Farewell to Beloved Academic Advisor Bonnie Gregg

The Jaguar community is mourning the loss of a beloved member. Senior Academic Advisor Bonnie Gregg recently died, after a long battle with ALS.

A GSU alumnus, Gregg won two prestigious, peer-nominated awards during her 10-year tenure at Governors State University, where she joined the Board of Governors administrative staff in 1998.

She left and returned in 2006 as a member of the counseling team as an academic advisor where she served until 2016, when she left on medical leave.

The following year, Bonnie received the prestigious 2017 Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Award in honor of GSU’s previous Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. It is the highest honor GSU bestows on employees.

In a nomination letter signed by 36 members in the College of Education, Interim Dean Shannon Dermer said Gregg represents the qualities central to a Baysore awardee.

“She has absolute integrity, total competence, generous dedication, and unfailing civility,” Dermer wrote.

“Alumni still say, ‘Bonnie was the best, I don’t know how I would have made it through the program without her,’” GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said when she gave Gregg the award during the 2017 Convocation ceremony.

It was the second community-wide award for Gregg.

In 2013, she won an Excellence Award for creating programs and services, including an advising syllabus, a counseling peer mentor program, and study plan sessions that brought students in for group advising.
Gregg also worked with the Counseling program coordinator to develop two new certificate programs – the Post-Masters certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the Post-Masters Certificate in Marriage and Family Counseling.

In her nomination letter, Dermer invoked a line from Gregg’s beloved movie “Empire Strikes Back.”

“We may not see her every day anymore, but Bonnie is a Force that will always be felt at GSU. She is a luminous being and a Force that will always be around around us . . .between you, me, the tree, the rock, everywhere.”

Gregg’s visitation services will be held from 3 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16 at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home, 295 Main St. NW, Bourbonnais, IL.

The funeral service will be held Wednesday, April 17 at 10 a.m. at St. Teresa Church, 331 N. St Joseph Ave., Kankakee, IL.

A luncheon will immediately follow the funeral service at the Settles Center, 901 S. 9th St., Kankakee IL.

Click here to view Gregg's obituary online.

**Associate Director of Admissions Tiffani Robertson Recognized for Cohort Service Award**

[Image]

Congratulations to Tiffani Robertson, GSU Associate Director of Admissions, who recently won a cohort service award at Illinois State University’s Educational Administration and Foundations (EAF) annual Red Carpet Gala. Robertson was also recognized for earning a scholarship in the Educational Administration Foundations - Higher Education Administration Ph.D. program at ISU. The Gala highlights the accomplishments of educators and administrators across preK-12 and higher education.
“We created the gala to showcase the individuals behind the outstanding work that is being done in the field, and we do it with the flash and glamour we believe educators deserve,” said Lenford Sutton, professor and EAF department chair.

**EAF rolls out the red carpet for educators**

Tommy Navickas  April 1, 2019  Filed Under College of Education

The closing remarks of the 2019 EAF on the Red Carpet Gala were delivered by emcee Andrew Wise ’95, Ph.D. ’08. The Olympia School District superintendent shared an undeniable truth in P-20 education to an audience of over 200 educators.
“The challenges and pressures on our educators today are far greater than we have ever seen. Evenings like tonight are important because educators deserve to be recognized for their achievements,” he said. “By shining a spotlight on our colleagues, it reminds them that their work is seen, appreciated and that it is inspiring others.”

The annual gala event is hosted by Illinois State’s Department of Educational Administration and Foundations (EAF) at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. It highlights the accomplishments of educators across PreK-12 and higher education, including policy efforts. It also celebrates student scholarship winners.

The gala’s ambiance includes a red-carpet runway and an impressive display of lights and sounds not often found in education ceremonies.

“We created the gala to showcase the individuals behind the outstanding work that is being done in the field, and we do it with the flash and glamour we believe educators deserve,” said Lenford Sutton, professor and EAF department chair.

A total of 21 individuals received awards. A full list of winners is listed below and on the EAF’s gala website.

LeRoy School District Superintendent Gary Tipsord ’90, M.S. ’01, took home the Ben C. Hubbard Leadership and Distinguished Service Award. He was recognized for heading a collaborative effort that established Illinois’ first evidence-based school funding model.

