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GSU View

University Newsletters

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GSU View, July 3, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



July 3, 2018

Vol. 56, Issue 1

News

University to Close in Observance of Independence Day



Governors State University will be closed on **Wednesday, July 4** in honor of Independence Day. Enjoy your July 4 celebration, Jaguars!

Celebrating Inclusion and Independence



The GSU Newsroom pays homage to the founding principles of America—[read the story](#).

Third Study Room Added to the GSU Library



Popularity of library group study rooms has encouraged the addition of a third space, now open for student use.

Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library, said, “A big thank you goes out to all of our GSU students who use the library group study rooms. Students have been asking for another group study room and showed us through their scheduling of group study rooms #1 and #2 that we needed a #3. Each library group study room will be retrofitted with specific equipment, and an announcement will be forthcoming with details as to what will be in each room.”

Questions? Email GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu

Save-the-Date: GSU Homecoming Coming this Fall!

This fall, Governors State University will host Homecoming from **Sunday, November 4 – Saturday, November 10**. Moving forward, Homecoming will replace Family and Friends Weekend.

Homecoming was hosted by GSU in the 1970s—check out archived issues of the university’s then-newsletter [Faze 1](#) from [1977](#), [1978](#), and [1979](#), archived by OPUS.

We are currently seeking students, faculty, and staff to serve on the planning committee as well as programming ideas. Please forward your name, email, and phone if you are interested in serving—or have ideas for the week—to [Robert Clay](#) by **Friday, July 6**.

Call for Programs: Welcome Week 2018

Student Life has begun the initial planning phases for Welcome Week 2018. As we are preparing to welcome students back to campus in the fall, departments, divisions, and student organizations are

encouraged to plan events and activities that offer a festive and lively environment during the first week of classes, **August 27 – August 31**. Requests are accepted via a [Doodle Poll](#).

Steps to access Welcome Week Doodle Poll:

1. [Click here](#) to access the poll.
2. Select an available time frame.
3. Include your name or department name in the participants field.
4. Click send.

Welcome Week is an exciting time of the year for the GSU community. Although departments are not mandated to program an event, Student Life is excited to offer the opportunity to make this year's Welcome Week one for the record books! Our goal is to have a jam-packed calendar of events that support student connections while making students' first days on campus memorable.

Requests are due by **July 11**. Email [Konya Sledge](#) for inquiries.

STEAM Camp for Kids Registration Ongoing



Only a few spots remain for GSU's hands-on science, technology, art, and mathematics (STEAM) camp fun for summer 2018. Through a series of fun, highly interactive activities, students (ages 11 – 16) will learn basic concepts in the visual and performing arts, chemistry, engineering, physics, and robotics.

STEAM Camps are held on two different weeks and students may register for one or both sessions. Camp fees are \$200 per child, per week.

Week One: **July 16 – 20** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Week Two: **July 23 – 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

STEAM Camp Plus: Activities are also available Monday to Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. Additional fee of \$60 per session, per camper, applies.

Scholarship Opportunities: A limited number of partial scholarships for Governors State University's Summer 2018 STEAM Camp are awarded on a first-come, first-served, need-basis.

For additional information, click [here](#) or call 708.534.4088.

Reserve Your Seats for the CSIFF Feature Film Showcase



The Chicago Southland International Film Festival will screen two documentaries during its Feature Film Showcase on **Saturday, August 4**. Admission is free and open to the public. [Reserve your seats for the following film screenings:](#)

4 p.m.: [Little Wounded Warriors](#), produced and directed by Seth McClellan, an alum of GSU's Independent Film and Digital Imaging MFA program, is an hour-long documentary about Native American high school students born and raised on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation. The film won the Best Public Service Award at the 2016 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, and has been called "[stunningly beautiful](#)" by [Time Out Chicago](#). In addition to making films, McClellan also teaches film history and video production at Triton College.

6 p.m.: [Minding the Gap](#), produced by Bing Liu, has won the special jury award for breakthrough filmmaking at Sundance as well as the audience award at Full Frame. Liu is also a Story Director and DP for an upcoming Steve James mini-series, *America To Me*. Liu is a 2017 Film Independent Fellow and Garrett Scott Development Grant recipient.

This event is sponsored by the School of Extended Learning, Digital Learning & Media Design, Governors State University Library, and the GSU Friends of the Library, and funded in part by an Intellectual Life Grant.

