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GSU View, September 25, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications

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News

Practice Rail Safety Week at GSU

**September 23 – 29** is Rail Safety Week, a time to “raise awareness across the United States of the need for rail safety education and empower the general public to keep themselves safe near highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights-of-way” ([Operation Lifesaver](https://www.oplifefaver.org)).

Brandon Myers, Police Inspector and Commanding Officer for the CN railway police and GSU adjunct professor of [Criminal Justice](https://www.criminal-justice.org), cautions the GSU community, “As you may be aware, we have a set of
tracks that pass over Stuenkel Rd. near Governors Hwy by the University. This is a very dangerous crossing especially when classes and the Metra is letting out.”

Join the conversation on social media using #RailSafetyWeek and #GovState.

**LGBTQIA History Month and Chat with the Student Activities Council**

LGBTQIA History Month is a month-long annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, held annually across the country in October. GSU has an array of events to celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQIA community.

Join an engaging LGBTQIA discussion regarding safety, understanding/tolerance, and being an ally on **Monday, October 1 at 6 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.** Light refreshments will be served at this event hosted by Dr. Christienne Dyslin, Division of Psychology and Counseling, and Kenneth Vasser, Training and Education Specialist at the University of Illinois Cancer Center, and sponsored by the Student Activities Council (SAC).

For more information, please visit [www.govst.edu/diversity](http://www.govst.edu/diversity) or email diversity@govst.edu.

**Celebrate Homecoming with GSU this November**

GSU is hosting the 2018 Homecoming from **Sunday, November 4 – Saturday, November 10.** This year’s theme is “Salute to the Past, Cheers to the Future,” which embodies the essence of the university as we continue to build upon our great legacy and celebrate our transformation towards higher heights.
and deeper depths of being a public square for our rich diverse community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Two GSU Volleyball Players Named CCAC Players of the Week

Two members of the Governors State women's volleyball team have earned player of the week honors from the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC).

Senior Milica Maras was named Setter of the Week while first-year outside hitter Dunja Tatic was chosen Attacker of the Week. The Serbian natives are the second and third Jaguars in program history to receive conference POW honors, joining Ashley Pickert who earned the award last year.

Read more . . .

Nominations Now Underway for the 2018 Student Lincoln Laureate

The 2018 Student Lincoln Laureate Award process is underway. Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year, degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is awarded the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award and thereby becomes the Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student Laureates are honored for their leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.
Learn more, including details about the application process and awards.

GSU Turns 50!

Let the countdown begin! January 2019 opens GSU’s kick off of its 18-month celebration of teaching, learning, and serving Chicago’s Southland for 50 years. This is a unique opportunity to share the university’s historic milestones, myriad achievements, and many innovative firsts since its founding in 1969. This is also an opportunity to build support for the future by re-engaging alumni, cultivating new and potential supporters, and making a powerful case for investing in the university’s next 50 years.

Host a 50th Anniversary Event

The 18-month celebration will include lectures, galas, and much more! If you would like to host an event, activity, or initiative, we encourage you to submit a proposal. Proposals may be eligible for partial funding, and should be crafted to showcase the anniversary’s theme and outcomes (outlined on the proposal submission page). The deadline to submit is November 5 at 11:59 p.m.

For more information on how we are communicating about the 50th anniversary, please visit the communications toolkit here.

#DoTheFAFSA Starting October 1

File your FAFSA as early as October 1—now less than a week away—for aid to pay tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year 2019-20 (including summer school).

GSU’s Office of Financial Aid offers weekly FAFSA Friday workshops to help you with FAFSA completion. Workshops take place in the Cube on Fridays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., beginning October 5.
Save the Date: Fall All-Campus Symposium

Mark your calendar for GSU’s Fall All-Campus Symposium to be held Friday, October 19. This semester’s symposium theme is “The Adult Learner.”

The day will begin with an 8:30 a.m. continental breakfast followed by the start of the symposium at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served and the day’s work will end mid-afternoon.

RSVP’s are required and may be sent to Penny Perdue (x4130).

Undergraduate and Graduate Open House

On Saturday, October 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hall of Governors, GSU will be hosting its first Open House event of the fall. Representatives from undergraduate and graduate programs as well as other departments and divisions at GSU will be attending. Register to attend.

