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A Promising Name: Isaiah Moore
2019 Graduate Profiles

Remember the name Isaiah Moore. You may find it on a voting ballot one day when he runs for U.S. president.

In May, the 22-year-old political science major will receive his Bachelor of Arts from Governors State University, a place where Moore has begun laying the groundwork for a career in public service that he hopes will one day lead to the nation’s top job.

“I was definitely put on this earth by God to serve,” Moore said. “If you have the opportunity to make your impact bigger, why not make it?”

Growing up in Chicago’s troubled Auburn-Gresham neighborhood has made him passionate about improving it. “I have to change the neighborhood I came from,” he said. “We need to get people resources, knowledge, and opportunities.”
Moore has a plan. After graduating from GSU, he will head to the University of Illinois in Chicago this fall to start on his master’s degree in urban planning and policy. Next, he expects to spend 10 years working for nonprofit organizations where he can establish community centers in underserved neighborhoods.

After that, Moore said, he should be ready to make a run for Congress. Having piloted an internship program in the Chicago office of U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush’s 1st District, Moore said he’s familiar with what constituents need.

He even has experience on the campaign trail. Working with Jason Gonzales, who made an unsuccessful attempt to unseat longtime Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, Moore said he reached out to donors and canvassed voters by phone. “Everyone, including Jason Gonzales, knew he wasn’t going to win. But I learned what it takes to run a campaign, and he gave me perspective on what it takes to start one,” he said.

Moore’s experience extends to Washington, D.C. where he interned for the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, helping lobbyists seek aid for schools on federally owned land, such as military bases, that are not funded by local property taxes. Moore has also interned for the Chicago Scholars Program, which mentors academically ambitious students from under-resourced communities.

Recently, he was elected to a statewide office. As Senate President for Model Illinois Government (MIG), Moore will decide which bills the senate will vote on during the spring 2020 simulation. MIG gives about 300 college students a chance to practice their political skills for three days after a year of preparation.

Moore admits he is looking forward to wielding his power next year. “I’ll be the one who holds the gavel.”

On campus, Moore has made time to serve as a peer mentor, and he has advised dozens of students in GSU’s Center for Junior Year. “I know the resources they need to survive and thrive. And I feel a moral responsibility to give back,” he said.

Transferring from a larger university, Moore chose GSU because he saw room for his own potential. “I could see my greatness here, and I immediately began to get involved and get my name out,” he said.

“This is a place where I could leave a legacy. And I did.”
Moore has been so active on campus that even President Elaine P. Maimon knows him by name. “I’ve worked really closely with her as a student orientation leader,” Moore said. “My relationship-building skills have grown. My oratory skills have grown. And my leadership is impeccable for my age.”

The best laid plans may often go awry, but Moore’s seem to be on track.

“I tell people I plan to be president one day and they say, ‘When I see you running, I’m going to vote for you.’”

GSU Alumni Return to Form Partnerships

Governor State Alumni Mychael Vanarsdale (2016), visited campus frequently as a child when he father attended graduate classes here.

Years later, Vanarsdale returned for his own degree in Communications. Now, he’s bringing junior high and school students to campus as part of two partnerships recently formed between TriO programs—3 Seeds Mentoring Group and the Gloria J. Taylor Foundation—and GSU.

“We are the college support system for our students,” said Vanarsdale, program coordinator 3 Seeds, a nonprofit that supports disadvantaged youth in Chicago’s South Suburbs.

Vanarsdale’s 3 Seeds joined the Gloria J. Taylor Foundation in signing agreements with GSU to help create and implement programs at schools throughout the Southland, including Hillcrest Hill School, to prepare the next generation of college students.

Theresa Dixon is CEO of the Gloria J. Taylor Foundation, created in honor of her deceased mother who was first female and African American elected in Harvey in 1977.

Dixon, a GSU alumnae, said her mother instilled a legacy of community support she is fulfilling at GSU.

“I stand as a product of the quality education available at GSU. I came back as an adult learner. My son was in child care here and he graduated from here.”

Kristy Goodwin, Director of the GSU College Pathways Program, said good partnerships bring good results.
“It’s important to build solid relationships—especially with alum of GSU—to bring exposure to our institution for overall student success.”

Goodwin joined GSU Provost Beth Cada, as well as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Aurelio Valente, and Dean of Students Corey Williams, for the signing event.

“I’m just so impressed with your organizations, and to know GSU is your partner is exciting,” Cada said to Vanarsdale and Dixon. “The fact that you two are alumni is just icing on the cake.”

**Tech Savvy of Illinois and American Association of Women Hosts**

On Saturday, March 23, Tech Savvy of Illinois and American Association of University Women hosted an event for girls at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois.

