Anyone who joins the U.S. military can expect more structure in their life. But what happens when soldiers become civilians again? For some, that’s when the struggle begins—from finding housing to coping with mental health issues.

Fortunate veterans in the South Suburbs have found a helping hand in Barbara Grgurich.

When she graduates in May from Governors State University, the former U.S. Army sergeant will be poised to combine six years of military service with her Bachelor of Social Work degree to help homeless veterans.

“People think they’ll be in for life, but then they get hurt and have a medical discharge. Or they leave the military with no idea of where they’re going to go,” Grgurich said. “Couch-surfing can lead to homelessness, especially if you have undiagnosed mental health issues.”
Grgurich’s own stint in the Army began after high school. Interested in law, she focused on corrections, working in military prisons at bases around the country and even at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where detainees are housed.

“At my last brig in California, the case managers were social workers. Instead of just letting prisoners sit in a cell, they were running programs to fight recidivism. That seemed like a really good idea, and that’s how I got interested in social work,” she said.

Grgurich received an honorable discharge in 2015 and began pursuing her new career. She was initially drawn to GSU because of its affordability and proximity to Monee, where her family lives. When she enrolled as a freshman at the age of 27, she was older than many of her classmates. But she also felt at home on a campus filled with nontraditional adult learners, including those who had served in the military.

Grgurich was hired immediately by GSU’s award-winning Veterans Resource Center, which was a perfect fit for blending her military experience with a desire to smooth veterans’ transition to civilian life.

“I started processing veterans to get their benefits, like the G.I. Bill, and finding neighborhood resources like Helping Hands, a nonprofit that provides furniture, household items and business clothing,” she said of her work-study job. “I’m basically at the front desk every day.”

When it came to her social work classes, Grgurich said, she found the curriculum practical and applicable. “Social work is all about self-care to help you keep going in the face of challenges,” she said. “One of the best courses I took was on that subject. It means more than just taking a break—you have to talk through issues. It’s also about things like eating right, being out in nature, getting exercise. That’s important.”

Beyond the classroom, Grgurich got valuable experience through an internship at the Prince Home, a program for homeless and disabled veterans located near the Veterans’ Home in Manteno. She also became president of GSU’s chapter of the Student Veterans Organization and president of the campus Social Work Student Organization. Holding leadership positions in each group meant organizing trips to Springfield so dozens of students could learn how to reach out to legislators and urge them to support upcoming bills.

“It’s exciting,” Grgurich said of both events. “The students talk to the elected officials, so it’s not just a teaching day because they’re actually doing the work.”
After graduation, Grgurich will head to the University of Illinois at Chicago to earn a master’s degree, broadening her network and following in the footsteps of other veterans who have mentored her. But she said she’s recommended GSU to plenty of nontraditional students like herself.

“I just told a 37-year-old mother of two, ‘You’ll fit right in here.’ The staff and the faculty will work with you really well because ensuring your success here our is top priority.”

**GSU Foundation and Alumni Association Scholarships Available**

Scholarships have been posted on the GSU Foundation Website for the Fall 2019 semester. More than $45,000 in awards are available. Please assist in getting the word out to students via classroom notices, advisor appointments, etc.

Apply today - deadline is **Friday, April 26**. All students stand a chance at receiving a scholarship, but they must apply!

Visit [www.govst.edu/foundationscholarships](http://www.govst.edu/foundationscholarships) for criteria and application.

**Spring Fest 2019**

Take a break before “finals crunch-time” and join Student Life for an end-of-semester week of festivities **Monday, April 22 – Tuesday, April 30**! The celebration will include Carnival, Exotic Animals, Multicultural Fashion Show, Glow Party, and more.

**Full schedule of events:**

**Daily**

- SAC Glow-Up Table  Hall of Governors  11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  Meet Student Activities Council leaders and purchase pre-sale Glorfest Party tickets for only $10. First 100 students receive a free glow-in-dark item. Tickets $20 at the door

**Monday, April 22**

- Spring Fest Carnival  Hall of Governors noon – 3 p.m.
Enjoy carnival activities, a food-eating contest, carnival foods, and more. Sponsored by Student Activities Council and Student Senate.

- **Psi Chi Scavenger Hunt Campus-Wide**

Answer psychology-related questions hidden across campus to win prizes. Sponsored by Psi Chi Honor Society.