For more information, contact Julie Anderson (708.534.4086).

Honor Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Lambda Pi Eta

October is National Violence Awareness Month. Receive a purple ribbon honoring survivors of domestic violence on Monday, October 8 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. For more information, contact Michelle Sebasco (708.235.3983).
The Second City’s Latest Revue is Screwy Fun

You know The Second City by the many famous faces you see on TV, from Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, to Mike Myers, Steve Carell, and Dan Ackroid. Now, meet the next generation of comedy greatness when The Second City’s Blue Company brings Made in America: Some Assembly Required to Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University on **October 6** at 8 p.m. [Read more . . .]

Discounted tickets for GSU students ($10) and faculty and staff ($25) are available through the box office only and not offered online. Visit the box office Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays). Call 708.235.2222 for more info.

**Curious Campus: A Learning Community Project**

A first-year learning community is curious—and seeking your perspective. In a project modeled from NPR’s Curious City, the students will be in the cafeteria area on **Monday, October 8** from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. seeking answers to the questions “Where on campus do you feel most anxious?” and “Where on campus do you feel most at peace?”

Students will create inquiry cards with the questions on either side that, once completed, will be displayed on the windows near the cafeteria. Common themes observed will be used to inspire a short video, written by the learning community students and produced by DLMD.
Students participating are enrolled in First Year Seminar, taught by Dr. Novia Pagone, and Writing Workshop 1, taught by Dr. Kerri Morris, within a learning community project sponsored by General Education and a part of a Media Across the Curriculum (MAC) pilot.

**Latino Heritage Month 2018**

Latino Heritage Month, a nationally recognized celebration of Latino culture, takes place annually from September 15 – October 15. This year’s program highlights include learning about policies impacting the Latino community, a visit to the Mexican American History Museum, and more.

View a listing of Latino Heritage Month events. For more information email diversity@govst.edu.

**Weekly Mindfulness Practices in the GSU Library**

This semester, Drs. Tim Pedigo and Maristela Zell are hosting meditation sessions and mindfulness practice for students, faculty, and staff in the GSU Library every Thursday afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30
p.m. Come to the library and follow the signs to the mindfulness practice location beyond the balcony and the quiet study area.

“When we operate from a mindful perspective, we take in our values, thoughts, and emotions as important information that help us respond, not react, to the challenges in life. As a consequence, we learn to be in the present moment while managing our thoughts, behaviors, and moods,” offered Dr. Zell.

Questions? Contact GSULibraryinfo@govst.edu.

Great American Bagel Pop-Up Pantry

Every Monday, Thursday, and Friday, the GSUXpress delivers students to the University Park bagel store, where they collect an assortment of donated bagels – cinnamon raisin to jalapeno to poppy seed – left over at the end of the day. On Monday and Thursday, the “pantry” springs up in the middle of campus about 3:30 p.m. On Fridays, it’s at Prairie Place.

The Great American Bagel Pop-up Pantry is part of a broader student resource initiative, GSU4U, run by the Office of Student Life to address the issue of hunger on campus. The need came to the forefront last year, and a recent study of 43,000 students found more than half the 76 GSU students surveyed reported being homeless or hungry to some degree.

For more information, contact Civic Engagement (x7454)

Announcements and Events

Films on Demand Free Trial Package

What do PBS, HBO, and Ken Burns all have in common? Their productions can be found on Films on Demand Master Academic Package being offered through the GSU Library. In addition, there is a trial offer to the Archival Films and Newsreels Collection dating back to pre-twentieth-century. To access these databases, click here.
“We are pleased to be able to offer these trials to all in the GSU community,” offered Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “Your feedback helps us assess the value of the databases. Is this something that you think we should purchase for our faculty and students? Please let us know by sending your thoughts to GSULibraryinfo@govst.edu.”

Latinx Identity in America

Alcohol consumption, popular culture, power, and resistance in Mexico: these are the topics that Dr. Áurea Toxqui explores to understand cultural identity. In her talk From Mexico City to Peoria: A Scholar’s View on Wednesday, October 3 from 3 – 4:15 p.m. in Room F1622, Dr. Toxqui will share how her personal and professional experiences in the U.S. led her to discover and develop her Latinx identity.