Twenty-Eight Pounds of Recycled Material Collected in Week One for Memorial Bench

The GSU Library extends its thanks to the community for its donations of recycled materials to be used in the creation of a memorial bench for Eric Nicholson.

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

The following plastic items are being accepted: 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.

Library Offering Live Chat



Need research help after library hours? [Visit the library home page](#) from 8 - 9 p.m. Monday – Thursday and look for the Live Chat icon. Click on the icon, and you will be able to chat directly with a GSU librarian who can help you.

Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library, said, “Our live chat service will be available at least through **Thursday, August 9** and possibly longer if the service proves useful.”

Questions? Email GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

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** and **July 23 – 27**.

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.

[View more information.](#)

A New Season of Entertainment at Center for Performing Arts



The Center for Performing Arts is excited to [announce its incredible performance schedule for the 2018–19 Season](#)! Enjoy the best of American entertainment, featuring some of Chicago’s award-winning actors and companies including The Second City, Lyric Opera Singers, Salt Creek Ballet, The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble, Hopera – A Hip Hop Opera. An Adrian Dunn Production, and GSU’s Theatre and Performance Studies emerging actors!

Touring sensations include Aaron Neville, The Hit Men, Brian Owens’ Valentine’s Special: Soul Royalty, and The Ultimate Queen Celebration with Marc Martel, thanks to the generosity of First Midwest Bank!

Nursing New Student Orientation

On **August 18**, graduate and doctoral Nursing students entering in the fall semester will attend a New Student Orientation in the Hall of Honors from 10 a.m. – noon. Please join the Nursing department in welcoming its incoming students!

Highlights

Professor of History Weighs In on Supreme Court Labor Union Decision



David Golland, Professor of History and Faculty Senate President, was featured in [a Daily Southtown article](#) discussing the recent Supreme Court decision which overturned the requirement for workers who benefit from union contracts to contribute to fees.

In the article, Golland asks, “When you weaken unions and take away the voice of the organized worker, are there serious dangers we’re not thinking of?”

[Read the full article.](#)

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Hosts Third Annual Excellence Awards



The [Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management](#) recognized the hard work and commitment to excellence of its staff members at its third annual Excellence Awards program.

More than eighty staff members were nominated by their peers to receive an award. [View a list of the twelve staff members who received awards.](#)

Biology Student in Guam on NSF Internship



GSU [Biology](#) Student Andrea Fuentes is studying abroad on an internship in Guam, during which she is snorkeling for coral samples and analyzing them in a lab setting.

Fuentes is on a scholarship from the National Science Foundation by the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research focused on increasing representation of minority populations in STEM—[view details here](#). She is also part of the [Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation](#) (ILSAMP) program at GSU, another NSF funded program seeking to enhance minority participation in STEM.

GSU students interested in the LSAMP program can email [Dr. Erin Grey-Avis](#), Professor of Biology.

Accounting Student Awarded Scholarship by Illinois CPA Society



GSU [Accounting](#) Student Maira Gutierrez has been [selected as one of 39 accounting students to receive a scholarship from the Illinois CPA Society](#). The CPA Society's Scholarship Program recognizes accounting students who demonstrate strong academic performance, leadership qualities and financial need.

Congratulations, Maira!

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.](#)



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University Park, IL, July 11, 2018

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Hosts Third Annual Excellence Awards

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Division recognized the hard work and commitment to excellence of its staff members at the division's third annual awards program. More than eighty staff members were nominated by their peers to receive an award. Twelve staff members received awards.

The event began by invoking Dr. Terrell Strayhorn's recent campus visit as keynote to the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Professional Development Day entitled "The Power of Belonging and Support:



A Key to Success for All Students." In his welcome, Dr. Aurelio Valente said "Creating a sense of belonging is critical to the work of student affairs and central to an inclusive campus community focused on student success. Today's ceremony recognizes specific staff and initiatives that exemplify the everyday work in which we endeavor to achieve the potential of our contributions to GSU's mission."