“A lesson learned through this work, in a time where our natural inclination seems to gravitate toward either demonizing the group at one end or marginalizing the group at the other end, when people can come together around the pragmatic center, great things can be accomplished in the best interest of everyone,” Tipsord said. “The work on Evidence-Based Funding required such an effort, and we are fortunate that our school leaders and legislators worked toward that pragmatic center for the children of Illinois.”
Marcia Hickrod ’58, M.S. ’64, Ph.D. ’80, who serves as the academic advisor for students in the College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) program, earned the EAF Fellows award. Though she has over 50 years of experience serving the University, retirement is not on her mind.

“It means everything to me to be able to make a difference in the lives of CSPA students; they are going out and improving the state of student affairs for colleges and universities around the world,” Hickrod said.

The gala also celebrates individuals who too-often go unheralded in their day-to-day work, including Tim Jackson, who serves as a route driver for Central Receiving at Illinois State University.

“Another very important purpose for this event is to bring together the EAF community,” Sutton said. “To us, community includes students, faculty, staff, alumni, their families, and the countless individuals who have partnered with our department over the years.”

While primarily a celebration, the gala also serves as a reminder of how important this work is to every learner, including those who aspire to become the next leaders in the field of education.

“We must tell our story of success and encourage people to pursue the field of Education as a career,” said Wise, addressing the audience.

“I encourage each of you to find someone worthy of recognition and praise them for their work. Continue to publicly lift-up those in your schools and organizations for their efforts and accomplishments. A small act of appreciation can make a world of difference in the life of an educator.”

Planning for the 2020 gala has already started, and it is slated for February 15, 2020, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. All supporters of EAF and educator preparation at Illinois State are invited to attend.

Ben C. Hubbard Leadership & Distinguished Service Award
Gary Tipsord, superintendent, LeRoy Schools
Manahan Family Teaching Award
Dianne Renn, associate professor and associate department chair in the Department of EAF

Higher Education Leadership Award
Gigi Fansler, vice president for accreditation relations at The Higher Learning Commission

CSPA Alumni of the Year Award
Carol Sumner, vice president of the division for diversity, equity, and inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at Texas Tech University

EAF Spirit Award
Tim Jackson, route driver for Central Receiving, Illinois State University
Crystal Nourie, assistant registrar, Illinois State University
Lynn Litwiller, accountant, EAF department, Illinois State University
Herschel Hannah, assistant superintendent of Human Resources, Bloomington Public Schools District 87
Lenford Sutton, department chair, EAF department, Illinois State University

Barbara Sizemore Research Award
John Metoyer, professor of English and interim department chair, Department Art and Architecture, Harold Washington College, City Colleges of Chicago

Paul Vogt Higher Education Dissertation of the Year
Katy Strzepek, director of women’s studies at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa

NTT of the Year
David Braun, attorney at Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk and Miller, LTD. in Champaign

CPED Dissertation of the Year Award
Christina Hild, MAX teaching consultant, Mattoon
Matthew Seaton, superintendent, Streator High School, Streator
Scholarship Productivity Award
Lydia Kyei-Blankson, associate professor, Department of EAF, Illinois State University

Principal of the Year
Stacie France, principal, Kinsley Junior High in Unit 5 Schools

Superintendent of the Year
Andrew Wise, superintendent, Olympia Schools

EAF Fellows
Marcia Hickrod, academic advisor, College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) program at Illinois State University

Cohort Service Awards
Tiffani Robertson, associate director of admissions at Governors State University, Chicago
Lauren Gray, Planning, Research and Policy Analysis at Illinois State University
Brenda Weddington, chief enrollment management officer and university registrar, Rush University, Chicago

Grateful Graduate Means Business
It’s remarkable to look back and realize a single conversation changed your life. For Robert Navarro, talking with Governors State University Academic Advisor Jennifer Taylor set him on a path full of opportunities that are leading him to success.

As Navarro prepares to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in May, he recently reflected on that critical meeting with Taylor, as well as the advantages of attending a university where professors know your name.

“It’s a small school, which helped me get into leadership positions and to get my foot in the door in student organizations,” he said.

Taylor was among the first to extend a hand to Navarro, who had already attended two other colleges, including Dual Degree Partner Moraine Valley Community College. He arrived at GSU determined to become an auditor and shared his vision with his GSU academic advisor.