Attend the Premiere of Banana Season

GSU Professor of Film Sanghoon Lee invites members of the GSU community to attend the Chicago premiere of his recently written and directed film Banana Season at the Gene Siskel Film Center on Friday, October 5 at 8 p.m. or Sunday, October 7 at 5 p.m.

Banana Season was completed in the spring and is now in its festival circuit, which included its world premiere at Bentonville Film Festival in May and the Lighthouse International Film Festival in June. Both festivals are recognized by MovieMaker Magazine in articles such as 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee in 2018 and The 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World, 2018.

Watch the Banana Season trailer.
Careers in Technology: Expert Panel Discussion and Networking Reception

Tech leaders from different walks of life will present diverse points of view and career insights. Come listen, learn, and ask questions. Networking reception immediately following panel discussion. All GSU students and alumni who are interested in tech careers are welcome to attend.

The panel discussion will take place Monday, October 8 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. RSVP by October 4.

Questions? Call 708.534.4977.

Before Columbus: Art and Archaeology of Mexico and Guatemala

All are invited to join Dr. Arthur P. Bourgeois, Professor Emeritus, for a talk about the artifacts on display in the Skylight Gallery and their history while enjoying some Mexican-style snacks in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.
This event, supported by a GSU Intellectual Life Grant, will take place in the Skylight Gallery, located within the GSU Library, will take place **Wednesday, October 10** at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, email [GSULibraryinfo@govst.edu](mailto:GSULibraryinfo@govst.edu).

**CPR for the Community and Workplace**

The School of Extended Learning presents the CPR for the Community and Workplace workshop on **Saturday, October 13** from 1:30 – 4 p.m. After successful completion of the 2.5 hour workshop, participants will earn their CPR-AED card. GSU students, staff, and faculty will receive a $10 discount. Enter promo code **CPR10** during check out.

Register [here](#) (Please note the corrected link from last week’s GSU View).

For more information, please contact [Dr. Felicia L. Townsend](mailto:Dr.Felicia.L.Townsend), Director of Corporate and Community Education (708.534.3044).

**GSU’s School of Extended Learning Welcomes the Workforce Services Division of Will County for a Workshop Innovation & Opportunity Act Information Session**

Please join the School of Extended Learning on **Tuesday, October 16** from 10 – 11 a.m. (location TBD) for an information and Q&A session on **WIOA**. GSU’s School of Extended Learning will discuss continuing education opportunities that are WIOA approved (which may lead to unique funding opportunities to continue your education), as well as WIOA-approved degree programming. GSU’s Veteran's Resource Center and Office of Career Services also will be present for questions.
All are welcome, and refreshments will be served at this free event.

For more information, visit the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act at GSU, Workforce Services Division of Will County, or contact Michelle Sebasco (708.235.3983).

South Suburban Family Shelter

Lambda Pi Eta will host keynote speaker Kerry Hill on behalf of the South Suburban Family Shelter on Wednesday, October 17 from 6 – 8 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Toys will be collected for the resident children at the event (new toys only, please).

For more information, contact Michelle Sebasco (708.235.3983) or Merri Wilkerson (708.534.4012).

Juicing 101: Juicing for Life

Adding juicing to your lifestyle is a healthy practice, delicious, and life changing. Dawn Haley, Nutritional Health Coach, will share her own juicy story about her determination to nourish her body back to better health after a cancer diagnosis.

Dawn manages her health and speaks on the benefits of juicing and healthier eating. In this course, you will learn how to juice, why you should, and what benefits you can expect, as well as sample refreshing, freshly squeezed juices, including orange, leafy green, carrot, and carrot apple juices.

Join us on Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Fee is $10. For more information, please contact Michelle Sebasco, 708.235.3983.

Save the Date: 2018 Men’s Leadership Summit
The 2018 Men’s Leadership Summit will take place Friday, November 16 in Engbretson Hall starting at 9 a.m. This year’s theme is C.R.E.E.D.: “Creating Rules of Engagement to Excel Daily.” Using the backdrop of the forthcoming movie Creed, the theme speaks to the importance of leaders maintaining a posture of confidence and assurance to overcome unforeseen challenges and circumstances. Submit your proposals for the 2018 Men’s Leadership Summit by Friday, October 5.

Learn more about this year’s Men’s Leadership Summit Keynote Speaker Dr. Calvin Mackie.