Going the Extra Mile Award recognizes staff who consistently go above and beyond. This year's award recipient was **Lorie Webster**, Financial Aid Client Relations. Nominators stated: *"This employee won the March 2018 employee of the month for good reason! She really listens and takes the time to help students out with other school issues. She is very patient and never turns away students. She always helps out co-workers and steps in when needed. Lorie always does whatever is needed to get the job done. She makes sure her work is completed and even helps out when others are out of the office for extended periods of time. She helps students to the fullest extent and encourages them to be successful."*

Professional Development and Life-long Learning Award recognizes individuals who contribute to the profession through conference presentations, research/publication including dissertation/capstone. This year's award recipient was **Tiffani Robertson**, who serves as the Associate Director of Admissions. Nominators said: *"Tiffani is in a doctoral program at ISU and is Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee through AACRAO."*

Promoting Partnerships Award recognizes individuals and/or departments that have accomplished goals and objectives through internal and/or external collaboration, outreach and partnerships both inside and outside the division, including academic affairs. This year's recipient was **Sean Smith**, Male Success Initiative (MSI) Program Coordinator. Nominators said, *"Sean works across platforms to create meaningful partnerships at GSU. Since his arrival in 2016 he has continued to be the swell guy that he is today. If you bump into him or ask a question, you will soon discover that he has joined your network of colleagues and ultimately friends. From students to administrators to faculty and staff, Sean has created meaningful partnerships within MSI, Student Life, Athletics (he has even announced a few basketball games), Admissions, Conduct, and the President's Office. For the sake of paper and time, I will stop here. Sean Smith promotes brotherhood and partnerships across GSU and I can't think of a more worthy nominee for the candidate of Promoting Partnerships Award."*

Innovation/Technology Award recognizes significant improvement in performance, results, or process, in programs and services within SA&EM or within the university at large, through innovation or technology, social media/multimedia. For the second year in a row, **Yakeea Daniels**, Director for Enrollment Management

Technology, is the recipient of this year's award. The nominator said, *"Even before Yakeea transitioned to her current role as the Director of Enrollment Management Technology, she always worked to improve the technology utilized by our offices in order to better serve our students. Now that she is in her role, she is able to dedicate more time to improve systems and find ways to use them to their fullest capabilities. Yakeea is always enthusiastic and willing to provide training on any of these systems when and as needed."*

Most Innovative Award recognizes an employee who invariably comes up with amazing idea after amazing idea. This person is responsible for brainstorming new revenue-generating initiatives, improving workflows, and figuring out how to provide even better customer service. **Paul McGuinness**, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, is the recipient of this year's award. The nominator said: *"Paul came in the door running! He created communication plans that include automated phone calls, text messages, mailings, and social media that focused on both prospective and admitted students to apply, finish the application process, or confirm their enrollment. Paul continues to bring others together in order to brainstorm for additional innovative ideas that can be put in place to increase enrollment."*

Students First Award recognizes staff that continuously place students at the center of their work and their actions. **Jason Vignone**, Associate Registrar, received this year's award. Nominators stated, *"Doesn't matter what he's doing, he will ALWAYS help a student out. Jason will go out of his way to help a student."*

Student Mentor Award recognizes an employee who consistently gives significant time and effort counseling, advising and supporting students. Through their efforts, and mentorship, students are more likely to succeed, be leaders, servants, and change agents in their communities. **Jessica Specht**, Director of Dual Degree Program, was this year's recipient. Her nominator said, *"Jessica is always going 'above and beyond' in her day to day activities and always makes time to help students. If they call her office or coming looking for her, she will take time to talk with the student and assist them to the best of her ability! She will work with a student until a resolution is found, and/or direct them to the best possible resources. She is a role model for me as a new DDP Transfer Specialist, and I look forward to continuing my work with her! Jessica has done an outstanding job with our Student Transition Assistants (STA). The many trainings that she has had with the students and the time and dedication that she puts in while working with the students shows her desire and passion for students. She met individually with the STA's and really set down and talked to them about goals, career plans, next steps after graduation, offering help with applying to grad schools, etc. she made herself available to assist them with some of the most important things in their lives and talking with the STA's it shows how much they value her and how much they appreciate. I definitely believe that Jess is worthy of this award for her time dedication and support that she gives her student workers."*

The Calm, Cool, and Collected Award recognizes an employee that stays cool under pressure. While everyone else is frantic, this individual remains calm, cool, and collected at all times. **Amy Comparon**, Executive Director of the Academic Resource Center, received this year's award. Nominators stated: *"Amy has really done a fantastic job this year. She has taken on additional responsibility for orientation during a staff members leave, and has also been one of the head administrators for Starfish as Governors State continues to find ways to maximize Starfish use across campus. Additionally, she has taken on the role as chair for her R2G subgroup, and also choose to serve as a member of a 2nd subgroup. She has done all of this with a calm, cool, and collected state of mind. Way to go Amy, we are proud of you!"*

