.

The lesson inspired him to bring that opportunity to the very smallest students and their families this summer at the [University Sustainable Garden](#).

Garden plots are still available. For information, email [Amanda Johnson](#), or call 708.534.4515.

[Read more . . .](#)

GSU Transformation Highlighted in *University Business*



GSU President Elaine P. Maimon discusses the university's commitment to first-generation college students, its innovative Dual Degree Program, and the significance of its strengths-based philosophy in ["Designing higher ed for a healthy democracy," by Tim Goral in *University Business*.](#)

President Maimon also discussed these principles in *Leading Academic Change: Vision*, which was [recently highlighted by the Chronicle of Higher Education on its compilation of "Selected New Books on Higher Education."](#)

Incoming DDP Student Makes Headlines for Community College Achievements



Omar Martinez, an incoming DDP student and recent Prairie State College graduate, was [spotlighted by the Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle](#) for his outstanding academic achievements.

Martinez was one of 20 students across the nation awarded the 2018 Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders, a member of the 2018 Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team which holds a 3.5 GPA requirement, and the recipient of scholarships from the PSC Board of Trustees and Phi Theta Kappa.

Sharita Walker, DDP Transfer Specialist, said, "I always knew Omar would be an exceptional student as well as a leader. From the day he joined DDP, he showed his determination and drive to be successful in everything he set out to do."

Recycle to Help the Friends of the GSU Library Honor the Memory of Eric Nicholson



“Eric loved his walk from campus along the Alumni Trail to catch the train or simply to enjoy nature,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “We all miss him very much and wanted to honor him in a way that we know he would enjoy, with a commemorative park bench that will be placed along the Alumni Trail.”

For the next six months, the Friends will be collecting 600 pounds of plastic bags and wrappers that will be used to create a park bench that will be used along the alumni trail. Currently, there are two collection boxes: one inside and one outside of the library.

You can recycle the following plastic items: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc & other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. All materials must be clean, dry, and free of food residue.

For more details, click [here](#) or email GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

Atlas Obscura Highlights Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park



Atlas Obscura, a popular online publication that calls itself a “comprehensive database of the world’s most wondrous places and foods” has highlighted GSU’s Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park as a place of interest.

[View the article.](#)

Announcements and Events

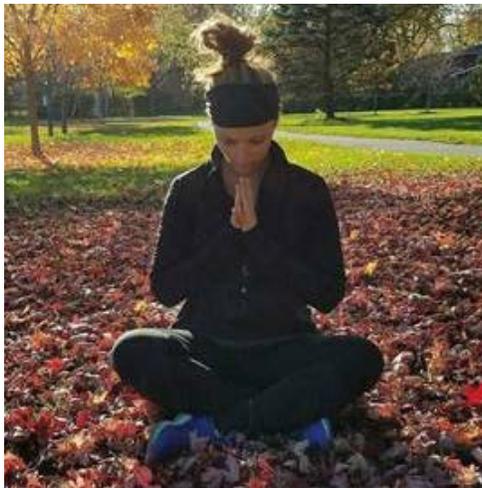
Smart Phone Donations

Do you have any old smart phones (Android or iPhone) that you want to get rid of? Put them to good use by donating them to the [CAS STEAM Camp](#) running this summer from July 16 – 20.

All devices will be wiped of data and will be repurposed for students to learn how to program and control drones. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will help students learn a new skill set!

Please drop smart phones off at our division office in Suite F2401 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Yoga and Walking Meditation in the NMSP



Join Liz Smith for an opportunity to merge yoga, meditation, and creative expression on **Thursday, June 21*** from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Begin with a 45-minute yoga class designed for individuals with all levels of yoga experience. Following class, you will be led through a walking meditation in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Participants will stop at each piece of art for a guided meditation designed to inspire creativity, peace, and artistic inspiration.

Be sure to dress comfortably to move and walk. Participants should be able to bear weight in the hands and kneel. Bring water, a notebook, materials to write and sketch, and a yoga mat. If you do not have a yoga mat, extras will be available.

Meet on the lawn in front of Illinois Landscape No. 5. Donation of \$10 per person is suggested.