“Jennifer was very welcoming and genuine,” he said. “I could tell she cared about me and my plans, and that was after talking with me for just for a couple of minutes,” Navarro said.

There were plenty of others who believed in him, too.

During his first semester, he needed a letter of recommendation and decided to ask a business law instructor, Assistant Professor Alice Keane who was happy to provide it.

A couple of months later, Associate Professor David Green emailed him about GSU’s plan to nominate him to the Illinois CPA Society’s Student Ambassador Program.

Navarro learned later that Keane had made the recommendation. As a result, he was among the first GSU students to be appointed by the selective society.

“That snowballed into more things,” Navarro said. Among them was the opportunity to attend the society’s Mary T. Washington Wylie Internship Preparation Program, a three-day workshop that gave him a chance to network with professional accountants and get job-search tips.
At GSU, Navarro was responsible for promoting the society’s membership to fellow students, which meant making classroom presentations and hosting special events on campus.

Most importantly, being an ambassador helped prepare him for his career in ways he never expected.

“I wasn’t looking for a leadership position, but it definitely helped me grow,” Navarro said. “Before I became an ambassador, I was worried because I wasn’t comfortable with public speaking, but it was required. I knew I had to become comfortable with getting out of my comfort zone.”

When he was seeking an internship, GSU Career Services directed him to an opportunity at Mi-Jack Products, an industrial crane manufacturer based in Hazel Crest that frequently employs GSU College of Business students.

Navarro worked with a construction equipment firm in Panama and found his ability to read Spanish came in handy.

After the internship ended, Navarro continued to work at Mi-Jack while finishing up his degree, and he plans to return part-time after graduation.

But his stay will be short. In August, Navarro will head to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where he will be one of four students studying on a full scholarship for the master’s program in accounting.

Navarro knows his experience at GSU was instrumental to helping him forge his path to become an auditor in a way other schools could not. He’s grateful.

“I don’t think I could’ve experienced this level of success anywhere else.”

Humans of GSU: Eloise Orr

State University Public Health Brigade was the greatest thing I’ve ever done. I’ve never experienced that kind of joy before. It was travel with a purpose.

I was one of four Spanish speakers in a group of about 20 GSU students on a trip to Nicaragua in 2018. You leave as a bunch of people who don’t know really each other and you come back as a family.
We were in these small villages, building showers and latrines for people who lived there. They never had running water. This one woman, whose grandson I played with, was so grateful. She had never taken a shower in her life! Can you imagine that?

The people were really wonderful. They had so little, yet they were so easy-going, so loving, and so appreciative of everything we did. Here, we have so much, but some people can be bitter and crabby. It really put things into perspective.

Every place we went, I always wound up playing with kids. You don't think you can fall in love that quickly, but you can.”

— Eloise Orr, graduate student, Masters of Health Science #HumansofGSU

Social Science Research Team Presents at Midwestern Psychological Association

The Social Science Research Team presented the topic “Interdisciplinary Research Teams: Working Well with Others” at the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting on Friday, April 12 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. Crystal L. Harris presented on Overcoming Challenges, Jelena Radovic-Fanta presented the Benefits of Interdisciplinary Research, and Leslie Grange presented a Financial Literacy Project.

A Gala to Remember
Governors State University’s Glitter and Gold Marvel Gala was a red carpet affair that celebrated heroes whose superpowers have transformed students and launched successful careers while serving the Southland and beyond.
Noting 50 years of innovation since the university was founded on July 17, 1969, the gala marked the beginning of a celebration that will span more than a year to end in June 2020.

“We’re honoring the past, celebrating the present, and jumpstarting the future,” said Will Davis, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and CEO of the GSU Foundation. “We’re celebrating 50 years of education, excellence, innovation, leadership, and your generosity.”

Davis played gracious host to about 200 guests who included notable alumni, state and local VIPs, as well as grateful students. GSU Trustees Masah SamForay and Carney A. Barr, whose brother David (dressed in a kilted skirt) led a round of gift-giving, also joined in the festivities.

Comic Damon Williams, sporting a black superhero’s cape, entertained guests on the Center for Performing Arts stage with quips about the obscure CPA location and the gimmicky costume.

In a more serious moment, he reminded supporters of the night’s goal. “We’re here to raise money for scholarships,” he said.

