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Office of Marketing and Communications

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Governors State University (GSU) Senior Maria Gonzalez will never forget the flicker that started the spark—the joyful sight of a preschooler suddenly grasping a concept that made her realize she could have a career in bilingual education.

“I was volunteering at a place where my aunt was learning English, babysitting kids for the other adult students. I was teaching colors and numbers to kids who were two to five years old, and their eyes just sparkled. I remember thinking, ‘I can do this for a living.’”

In May, Gonzalez will take the final step on a successful path to leading her own classroom when she receives her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with endorsements in elementary, middle, and bilingual education at (GSU). The daughter of immigrants who spoke only Spanish, Gonzalez is a native English-speaker and eager to help children bridge the language gap she knows firsthand.

“I have the background to know when they’re struggling,” she said.
Gonzalez, then a student at Richard J. Daley College, was drawn to GSU by the award-winning Dual Degree Program, a unique partnership between GSU and 17 Chicagoland community colleges. The DDP provides support and a seamless transition for students to earn associate and bachelor's degrees. “I met (GSU Director of Graduate Admissions and Retention) Jason Vignone who recruited me, and he was a huge help. He told me about the DDP, and I got a full scholarship,” she said.

At GSU, she found the faculty to be excellent instructors who were also supportive. “I was very lucky with all my professors,” she said, “especially Professor Lisa Chang. I was always so afraid of math, but now my specialty is math because of her.”

Lecturer Thomas Bierdz opened a new world to her in special education, inspiring Gonzalez to pursue that endorsement, as well.

“Professor Glenna Howell placed me in [west suburban] Woodridge to student teach. I was placed in a third grade classroom with an amazing mentor teacher.” After student teaching, she was assigned a long-term substitute position as the English Language/Bilingual Resource teacher, where she remains today.

“I have 42 students—kindergarten through second grade—who come from all over the world. I have students from Ghana and Uzbekistan who didn’t speak a word of English when I first met them. At first, I was disappointed because I wanted to be a classroom teacher not an EL teacher, but now I love my position.”

As a wife and mother with two young children who worked part-time for Chicago Public Schools while she was enrolled at GSU, Gonzalez’s life was full to the brim with responsibility and commitments.

But she was grateful that her hard work paid off as she was welcomed into GSU’s Honors Program.

Despite her packed schedule, Gonzalez made time for others. “I volunteered once a month, mostly for projects where I could take my daughters along, like helping at a fun run in Peotone,” she said. “I think it’s really good for them to have these experiences.”

While student teaching, Gonzalez found her time was precious, but the experience confirmed that the classroom is the place she needs to be, especially for students who speak Spanish or another language.

“As an EL/Bilingual resource teacher, I have very small classes of just six or eight students. With such a small group, you really get to know and help the students. They are amazing. I think I’ve learned more from my students than they’ve learned from me.”
A Dose of Reality During Money Smart Week

During Money Smart Week at Governors State University (GSU), Financial Aid Advisor Lorie Webster took her lessons back to school. Webster worked with junior high school students to demystify the dollar with “The Reality Store”, an annual event that allows participants to learn practical lessons after having been assigned a level of education, and profession. Students choose their own lifestyle from three options—frugal, moderate, or elaborate.

Tables set up at O.W. Huth Middle School, where Webster's children attended, represented pay stations for taxes, student loans, personal items, food, and utilities.

GSU students Lester Van Moody, Nechawn Johnson, and Kristiana Russell were on hand to help Webster and steer the young people through “life”.

The exercise made Communications major Johnson feel nostalgic.

“This would have been really beneficial when I was in school. It kind of helps you know what to expect.” Johnson worked with students at a table labeled “checking account,” where they paid taxes.
First stop on the circuit was the station supervised by Russell and Moody who helped students determine what they owed in taxes.

Marketing major Russell said the new understanding of responsibility was all over their naive faces at her station. "They realize being grown isn’t what they thought it would be," Russell said. "Especially when they get to the last table and they only have $200 left," quipped Johnson.

Webster, a GSU Counseling student, first ran the Reality Store in 2016 as part of a class project. The student response was so overwhelming that she’s returned every year.

“I love the excitement they express, and how they now understand what it’s like to be an adult like their parents, who after they pay all their bills, don't have any money left.”

The exercise is a good way to get future Jaguars focused on their future, as well, Webster said.

“Money Smart Week is our outreach to the community to help students think about money and how to pay for college.”

**Social Work Students Celebrate Annual Advocacy Day in Springfield**
The Governors State University Department of Social Work recently traveled by bus to the state capitol in Springfield, IL, for their annual Advocacy Day under the leadership of the National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter. Thirty-four social work students and one faculty member, Dr. Phyllis West, flooded the state capitol building with hundreds of other students and advanced practitioners.

Governor J.B Pritzker commemorated the event by addressing the crowd about increasing funding for social services, protecting the professional title of social worker, and challenging everyone present to grow the profession by encouraging friends and family to pursue a career in Social Work. This was the first time in 20+ years that an active governor participated in the Advocacy Day festivities – a landmark event for GSU students.