**Event will be rescheduled in the case of rain.*

Highlights

Professor Vince Jones to Present Research at Global Conference



Congratulations to Professor Vince Jones who has been selected to present a paper at the 20th annual International Conference on Criminal Justice in Paris from **July 25 – 27**.

Jones's paper, "The re-emergence of Slavery in Libya is a Crime against Humanity that must be eradicated," focuses on the foreign policy failures of past and current administrations. Those failures, coupled with the benign neglect of the EU, UN, and the African Union, has led to an untenable re-emergence of slavery and untold human rights violations in Libya, Jones asserts in his presentation. In Paris, he will co-present alongside experts from Austria, Spain, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Nigeria, Canada, and Norway.

The World Academy of Science Engineering and Technology is hosting the conference, which brings together leading academic scientists, researchers, and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Criminal Justice. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Criminal Justice.

Rosie Mae Scholarship Spa Party Raises Funds for TAPS Students



The Spa Party fundraiser, **June 3**, for the Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship was a success! It was a fun, relaxing afternoon with friends in Homewood where the Nailique & Sacred Therapy Spas came together for this special event. Several guests enjoyed the complete pampering package consisting of a pedicure, manicure and chair massage.

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including CMS training for GSU webpage contributors, 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.](#)



Governors State University

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University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
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University Park, IL, June 15, 2018

Planting Seeds of Love for Father's Day

Elroy Brown Jr. learned a lot about life from working in a garden with his father. "The main takeaway was just how much he cared for other people. That's what I really got—selflessness."

As an infant toddler teacher at [Governors State University \(http://www.govst.edu/\)](http://www.govst.edu/)'s [Family Development Center \(http://www.govst.edu/FamilyDevelopmentCenter/\)](http://www.govst.edu/FamilyDevelopmentCenter/) (FDC), Brown saw firsthand that his father planted seeds of love. Growing up in Arkansas, he pitched in when his dad acquired vacant lots and turned them into gardens, cultivating vegetables that he sometimes gave away to neighbors. "There were tough times where I'm from, and it helped to get your produce so you could save money for meat and eggs," he said.

The lesson inspired him to bring that opportunity to the very smallest students and their families this summer at the [University Sustainable Garden \(http://www.govst.edu/About/Offices_and_Departments/Facilities_Development_and_Management/University_Sustainable_Garden/\)](http://www.govst.edu/About/Offices_and_Departments/Facilities_Development_and_Management/University_Sustainable_Garden/).



Originally cultivated in 2013, the space is a community initiative dedicated to harvesting healthy futures for youth and families in the South Suburbs, with 64 plots available for rent.

This spring, Brown worked with Paul Berwanger, Culinary Specialist, and Ken Hamlin, Child Development Associate, to expand the FDC's small plot to a sizeable garden planted with bell peppers, zucchini squash, cherry tomatoes, collard greens and radishes. Two more plots will soon sprout corn and melons.

"Paul had worked with the kids on a small plot to grow some food they could use in the kitchen—tomatoes and zucchini for salad—in previous years, but this is more of a group effort," said Carol Morrison, FDC's Executive Director.

Of course the group includes the very tiniest participants. Community members who head to the garden this summer are sure to spot toddlers and preschoolers there who are learning plenty of lessons through gardening, thanks to Brown.

He began by reading the children two books, "Planting a Rainbow" and "The Surprise Garden."

"That lets them see this is how the process starts when you plant a seed, that this is where fruits and vegetables come from," Brown said. "That resonates."

After that, they headed out to the garden. "I'd say, 'What are we going to do? We're going to plant a garden.' We may read the stories again and build on that.

"Then I brought dirt into our classroom. We actually feel the soil. I ask them, 'How does it feel? How does it smell?'" The next step was cultivating beans in the classroom, placing them ziplock bags with wet paper towels.

Among the tiniest gardeners are Brown's children, who are enrolled at the center: his 16-month-old daughter, Salei, and two-year-old son, Elias. "My son can tell you a definition of what germination is," Brown said.

The FDC even included the topic of recycling by using cupcake bins, which preschoolers used to start growing radishes.