Before elegantly dressed guests took their seats for a delicious dinner, they walked the red carpet and posed for photos against a 50th anniversary themed backdrop.

Once inside, GSU Theatre and Performance Studies dancers and the Legacy Band thrilled all.

Alumnus Justin Smith led the Legacy Band, which played a medley of 80s upbeat and sentimental tunes including Dionne Warwick’s “That’s What Friends Are For” during the evening.
“I’m home,” a jubilant Smith announced to delighted guests, kicking off a round of student and alumni testimonies. “People like you stood behind me so I could graduate in four years, debt-free.”

Donald and Helen Morrison Endowed Scholarship winner T’Kyla Clayton also will graduate with no debt because of the generosity of others.

“I’m not only grateful to speak with you but also for the opportunity that this scholarship has afforded me to advance my education and cultural experiences through the diverse family I have gained here,” said senior Clayton who is studying for a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

Senior Lecturer Jim Munz had such a rich GSU experience that he earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees at GSU. He later returned for his PhD and now teaches in Health Administration.

A native South Sider, Munz said GSU stepped in when other schools shunned him, allowing him to complete his degree. “I am forever indebted to Governors State. It does right by the community every single day.”

GSU President Elaine Maimon, feeling emotional from the accolades, thanked supporters for helping to transform GSU, and the community by extension. She reflected on the lyrics of Warwick’s hit single penned to raise money to fight the AIDS epidemic.

“I heard Justin playing, and I kept thinking, ‘That’s what GSU is for,’” she said. “Thank you all for making Governors State a very special place.”

Davis also gave a special thanks to sponsors First Midwest Banks, ComEd, Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC., and Tito’s Handmade Vodka for creating a historic event.

“The Glitter & Gold Marvel Gala was our most successful ever. That wouldn’t have been possible without our generous partners and loyal supporters,” Davis said.

Watch the Marvel superhero video here.

**Annual Research Day Celebrates 50 Years of Scholarship**
University Communication Professor Jayne Goode was puzzled by the number of students failing her class a couple of years back.

Students were seeking her help, indicating their investment in the course, but Goode was stunned to learn the one thing most were missing.

"I was puzzled by the number of students who did not appear to have materials for their other classes," Goode told faculty and staff and students gathered for an April 12 Research Day presentation, the fourth annual event and a simultaneous nod to the university’s 50th anniversary in 2019.

In a brief review of university history, Professor Shelly Kumar said GSU has always prided itself on research, first made possible with mini-grants now known as Intellectual Life grants.

"I can’t think of a better way to celebrate the university than through the work being done here—50 years of scholarship at GSU," said Provost Beth Cada.

In academic year 2018-19, scholars and students studied issues as diverse as the extreme impact of climate change, student retention, and awareness among police officers about human trafficking. A high school student presented research on the evolution of the humanities.
Scholars discussed their findings in breakout sessions across the university, while poster presentations dominated the Hall of Governors, engaging inquiring minds in a community of life-long learners.

In Goode’s “Why Aren’t My Students Reading,” a panel of thought leaders discussed why students were reading class materials, including books and open-access information.

“We discovered there is a hidden curriculum—unwritten rules—that we need to demystify,” said Kerri Morris, a member of Goode’s working group and GSU’s Director of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC).

Morris’s inquiry into the unlikely phenomenon of students not reading was met with telling questions from students about the necessity of the book.

The pushback revealed the professors had been proceeding with assumptions that were not communicated to students, many of whom are first-generation and unaccustomed to college culture.

Goode said the solution is simple communication. “We need to have more conversations and let students know what the text book is, and why they need to read it. We need to tell them why it’s important.”

Absent answers, students often fail or drop out of classes, impacting the entire university—a point President Elaine P. Maimon brought up as she encouraged presenters to keep exploring.

“We are really struggling with this issue,” she said. “We need this research to help us determine what to do.”
Across campus, Frances Kostarelos, GSU Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, explored what local and regional agencies, starting with churches, can do to impact climate change, a global issue being discussed among scientists and theologians.

Scholars from traditionally opposing disciplines are studying the Anthropocene, the current geological age viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

Extreme weather patterns are intensifying underlying problems of poverty and food insecurity, and disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, Kostarelos said.