**Tuesday, April 23**

- **Multicultural Fashion Show Engbretson Hall 3 – 4 p.m.**

Celebrate cultural diversity and fashion. Sponsored by Office of International Services and International Culture Organization.

- **Culture Fest Hall of Governors 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Participate in hands-on activities from multiple cultures such as origami and fortune telling, and sample authentic foods. Sponsored by Student Activities Council.

**Wednesday, April 24**

- **Meet Exotic Animals! Hall of Governors Patio noon – 3 p.m.** Meet and greet up to 10 exotic animals on campus. This hands-on experience exposes you to rescued animals from the wilder side of the animal kingdom. Sponsored by Student Life.

**Thursday, April 25**

- **SAC Glow-Up Table Hall of Governors 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Meet Student Activities Council leaders and purchase discount Glowfest Party tickets ($5 tickets). First 100 students receive a free glow-in-the-dark item.

- **ALAS Tamale Fundraiser**

Support the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) fundraising efforts. While supplies last.

- **Men’s Response 2 Sexual Assault: It’s Not Just a Woman’s Issue E-lounge 4 – 6 p.m.** Learn about strategies that men can use to be more aware, protective, and supportive of sexual assault survivors. Open to all male identified individuals.

**Friday, April 26**

- **Seventh Annual Leadership Awards Banquet Hall of Governors 6 p.m.**

Annual celebration of student organization leaders and advisors. RSVP required via Jaguar Connection.
• Fatal Explosion  Sherman Hall 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

“Meet Me on the Block” showcases Chicago style dance performances by Fatal Dance Academy. Free admission

Saturday, April 27

• Glow Fest Party  Holiday Inn Matteson  8 p.m. – midnight  Glow in the dark party featuring live performances by El Hitta, Wayv Dej, and Lil Moody. $10 admission fee.

Sunday, April 28

• 5k Walkathon (PTSA)  F Wing  9:30 a.m.

Grab your gym shoes and join the annual “Run, Walk or Roll for Rehab” hosted by the Physical Therapy Student Association. Proceeds benefit the Illinois Brain Injury Association. Participants receive a complimentary t-shirt with registration fee. Contact mjones1@govst.edu for inquiries.

Tuesday, April 30

• Spring Career and Internship Fair  Hall of Governors & CPA Lobby  2 – 5 p.m.

Are you looking for a job? In need of an internship? Stop by the Career Fair to speak with potential employers. Bring copies of your resume and dress in your best professional clothes. Sponsored by Career Services.

Physical Therapy Students Co-Host National Advocacy Dinner
GSU Physical Therapy students co-hosted a National Advocacy Dinner on April 12 in conjunction with students from Fox College in Tinley Park. Part of the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) national campaign to involve students, the National Advocacy Dinner's purpose is to engage student physical therapists and student physical therapy assistants in advocating for the profession.

Several speakers spoke at the event about the value of advocacy, including: Jim Milder, PT, IPT PAC Chair; Dr. Vince Gutierrez, PT, DPT, cert. MDT; Dr. Ricardo A. Fernandez, PT, PhD, OCS, CSCS.

Celebrating the 19th Faculty Authors and Sponsored Program Grant Recipients

The 19th GSU Faculty Authors and Sponsored Program Grant Recipients Reception took place during National Library Week last Wednesday, April 10, on the GSU Library Balcony. Cosponsored by the GSU Friends of the Library, the GSU Library, and OSPR, over 50 members of the GSU faculty and staff were on hand to celebrate. The ceremony was presented by President Maimon, Provost Elizabeth Cada, Dr. David Golland, Lydia Morrow Ruettten, Dean of the GSU Library, and Ann Nagle, President of the Friends of the GSU Library.

In the words of Ann Nagle, “It has become tradition to celebrate the outstanding GSU faculty and staff during American Library Week.”

For questions regarding the event, contact the Library.

TFD215 Parent Job and Resource Fair at North High School
The School of Extended Learning, in partnership with Thornton Fractional District 215, will hold a TFD215 Parent Job & Resource Fair at TFD215 North High School in the Gold Gym located 755 Pulaski Road in Calumet City, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 24 from 3 – 7 p.m.

This is a free event. Click here for a list of participating organizations.

For more information, please email Dr. Felicia L. Townsend or call 708.534.3044.

GSU Awards Goodman Theatre Icon and Civic Leader Honorary Degrees

Contact: Zion Banks
Email: zbanks@govst.edu
Phone: 708.235.7685

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Goodman Theatre Resident Director Chuck Smith and Civic Leader Terry Mazany will receive honorary degrees from Governors State University for their leadership to remove cultural and economic barriers, while promoting a vision of equity and inclusion.