Special thanks to the Social Work Student Organization, Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society, and Generating Hope for their efforts in making this annual event a continued part of the Social Work development program.

Business Student Making a Mark
College of Business MBA student Jamaal Webster is making his name known through scholarly and volunteering opportunities. Jamaal was recently presented with the prestigious Tom Mitropolous Scholarship from the Traffic Club of Chicago as well as the CN Scholarship in spring of 2019.

Jamaal, who received his undergraduate degree from the College of Business, is currently pursuing his MBA in Supply Chain Management with an expected graduation date of 2021.

Jamaal serves as Vice President of the Association for Supply Chain Management and finds time to give back to organizations such as Male Success Initiative and Office of International Services, all while working a full time job. Jamaal also participated in study abroad for 2018 traveling to Eastern Europe. Upon returning, he then became a study abroad ambassador promoting study abroad opportunities to GSU students.

He also recently received his certificate from the Student Leadership Institute and finished his Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma.

Research Day 2019
Research Day will be held on **Friday, April 12**. Governors State University has a distinguished record of student presentation of research, expanded in 2016 into Research Day to broaden participation and engagement with the great research being done on campus.

As we celebrate GSU’s 50th anniversary, students and faculty are encouraged to share their scholarly and creative work with the campus community at Research Day.

Visit the website.

**Student Life Hosts Homecoming Think Tank**

Student Life will host a Homecoming Think Tank to brainstorm ideas for next year’s Homecoming in room A2150 on **April 11** from 3 - 4 p.m.

Please feel free to stop by **Student Life** in room A2100 for your club/organization questions and needs, or call 708.235.7362.

**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.

**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**

**Voices of Spring with Poet Sylvia Goldman**
On **April 11** at 12:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors, there will be a celebration of spring hosted by poet Silvia Goldman.

Goldman is from Uruguay, and has lived in the United States for seventeen years. Her poems and academic essays have appeared in literary journals in Latin America, the U.S., and Europe. She has three books of poetry: *Cinco movimientos del llanto* (2008), *No-one Rises Indifferent to Sorrow*, and *De los peces la sed*. Her poems have been included in various anthologies such as *Crónicas de un buen día, Women Poets from the Americas, Susurros para disipar las sombras, Rapsodia de los sentidos, Ciudad 100*, and in the book *Poeta en Nueva York: Poetas de tierra y luna*. She holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from Brown University, and teaches at DePaul University. This event is sponsored by a GSU Intellectual Life Grant.

For questions, contact Dr. [Novia Pagone](mailto:novia.pagone@duke.edu) or Dr. [Rey Andujar](mailto:rey.andujar@duke.edu).

**Lambda Pi Eta Kappa Kappa Chapter 2019 Induction**
Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Studies honor society, Kappa Kappa Chapter 2019 Induction ceremony will be **Wednesday, April 10**, at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. There are twelve students in the Communication program being inducted.

**SEA & KDP host Earth Day Park Beautification**
Help clean up a park and plant trees to celebrate Earth Day. The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) are hosting an event the weekend before Earth Day on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. – noon.

SEA/KDP will be beautifying Smith Park in Chicago Heights (1435 Scott Avenue). During the event, volunteers will have the opportunity to plant trees, bushes, flowers, as well as pull weeds and clean up trash in order to beautify Smith Park. SEA/KDP is also accepting monetary donations to purchase more trees, plants, and flowers.

This community service project is open to all students, faculty and staff. RVP to Aimee York by April 11.

Read more here.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Information Session

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) may lead to unique funding opportunities to continue your education and graduate. Join the School of Extended Learning as they welcome Dr.
Dana Washington, Director of Workforce Services of Kankakee County to discuss WIOA on **Tuesday, April 16** from 10 – 10:30 a.m. in D34190. The day will consist of a WIOA information session as well as one-on-one appointments.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about GSU programs that qualify for funding. GSU’s School of Extended Learning will discuss continuing education opportunities & degree programs that are WIOA approved.

Click here to [RSVP](#) your attendance to the WIOA information session. Schedule your 15 minute appointment by contacting via email [Michelle Sebasco](#) or [Dr. Felicia L. Townsend](#).

**For more information about WIOA, please use the following links:**

- [The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act at GSU](#)
- [Workforce Services Division of Kankakee County](#)

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

**Tuesday, April 16: 1 – 2:30 p.m. D2417**  
**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 3 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.

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.
Library Workshop Schedule Available

Interested in learning more about Chrome Extensions for Research? Want to learn about Excel Basics? Want to learn how to use EndNote? If you answer yes to any of these questions, it is time to check out the library workshop schedule.

[Click here](#) for workshop information, time dates and registration. Remember, the GSU Library is Your Research Resource 24/7!

For questions, please contact [Alexis Sarkisian](#).

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

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.

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**Workshops & Trainings**

**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