The Spirit Award is given to the individual who most embodies the GSU culture and lives and breathes its values on a daily basis. The person who receives this award enhances the work environment, simply by being them self. They are jovial, encouraging, supportive, and friendly. Quite simply, they make work a better place. This year's recipient is **Darcie Campos**, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Career Services. Nominators said: *"I am nominating Darcie Campos because she qualifies for all of the above. Darcie came to GSU in 2008 and hasn't stopped evolving her role and department since. She has a never-failing commitment to the students of GSU and is always reflecting back to what is best for them. Darcie creates a sense of community in her office, classroom, or just about any room she enters, and her positive energy is what makes her a natural collaborator, leader, and friend. Her staff respects her as a boss and loves her like a family member. She never stops encouraging those around her to grow personally and professionally, and has been a catalyst for many of their successes. She is the first to offer help, and the last to expect anything in return. Darcie advocates for her staff, students, and values, and while her department may not be front and center of every initiative, you can guarantee they made an impact along the way. She is a crucial part of the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management team, and her SPIRIT is an essential part of the GSU community."* *"Shortly after starting in my position, our director retired and being so new to my job with not only no director, but no predecessor to show me the ropes. I felt lost at times. Darcie never failed to recognize my feelings without me even saying a word, and even the simplest words or pat on the shoulder she would make me feel the sense of community I needed to feel like everything was going to be okay. Whenever we interacted, she reminded me of my strengths and the community that is GSU. She is compassionate and dedicated to not only the students, but all who support them."*

Unsung Hero Award recognizes staff who do a great job yet receive little or no recognition for that. An unsung hero usually refrains from claiming too much in return for his/her efforts. **Christina Seymour**, Admission and Records Officer, is this year's award recipient. The nominator said, "Since I've started at GSU, Christina and I would collectively run reports and think about ways to assist with the enrollment of students. If I ask her to complete a task at the very last minute, she doesn't hesitate or complain. She completes the task with ease and closes the loop on the task at hand."

Outstanding New Employee Award recognizes a new divisional employee, who started within the two preceding years, who has demonstrated superior work performance, positive attitude, initiative and a cooperative spirit. **Daniel Jankowski**, Sports Information Director and Compliance Coordinator, is this year's award recipient. The nominator said: "Daniel Jankowski is our SID (Sports Information Director) who also goes beyond the call of duty. We have 14 teams in our conference. SID's are only required to write game reports for their teams at home games. We play conference games on Wednesday and Saturday. For Saturday games, 90% of the teams won't post the story of their team until Monday night or early Tuesday morning. The GSU Jaguar stories are up that night! Daniel attends all HOME AND AWAY GAMES! We have the Best SID in the CCAC Conference."

Daniel gives 110% at everything he seeks to do; a great asset not only to Athletics & Recreation but also among the GSU community. Often working behind the scenes, not seeking a pat on the back yet being a team player as he seeks ways in which to advance the Athletic Program here at Governors State University. Daniel, often going above and beyond the call of duty, having a positive perspective while aiming to be better. It is with great eagerness that I nominate a well-deserving recipient."

Employee of the Year Award recognizes a divisional employee, who has been employed for two or more years, and has demonstrated superior work performance, positive attitude, initiative and cooperative spirit. **Collice King**, Admissions Counselor, is this year's recipient. The nominator said, "Collice is the ideal team member anyone could wish to work with. She is an integral piece of the Office of Admissions team and the knowledge she has gained over the years shows as she is an essential resource for fellow Admissions staff and others across campus. Recently, in the absence of an Office Manager, Collice has been juggling both her responsibilities as an Admissions Counselor in addition to the duties of the Office Manager. She is the epitome of a team player as she has taken on these additional duties so without complaint. Collice deserves to be recognized as Outstanding Employee of the Year as displays her dedication to not just the Office of Admission but to GSU on a daily basis."

This annual program, now in its third year, gives the division an opportunity to recognize our peers for their exemplary service to the community, as well as thank them for extended years of service. The program closed with departmental leaders recognizing the contributions their teams have made, collectively and individually, to the accomplishments of the past academic year as we approach the start of a new year.

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