The rate and extent of impact makes climate change an urgent environmental issue that demands immediate action she would like to see the faith community lead.

“Reduction of carbon emissions will not be enough—we will need innovative solutions,” she said.

Professors and college students usually lead the research and discussions on Research Day, but this year a high school student joined the conversation.

Crown Point High School senior Elliot Flynn presented “Chaos within the Humanities: The Postmodern Conundrum.”

GSU doctoral student Alexandrea Horton supported Flynn, who said was pleased to present research at a university-level. “I’m extremely grateful for this opportunity.”

President Maimon thanked all for participating in the day and reminded scholars why their work is important.

“This is what a university is for—researching, teaching, and service—and this day is so emblematic of who we are at GSU with research being presented by faculty and students. You are extending knowledge and making sure our students are involved with the practical 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 available on Jaguar Connection.

GSU Celebrates Earth Week
Monday, April 22 is Earth Day, an annual event that began in 1970 and is now celebrated in more than 193 countries around the world. At GSU, the newly created Sustainability Advisory Committee, in collaboration with departments throughout GSU, is planning a week-long series of events in celebration of Earth Day. The celebration will kick-off with a Tom Neilson Concert, *Peace is an Environmental Issue* from noon – 1 p.m. in F1622. A complete list of events will be sent out via eblast.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is co-chaired by Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library, and W. Paul Bylaska, Vice-President of Administration and Finance. The mission of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) is to embed sustainability into the culture, practices, academic programs, and campus operations of our campus and community as outlined in Strategy 2025.

“We are very pleased to have the commitment to Sustainability by so many GSU departments throughout our GSU community,” offered Dean Ruetten at a recent SAC meeting.

“When considering the environmental impact upon our present and future generations, sustainability is not optional. It requires a commitment to help our planet be as healthy as it can be!” stressed Vice President Bylaska.

**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 Ruetten, 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.

**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.
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 for criteria and application.

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.

Announcements and Events
The Scholarly Publishing Pep Talk: Preparing for Publications and the Aftermath

Wednesday, April 17: 1 – 2:30 p.m. D2417

Topics to be covered: A review of the basics of scholarly publishing in journals, writing better abstracts, how to position your article for greater impact and citation rates, and how to avoid pitfalls of predators. The Library’s scholarly publishing resources such as Endnote Online, Cabells Analytics (White list and Black list of publishing opportunities), and Web of Science tools will be reviewed.

Learn how your reputation can benefit from Open Access. This workshop will especially be of interest to new faculty, grad students, and others who would like to learn more about the scholarly publishing process and how to get published. If you are unable to attend, scholarly publishing consultation is available by contacting Professor Paul Blobaum. Please register for the workshop or set up a separate consultation by emailing

The Office of Career Services Hosts National Student Employee Week Workshop Series

The Office of Career Services is hosting a series of professional development workshops during National Student Employee week. Any student employee that completes three workshops will be recognized with a certificate of professional development at the Student Employee Recognition Reception on April 16 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. All student employees are invited to attend the reception.

Career Services Hosts Student Employee Recognition Reception

GSU students and employees will gather to celebrate student achievements at the Student Employee Recognition Reception on Tuesday, April 16 from 3 – 4 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

This will be an opportunity to recognize student employees for professional development and includes Certificates of Professional Development for those students who attended three or more Career Service workshops in the 2018 – 19 academic year. Certificate recipients will receive their awards personally from GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. All GSU students are welcome to attend and will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into a drawing for a $50 gift card from the GSU bookstore. Student employees will receive two tickets. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact the Office of Career Services for more information.
Call for Student Nominations for 2019 Student Commencement Speaker and Vocalist – Extended Deadline

The Commencement Student Speaker and Vocalist Committee extended the application deadline to April 19 for the commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 18. There will be two ceremonies; one at 10 a.m. for CAS and COB, and one at 4:30 p.m. for CHHS and COE.

As a result, the committee will select two commencement speakers and two commencement singers, one for each ceremony. The speaker will provide an address, and the vocalist will sing the National Anthem at the start of the ceremony. We are seeking applications for candidates who represent all colleges for this prestigious honor.

Applications due by April 19 via Jaguar Connection.

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; celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with the Brilliant Earth category; 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 to you the Films on Demand Link.

If you have any questions, please contact the library.