The honors will be awarded during the May 18 commencement ceremonies at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Smith’s and Mazany’s innovative leadership have inspired the human spirit and transformed lives through creative expression that speaks to the university’s 1969 founding charter.

“In recognition of the 50th anniversary, Governors State University salutes Mr. Smith and Mr. Mazany, two individuals who personify the university’s mission to offer an exceptional setting for inspired education, where students’ imagination is set free,” said President Elaine P. Maimon.
Smith, a 1977 GSU alumnus, was among the first graduates of the so-called university without walls.

For more than 25 years, Smith has illuminated the Goodman stage, beginning as an understudy before shifting his focus to directing.

His interpretations of such classics as "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "A Raisin in the Sun," and "The Amen Corner" have won critical and commercial praise. Through the Artistic Collective, Smith has shaped careers, working with some of Chicago's most notable acting talents, including Felicia P. Fields, Harry Lennix and Irma P. Hall, and he mentored emerging playwrights such as Lydia Diamond, Lynn Nottage, and David Barr.

Smith holds a Chicago Emmy Award for NBC's "Crime of Innocence" and was theatrical director of the Emmy-winning "Fast Break to Glory". In 1997, he received the Award of Merit from the Black Theatre Alliance.

Mazany is a self-described educator and civic leader who led the Chicago Community Trust (CCT) for more than a decade, doubling the agency's assets to more than $2.8 billion and increasing annual grant making to nonprofits to more than $300 million.
In 2011, Chicago Public Schools named him interim chief executive officer, a nod to his strategic leadership with traditional education initiatives at CCT.

The same year, Chicago artists seeking new audiences found a welcoming ear at the CCT, which generously funded the “MADE IN CHICAGO” series, which introduced more than 50 companies and their vibrant urban stories to the iconic Center for Performing Arts at GSU.

In 2018, Mazany joined the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta as Senior Vice President for Philanthropy.

Mazany will be honored during the 4:30 p.m. ceremony on May 18, when graduates will receive degrees from colleges of Education and Health and Human Services.

Smith will be honored during the 10 a.m. commencement ceremony, along with graduates from the colleges of Business and Arts and Sciences.

Admission to the commencement ceremonies is by ticket only.

**Save the Date: GSU’s 50th Birthday/Day of Giving**
On July 17, celebrate GSU’s 50th birthday! Join the entire GSU community including employees, retirees, alumni and students for a free “family reunion” style festival, then drive or take the party bus to the Park Forest Main Street Nights for a free concert by Maggie Speaks and Theo Peoples + fun activities for all ages. The birthday will also become GSU’s annual Day of Giving, because what better way to celebrate a milestone than to support a great cause? For GSU’s 50th birthday, please consider donating $50 or more. You can make your donation at www.govst.edu/donate.

Earth Day Walk 2019 at theNate

On Saturday, April 20 a group of sculpture and outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed the beautiful weather for a walk in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Several families brought their kids, who enjoyed running and playing around the monumental outdoor sculptures in nearly 100 acres of prairie land. A dog even joined the group (pets are welcome at theNate when kept leashed and cleaned-up after). The group decided the length of the tour, which lasted about 2 hours. The sunshine more than made up for the challenges of a windy day.
The Earth Day Walk is a tradition at theNate, along with the Summer Solstice Celebration coming on Saturday, June 22 - check out our website, Facebook, and Instagram for more details.

**STEAM Camp**

Governors State University is once again sponsoring hands-on science, technology, art and mathematics (STEAM) Camp fun for summer 2019! Through a series of fun, highly interactive activities students ages 11-16 will learn basic concepts in the visual and performing arts, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, physics, and robotics.

Session 1: Monday, July 15 to Friday, July 19, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Session 2: Monday, July 22 to Friday, July 26, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
STEAM Camp Plus activities available Monday to Thursday, 3 – 5 p.m. Additional fee of $60 per session, per camper applies.

Costs: $200 per session, per camper; limited number of partial scholarships may be available: please refer to website for more information.

**Sustaining Your Future: Balance. Passion. Action.**
With Earth Day taking place next week, GSU had the pleasure of hosting the annual Student Sustainability Conference on **Friday, April 12** sponsored by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium. Over 60 students and community leaders from Chicago's Southland visited GSU for a daylong series of speakers, panel discussions, and a poster session held in the Hall of Honors and GSU classrooms.