The main objective of the event was to give girls leadership training and STEM career opportunities. The event had over 100 people in attendance, mostly young girls learning to appreciate STEM.

GSU displayed an impressive exhibit from the Science division, including GSU STEAM Camp and GSU JEDI Robot Team which drew attention from many passers-by.

For questions about the event, contact Aslam Shahid.

**Mining for Gold: 2019 Literacy Autobiographical Contest**
As GSU marks its 50th anniversary in 2019, students, faculty, and staff celebrated with golden advice on the importance of writing, though it often means crafting perfectly imperfect prose.

“The meaning of life is like gold ore that’s buried deep inside you,” Mort Maimon, husband of GSU President Elaine Maimon, said to students gathered for the 5th Annual Literacy Autobiographical Contest Luncheon.

“Language, particularly writing, is the instrument you use to get it to the surface. Write always. Make it a habit.”

In their first year at GSU, students created a pattern of revising literacy autobiographies, taking feedback to build on their strengths as writers to improve on the previous draft.

Each incoming class has the opportunity to enter the Literacy Autobiography Contest in the fall. In the spring, students go back and apply the final polish before submitting for cash prizes, which range from $200 for the first-place winner to $25 for an honorable mention. All students receive certificates of participation.

Dr. Mort Maimon and President Elaine Maimon, both English professors, sponsor the contest—an investment in the future, they said.

“As a professor of English, I have one main goal, and that goal is to help students become independent writers and thinkers. I want you to have the ability to say what you want, to say it in an effective way, and to think it through.”

During the luncheon, students shared their thoughts on the evolution of their writing skills since they first arrived at GSU.

“I’m more confident in my writing, and I now know writing is not something that can be done right or wrong. It’s your own perspective,” said Kiara Johnson, whose essay won first place. Her essay, “My Literacy: A History”, describes the power of literature to open new worlds. Johnson also reflected on contemporary challenges to reading and literacy in her essay.

Winning second- and third-place prizes were Danny Nguyen and Anyinniana Little. Rachel Beckmann won an honorable mention prize.

At the luncheon, student Elizabeth Stevens echoed the sentiments of other freshmen who have blossomed as critical thinkers and writers in their first year on campus.
“I feel like I’ve improved so much just from high school to now. This time has been amazing.”

GSU Establishes First LGBTQIA+ Scholarship

This year, GSU established its first-ever LGBTQIA+ scholarship. Jackie McKethen, Governors State University Advisory Board member, and longtime activist in the LGBTQIA+ community, started the scholarship fund to help deserving LGBTQIA+ students and allies to fund their education.

McKethen’s scholarship seeks to help LGBTQIA+ students work past some of the barriers to getting a college education, as well as to promote open acceptance in the community. The scholarship at GSU would help to promote awareness and solidify that support. Apply by Friday, April 26. Details can be found at www.govst.edu/foundationscholarships

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.

**Intellectual Life Grants Available**

![Intellectual Life](image)

The Intellectual Life Committee is again offering Intellectual Life Grants. The Intellectual Life Grants will be awarded for up to $500 for events taking place between August 12, 2019 and December 6, 2019 that promote and increase awareness of the arts, humanities and other intellectual topics of universal interest.

[Learn more . . .](#)

**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

“Have Your Say”: Take the annual GSU Food Service Survey

Our dining partner, Arena Food Service, Inc., is seeking your opinion and feedback about the food service and vending program at Governors State University.

The survey will be available through April 5, 2019.

Take the survey.

Cameroonian Cooking Lesson

Have you ever tried Cameroonian food before? Interested? You don't have to travel far! Join a native student making her favorite dish at next week's International Cooking Lesson! Sign up in the
GMT building, Room 165. Lesson takes place on Thursday, April 4 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Prairie Place.

Writing Center Hosts: “Back to Basics: The Foundations of Writing” Workshop

This workshop will broadly cover the essentials of grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, editing, and proofreading. The workshop will take place on Thursday, April 4 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. All students, staff, and faculty are invited.

This event is free and no RSVP is necessary. Contact Dr. Jarrett Neal at 708.235.2105 for more information.

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

Career Services Hosts Student Employee Recognition Reception

GSU students and employees will gather together 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. Certificate recipients will receive their awards personally from President Dr. Elaine P. Maimon. To qualify, students must attend at least 3 recognized workshops. 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.

**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.](#)

**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, Rapsodía 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 or Dr. Rey Andujar.

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. We are 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

Chicago-Style Stepping Lessons Available

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 $60 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).

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.

**Happy Birthday, Sandy!**

GSU students, faculty, and staff came together in celebration of Sandy’s sixth birthday on April 1. Thanks to all who came out to give Sandy treats and play tug-of-war with her new birthday toys!