Registration for the Men’s Leadership Summit is open through Friday, November 2. This event is free to GSU students and $25 for non-GSU students. For more information, please email diversity@govst.edu.

S.O.S.: Scars of the Soul

Join Lambda Pi Eta for a presentation of Scars of the Soul, a heart-wrenching documentary that will help the GSU community understand the trauma of domestic violence and how survivors survive with a scarred soul. Guest speaker Dr. Nefertiti Nowell of Nowell and Associates will provide commentary.

Open to all in the GSU community, this event will take place Tuesday, October 30 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. In continued support of Lambda Pi Eta’s October 17 event, new toys also will be collected at this event for the South Suburban Family Shelter.

For more information, contact Michelle Sebasco (708.235.3983) or Merri Wilkerson (708.534.4012).

Nursing Student Town Hall and Professional Forum

On Tuesday, November 13 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. in Engbretson Hall (B1200), members of the Department of Nursing faculty and advising team will host a professional forum to meet and converse with students. This gathering will allow students from all nursing programs (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) to meet the director, clinical coordinators, and instructors.

Sandy the GSU Therapy Dog
Hi All!

I always have the best time seeing old friends and meeting new ones! I will be on the balcony every Tuesday, so be sure to mark your calendars to come visit me between classes.

Sandy,
Your Very Happy GSU Therapy Dog

Highlights

Tim Gsell

What’s the most abundant life form on the planet, accounting for half the biomass? If you guessed something too small to see even with the aid of a microscope, you guessed right. “Bacteria are all over the place, even in boiling water,” said Timothy Gsell, Professor of environmental microbiology at GSU and coordinator for biology degree programs, including the Bachelor of Science and the Environmental Biology, Management, and Policy Master of Science.

Microbiology has seen enormous changes in the span of Gsell’s career. One of the most significant is the emergence of metagenomics, the study of genetic material recovered directly from an environmental sample. “For instance, to find out if there are Asian carp in Lake Michigan, look for its DNA in water samples. It’s true for fish, and it’s also true for bacteria,” Gsell said. “I can get hundreds of thousands of bacterial species identified and describe their relative abundance with metagenomics data from one DNA
sample. Twenty years ago, I’d have to grow cells from each species individually and analyze their DNA one at a time. Metagenomics was a revolution.”

Read more . . .

Conversations with Leaders: Lydia Morrow Ruetten

Right in the center of campus, overlooking the Hall of Governors, the Governors State University Library is like the living room of the university—a welcoming place for faculty, staff, and students to learn and explore in the midst of art.

A high-profile destination, the university library is home to thousands of books and electronic journals, as well as group study rooms, Sandy the Therapy Dog, the Skylight Gallery, and a host of events.

Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten couldn’t be more thrilled.

“When I walk out of my office and I see the library full of activity, it inspires me. It makes me happy like you wouldn't believe,” said Ruetten, who during her near 30-year tenure has watched the traditional 20th century book repository transform into a resource for the 21st century.

Read more . . .

Male Success Initiative Participants Return from Annual Off-Campus Retreat
On September 14–16, during their annual off-campus retreat, participants of the Male Success Initiative (MSI) recognized one of their own, senior Devonte Davis, as the group’s first ever Mr. Retreat. A senior majoring in Business Administration, Davis said he joined the MSI because it just made sense. The retreat was a great bonding experience for the 11 of us who attended, and I encourage more guys around campus to join and consider going next year.”

At the retreat, the participants took part in teambuilding activities, leadership development workshops, and socializing, all which inspired much-needed male bonding. “The retreat is designed to get these guys off campus, away from the daily grind of their classes and the distraction of their friends, to focus on why they’re really in school,” said Sean Smith, MSI Coordinator. “The bonding they did there revealed some deep personal concerns about actually finishing school, but it also reinforced the support from each other to make sure no one failed — and not just in school, but in life. When they came back to campus, they were focused and motivated to continue that momentum and energy from the retreat.”

The mission of the MSI, a grant-funded program, is to increase the retention and graduation rates of male students of color at GSU. They meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays, at 3:30 in room A-2150. For more information, visit the MSI webpage or contact Sean Smith (708.235.7619).

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including Writing Center workshops, CMS web editor training sessions, faculty profile updating sessions, Workzone training sessions, and more 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.