For questions about this event, email the library.

**Second Annual CSIff Accepting Submissions**

The Chicago Southland International Film Festival is accepting submissions for its second annual festival at Governors State University. The international short film competition featuring both student and professional films from around the globe will take place **September 6 – 7**, and the Feature Film Showcase (non-competition) will consist of feature film screenings on **September 8**.

Submit your film for consideration by **May 19**, and learn more at [www.govst.edu/CSIFF](http://www.govst.edu/CSIFF).
Announcements and Events

New in the Library

Looking for a place to charge your phones or computers? Looking for a group study area complete with computers, wide screen monitors, VHS/DVD players, Blu-ray, white boards and more? The library is the place for you. With 3 group study rooms, students can click here to reserve a room.

Plus, the library now has a charging station for apple and android phones and computers and 2 plug-in charging towers. One of the towers is available in the library and the other is on the library balcony.

"We are so happy to be able to offer students services that they have requested," said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. "Being able to support our GSU students, faculty and community is one of our key goals here in the GSU Library!"

Remember, the Library is Your Research Resource 24/7. Contact the library with any questions.

Films on Demand Available at the GSU Library

Films on Demand are just a click away. Celebrate the 100th birthday of the American icon Jackie Robinson with the two-part documentary series produced by legendary producer Ken Burns; or check the offerings on HBO, TED, or films that are exclusive to Films on Demand.

Click here to find Films on Demand. Click on the Streaming Video link located in the center box, and that will take you to the Films on Demand Link.

If you have any questions, please contact the library.

Health Promotions / Health Fair - MSN-FNP Students
Graduate students of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) - Family Nurse Practitioner concentration will be presenting their class final projects illustrating a myriad of health promotion and health concern topics on **Wednesday, April 24** from 1 – 6 p.m. in the F-Wing Atrium.

**Bone Marrow Donation Registration / Fundraiser**

Pre-Health Club is dedicating a fundraiser to Roman, a 5-year-old boy who is on the recipient list for a blood stem cell transplant in hopes of curing his blood disease.

This fundraiser aims to raise awareness about bone marrow national registries. At this event, Pre-Health Club will have a representative from Be The Match organization, who will be able to inform you about bone marrow donation and answer questions that you may have about the process. If you choose to do so, the representative will also be able to register you in the Be The Match Registry at no cost.

There will also be cookies ($0.50), brownies ($1.00), cupcakes ($1.50), and muffins ($1.50) for sale at this event so please feel free to stop by!

**Men’s Response to Sexual Assault Discussion**

With the #MeToo social media movement gaining strength, many men have not only been asking, “What can I do?” but “What DID I do?” the latter of which has led to another movement, #MeTooI’mSorry. On Thursday, **April 25** at 4 p.m. in Prairie Place, there will be a discussion on “Men’s Response to Sexual Assault,” moderated by Sean Smith (MSI) and facilitated by Retired Professor Dr. John Cook, and co-sponsored by Student Health & Counseling Dept., and the YWCA.

Aimed at increasing awareness and providing open dialogue, participants will share personal experiences, become more familiar with Title IX and sexual assault terminology, and learn about strategies that men can use to be more aware, protective, and supportive to survivors of sexual assault. All male-identified students and faculty are invited to participate in this candid and confidential discussion.

Questions? Email [Sean Smith](mailto:Sean.Smith@gsu.edu).

**Student Leadership Awards**

Celebrate student leaders with Student Life at GSU! Please remember to reserve your seat to attend the 7th Annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet on **Friday, April 26**, in the Hall of Governors at 6 p.m. Dress to impress.
**Senior Cording Ceremony**

The Senior Cording Ceremony is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of GSU's Senior class. Faculty and staff who would like to attend the Senior Cording event on **Wednesday, May 15** at 7 p.m. should email Katherine Brookins by **Friday, April 26**.

**Spring Career and Internship Fair**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring the 2019 Spring Career and Internship Fair, to be held on **Tuesday, April 30** from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts lobby. All students, alumni, and community members are encouraged to attend. Employers will be recruiting for vacant internship and job opportunities in the areas of Business, Communication, Technology, Community Health, Education, and Non-Profits.

Please see the [Career Services events page](#) for the latest update of employers attending. Please call the Office of Career Services for additional information at 708.235.3974.