But the lessons go deep into the heart and soul, especially when adult family members become involved. "When parents work in the garden, the kids are learning persistence. They're seeing their parents model their emotions, being diligent and patient, keeping a good attitude. And it's not hard for parents," Brown said.



He looks forward to harvest time this fall, when parents will be invited to a celebratory garden party where they can taste and take home the organic vegetables their children helped grow. Next year, Brown said, the FDC will invite parents to help plant the garden in the spring and maintain it throughout the summer as well.

"The real work is maintaining and harvesting, so I want to involve parents, especially the dads, and build on other programs for them. Fathers are important, and it will be an opportunity for them to spend time with their kids."

Parents are likely to join in. The FDC encourages frequent visits and regular participation, and Morrison said the monthly "parents night out" program is always well attended.

A parent survey last month confirmed that "one of most satisfying parts of the FDC is the family engagement piece," Brown said.

Morrison echoed the thought. "People want to make time for their kids," she said.



With Father's Day on the horizon, Brown became reflective. "Working at the facility where my two youngest children are enrolled, it is difficult for me to fully express how blessed I feel to spend every hour of my day with my babies," he said. "As parents, we at times get so selfishly committed to providing for our children financially, that we often lose focus on how important simply spending time with them is. What a privilege it is to not only observe, but actively contribute to their growth and development while I grow as a professional educator."

Garden plots are still available, according to Amanda Johnson, Officer Manager at GSU's Facilities Department, which is currently managing it. For information, email her at AJohnson@govst.edu (<mailto:AJohnson@govst.edu>) or call 708.534.4515.

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

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(http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Degree_Programs_and_Certifications/Dual_Degree_Program/)

Transfer (http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Admissions_Process/Transfer/)



University Park, IL, June 18, 2018

Take Pride, GSU

It's difficult for Ethan Swift to share details of life circumstances that left him feeling lost—unfocused and in financial straits—in the months before he arrived at [Governors State University](http://www.govst.edu/). (<http://www.govst.edu/>)

Emotional wounds remain unhealed, though a salve came from his work in [Student Counseling Center](http://www.govst.edu/about-counseling-center/) (<http://www.govst.edu/about-counseling-center/>) as part of a training for a doctoral program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Carefully weighing his words, Swift does reveal that his journey of self-discovery and resiliency was a long road that led him to GSU.

"Governors State was a second chance for me. My time here reminds me I am capable of achieving my goals," said Swift who completes his doctoral therapy externship this month just in time to celebrate Pride Month.

Though the LGBTQ community is highlighted each year with June parades and festivals, the need to create a culture of inclusion that embraces all stretches across each month to fill the entire year.

It starts with self-acceptance, Swift said. "We have to love ourselves a little extra because so many of us are rejected by those who are supposed to love us." That's the message Swift infused into every individual and group interaction when he arrived in 2017.

On campus, he started two support groups one for transgender, non-binary, and gender questioning individuals and another for the broader community of LGBTQI+, which encompasses everyone under the sexual minority and gender minority spectrum.

Fellow doctoral therapy extern Jordan Biedrzycki and [GSU psychology](http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Division_of_Psychology_and_Counseling/) (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/Division_of_Psychology_and_Counseling/) Professor Amina Dahleh co-facilitated the groups, which met weekly to explore and celebrate the identities of participants, as well as to offer support to allies of individuals seeking love, acceptance, and healing.

For those who were murdered shattering any sense of peace, Swift launched the Transgender Day of Remembrance in November. In the ceremony, the resiliency of life was celebrated even as the individuals lost were commemorated. The names of those who died the year before at their own hands or the hands of others were called during the ceremony.

The celebrations and support groups were a nice complement to the daily conversations Swift had in the Student Counseling Center with students, faculty, and staff seeking answers to questions on how to cope with identity struggles or how to help a professor introduce or explore a sensitive topic.

In the days leading up to Swift's departure, he reflected on a steady stream of emails expressing gratitude as he closed out his projects. His goals, once buried in life's overwhelming circumstances, came into focus during his time at Governors State.

"I'm grateful that GSU was an integral part of my journey to find my purpose. My life's goal is to help people feel loved and accepted and to move mental health forward. People should know that self-love is self-healing."