Parent and Job 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 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.

**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.

**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.

**Chicago-Style Stepping Lessons: Fee Lowered!**
Chicago-Style Stepping is an urban dance that originated in Chicago and continues to evolve while defining its unique style and culture within the context of mainstream Swing dance. Now GSU students, faculty, and staff can learn classic footwork from Celeste Sutton and her husband, who are both award winning Steppin' contestants. View number 33 at this link for a glimpse at Chicago Style Steppin'.

Classes are now only $25 per person and will run Tuesdays from 6 – 7 p.m. on April 16, April 24, April 30 and May 7 on the GSU Racquetball Court. Participants must wear appropriate dance attire and shoes. Couples are encouraged to attend together, but not required. Physician's approval recommended. Waiver Required.

Register here. Contact Michelle Sebasco with any questions.

In Their Shoes: Understanding and Experiencing International Students’ Social, Cultural, and Academic Lives

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend a symposium and panel-discussion on specific academic struggles facing second language students from a strengths-based pedagogical perspective rather than the predominant deficits discourse.
Through guided conversation and a student panel discussion, the following academic topics will be covered:
1) the unspoken [behavioral and academic] assumptions in a classroom
2) the coded language of a course syllabus and assignments
3) the colliding pedagogy of learning by rote memorization versus the course-work expectation of independent analysis.

The discussion will take place **Friday, April 19** from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in room D34000.

Sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee Co-facilitators: Akiko Ota, Ed.D. Director, English Language Learning Center; Chris Greiner, M.F.A. Visiting Lecturer, Division of Arts and Letters.

For information, contact [Chris Greiner](708.235.7143).

**Team Jaguar Fit Camp**

Back by popular demand, Team Jaguar Fitcamp is a 5-week class beginning **Monday, April 22**, 6 – 7 p.m., that will focus on a variety of ways participants can maintain and improve their physical health and body composition. Each class will include strength training, cardio intervals and more.

[Learn more here.](#)

**Volunteers Needed for the Multicultural Fashion Show**
Help celebrate cultural diversity at GSU! On Tuesday, April 23 from 3 – 4 p.m., the Office of International Services will host a Multicultural Fashion Show. International Services is looking for models, singers, dancers, and coordinators to represent their native culture, somewhere they have been, or a country that they love. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome to join. Please confirm your interest in volunteering by April 5.

Sign up to volunteer now.

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.

**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.

**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.
Register [here](#). Questions? 708.534.4088.

**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](mailto:)

at 708.534.3044.

**Join Us This Fall for Line Dancing Lessons**
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.
Workshops and Training Opportunities

Meditation Session And Mindfulness Practice
Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Drs. Tim Pedigo and Maristela Zell host a meditation session and mindfulness practice every Thursday for students, faculty, and staff in the library. Come to the library, walk beyond the balcony and the Quiet Study Area to find the Mindfulness Practice location.

Career Services Drop-In Hours

Are you a student in need of help with your resume, cover letter, job search, or more? The Office of Career Services has staff available to help you navigate every path leading to your success.

Take the first step by visiting drop-in hours: no appointment is necessary.

Tuesdays, 2 – 4:30 p.m., B1215 in the Student Success Commons
Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Library Technology Desk

Drop-in hours are on a first-come, first-served basis. Email Career Services for more information.

Faculty Profile Page Update Made Easier

Faculty members: did you know posting your profile on the GSU website can yield higher search engine results for you? Since GSU’s website employs Google Search as its engine, posting your profile means any searches for you, your areas of expertise, or even keywords within your CV will result in a higher search engine listing result for your profile.

This also means that academic colleagues, as well as those within your research community with shared fields of interest, can learn more about you and the breadth of your work in one centralized academic location. In addition, your areas of expertise will be easily discernable to media members seeking subject-matter experts for commentary and insight.

Finally, you can facilitate contact through other channels by presenting your professional personal website or social media presence as part of your profile.

Click on this link for the online submission form and we will have your profile up within a matter of days.

In addition, the Office of Marketing & Communications will be taking headshots in E1522, between 1 and 2 p.m., on the following days this spring:

Friday February 1
Monday February 18
Friday March 1
Monday March 18
Monday April 1
Tuesday April 16
Wednesday May 1
Thursday May 16
Monday June 3
Monday June 17