**Support Occupational Therapy Students with Chipotle**

Make dinner a selfless act by joining Occupational Therapy students for a fundraiser to support GSU Student Occupational Therapy Association. Come in to the Chipotle at 4815 W. 211th Street in Matteson on **Tuesday, April 30** between 4 – 8 p.m. Bring in [this flyer](#), show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you’re supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to GSU Student Occupational Therapy Association.

For questions, contact [Aviana Valdez](#).
LSW-LCSW Preparation Course

The School of Extended Learning will offer a two-day LSW-LCSW Preparation Course on **Saturday, June 1** and **Saturday, June 8** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This review course will use the most up-to-date examination materials and will reflect the latest diagnostic publication (DSM-5™). Attendees will receive a comprehensive study guide with current practice questions, test-taking strategies, information on what to expect on the day of the exam, as well as reference materials at the end of the study guide.

The course will be taught by Dr. Giesla Grumbach and Dr. Lydia Falconnier. Please register [here](#). For more information, please email [Dr. Felicia L. Townsend](mailto:Dr.Felicia.L.Townsend) or call 708.534.3044.

CAPM® Exam Preparation Course 100% online

Starting **July 15**, the School of Extended Learning will offer the CAPM® Exam Preparation Course 100% online. The course breaks down complex topics for anyone who is interested in or are just starting out in project management.

By successfully completing this course, participants will earn the required 23 contact hours needed to meet the credential application requirements for the PMI CAPM® Certification Exam. GSU is a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P) with the PMI® with all material approved through the PMI®.
The course will be taught by Richard Manprisio. GSU students, faculty, staff and alumni can register at a special rate of $550. Please register at this link.

For more information, please contact Dr. Felicia L. Townsend at 708.534.3044.

**June 2019 IDOC State Testing**

The Illinois Department of Corrections is taking applications for the position of Correctional Officer Trainee. All who are interested, click here to fill out a brief application. You will then be contacted with an invitation to attend the screening, which will take place on Monday, June 10, and Tuesday, June 11. For more information, please contact the Office of Career Services at 708.235.3974.

For questions, contact Cynthia Staples.

**Emerald City Theatre Summer Camp**

Emerald City Theatre returns to the Center for Performing Arts this summer with an immersive, week-long, summer camp June 17-21. Combining some of Broadway’s biggest hits from classics like *Newsies*, *Into the Woods*, and *Sound of Music* with contemporary smash hits like *Hamilton*, *Wicked*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and more. Campers will focus on the finer details of performing musical theatre with an emphasis on dancing and vocal technique to hone their skills and challenge them as performers. The final showcase on June 21 at 7:30 p.m. will feature a number of Broadway hits, connected with characters created by the students. Register your camper through the box office at 708.235.2222. Camp Registration Fee is $250. Limited to 60 campers.

**CAPM® Exam Preparation Course 100% online**

Starting July 15, the School of Extended Learning will offer the CAPM® Exam Preparation Course 100% online. The course breaks down complex topics for anyone who is interested in or are just starting out in project management.

By successfully completing this course, participants will earn the required 23 contact hours needed to meet the credential application requirements for the PMI CAPM® Certification Exam. GSU is a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P) with the PMI® with all material approved through the PMI®.

The course will be taught by Richard Manprisio. GSU students, faculty, staff and alumni can register at a special rate of $550. Please register at this link.

For more information, please contact Dr. Felicia L. Townsend at 708.534.3044.

**Join Us This Fall for Line Dancing Lessons**

![Dance](image)
Dawn the Dancin' Deeva is committed to having fun while striving for excellence in dance. Dawn believes everyone has the ability to increase physical and emotional wellbeing through dance. Participants will enjoy quality instruction from Dawn in a relaxed environment that promotes self-confidence, self-respect, inner strength, discipline, and appreciation through dance.

Join us this fall to learn the latest line dance steps. Classes will take place on Wednesdays from 1 – 2 p.m., **September 18 – October 9**. No partner required. The fee to join is $25 with advanced registration, or $10 at the door per session.

[Register here.](#)

**Mindfulness Practice in the Library Every Thursday**

Join Dr. Tim Pedigo every Thursday afternoon from 3:20 – 4:20 p.m. for a meditation session and mindfulness practice in the GSU Library. “These are challenging times, but an amazing opportunity to practice mindfulness,” offered Dr. Pedigo.

Questions? Email [GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu](mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu).