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Governors State University basked in the spotlight during the recent American Council on Education national conference and the 32nd annual National Association of Presidential Assistants in Higher Education conference, held consecutively in Philadelphia earlier this month.

Nominated by GSU President Elaine P. Maimon, Shaun Harper received the Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership award at the ACE conference. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to diversity in American higher education.

Harper is currently Provost Professor in the Rossier School of Education and the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. He also is the Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership, founder and executive director of the USC Race and Equity Center. Harper holds an honorary doctorate from GSU and developed the strength model GSU has embraced.
In his acceptance speech, Harper called Dr. Maimon his “favorite university president” and touched on her transformative work at GSU and commitment to inclusivity.

GSU’s Marco A. Krcatovich II, Director of Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, was featured during the NAPAHE conference with his well-received presentation, “Data-Driven Decision Making.”

And, Penny Perdue was recognized for her dedicated service to NAPAHE as she ended two, 3-year terms on the NAPAHE board. Perdue is Chief of Administrative Operations and Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

**GSU Student Teaching in Brazil**

Lorena Flores is currently a senior on track to graduate with licensure in teaching education with endorsements in Early Childhood, English-As-A-Second Language and Bilingual (Spanish). She was selected to student teach in Brazil through GSU’s partner school, Universidade de Santa Cruz do Sul (UNISC). The project is completely funded through a grant that was awarded from the U.S. Embassy in Brazil to teach English and U.S. Culture to a variety of high school students in the South of Brazil. We wish Lorena a successful experience and look forward to hearing about the 6-month project when she returns.

**Lurenzo Carr: Global Service Learning Scholar**
Congratulations to Lurenzo Carr, GSU’s new Global Service Learning Scholar! Lurenzo is a graduate student in the School Psychology program at GSU. This grant allows one first generation college student who has never been outside the U.S. to participate in the Public Health Brigade travelling to Ghana this summer. Thanks to this grant, Lurenzo will participate in a high-impact practice, the development of leadership skills, enhancement of social responsibility, improvement of writing skills, and identification of the path towards career development.

**GSU's First Freshman to Graduate**

**2019 Graduate Profiles**

When Emily Metzger decided to attend Governors State University, she had no idea she was making history.

Metzger discovered she was GSU’s first admitted freshman while attending a GSU student event in November 2013. An administrator stepped to the podium and announced, “We are here to welcome the very first student to be admitted to the very first freshman class of Governors State University. Welcome to GSU, Emily Metzger!”
Shocked, she went to the podium and posed for photos with GSU President Elaine P. Maimon and gratefully received flowers, balloons, a gift bag and a $1,000 Merit Scholarship.

On May 18, 2019, President Maimon will hand Metzger her Bachelor of Science degree at GSU’s 48th Commencement Ceremony, making the annual celebration a truly historic event. But for Metzger, the day-to-day experience of being a college student has been the classic college experience: studying for classes, making friends, fitting in time to work and participating in a sport. Her path even included a brief detour to another university.

“It is a sense of accomplishment thinking back a few years ago that GSU started as this smaller graduate school and has now grown into this fully developed university with everything and more to offer because of its students and faculty,” Metzger said. A biology major, Metzger had planned to become a veterinarian. Time spent in lab courses helped her realize she was on the wrong trail. She began to find more interest in courses that allow her to work outdoors with both animals and plants. Taking an ornithology course over the summer spiked her interest in the study of birds.

“We’d go to places like Swallows Cliff at Palos Park Forest Preserve and was taught how to listen and ID different species of birds.” Metzger also enjoyed her ecology coursework including undergraduate research. By taking samples of coyote scat from rural and suburban areas of Illinois, she was able to find positive samples of a microparasite that causes waterborne disease in humans and animals. “Taking classes with Dr. [John] Yunger made me interested in learning more about the correlation of organisms and their environments,” she said.

From the start, Metzger was able to explore her interest in the environment at GSU. As a member of the first freshman class, she became part of a cohort that worked around one of three topics — in her case, sustainability. “I had Professor [Maristela] Zell my freshman year and she was a great professor who really seemed to care about her students. She taught us how to be more mindful of our surroundings and
“learn how to be fully present in any situation,” Metzger said.

The cohort system, a best practice in academia that GSU adopted when it added underclassmen to the university, would require a group of students to take multiple classes together during their first year. The idea was to help freshmen make friends and connections. Metzger said it worked, especially for those who lived on campus. “Every day you would see the same people and suddenly create a friendship with them. Something that probably would not have happened if we only met for class once a week.”

When Metzger transferred schools her sophomore year, she felt lost on a larger campus.

A single semester was long enough to make her realize what she left behind. “I like the smaller classes we have here,” she said. “And because GSU is small, you communicate with the same people on a daily basis, which made me feel more comfortable and easier to interact with others.”

The small classes and the newly formed GSU Women’s Cross Country team called the Matteson resident back home. “I have always enjoyed running and have been on a cross country team since freshman year of high school. The team turned into my family away from home. Getting up for 6 a.m. practice was tough some days, but it was worth it in the end.”

Being a student athlete, as well as working, kept Metzger busy and presented a terrific life lesson: When trying to balance every aspect of your life and trying to stay focused at the same time, time management is an important skill to help one stay productive.

Now, as Metzger plans her next steps, she is considering GSU for graduate studies.

“The smaller class sizes really impacted my experience. The professor-to-student ratio was helpful in the classroom setting because I wasn’t as afraid to ask a question in class. If I were to return here for grad school, that would make settling in that much easier knowing I can walk around campus knowing these familiar faces.”

Kristy Goodwin Offers Women Leaders Tips to Stay Balanced
In *Women Leading with Authenticity*, GSU College Pathways Program Director Kristy Goodwin provides nine daily tips to help women maintain balance while working in higher education and home.

Without balance, women are off center.

“There is another part to being an authentic leader, and that’s losing yourself in the process of leading. I have often had conversations with professionals for whom their work is their life and their identity is their position,” Goodwin writes in an American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers quarterly publication, College & University (C&U) Journal.

Among the tried and true practices of eating well and getting adequate sleep, Goodwin suggests, among other practices:

- Advocate for what’s right. Don’t waver. Believe in what you advocate for. If you have apprehensions, step back and work through them.
- Choose your battles wisely. Not everything is worth the fight or the attention.
- Only change what you know you can. Provide guidance for the other things.

**COB Students Create Real-World Business Strategies in Competition**
Cassie Morgan recently won third place in the 2019 Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) International Business Case Competition hosted by Georgia State University.

GSU’s College of Business was one of only seven across the U.S. selected to participate the competition, which charged students with solving a real world, internationally focused business case.

Morgan and three other GSU students —Isabel Maldonado, DeOrsay Foster, and Robert Navarro—joined their peers from other institutions to work on an assigned case. Each team was represented by a student from the main business disciplines Finance, Accounting, Marketing, and Management. The students worked up to 18 hours in teams to analyze a case involving the a Turkish company, and work out solutions for sustained global growth and expansion.

Teams presented their solutions to a panel of executives who served as judges.

Morgan’s team split a $500 winning pot. First and second place teams won $1,000 and $750, respectively.

Dr. Olu Ijose, COB division chair, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, said the experience provided excellent, hands-on learning.

“The students benefited from the networking opportunity, quickly bonding with new team members and almost instantaneously, needing to work with them to solve the complex case, through rigorous analysis. They also experienced the rigor of developing professional standard PowerPoint slides and practicing presenting their solutions, all within a short time frame. Watching them presenting to a panel of experts was the most rewarding,” he said.

**GSU Educational Administration Students Hold Panel Discussion with Working School Principals**
Governors State University Educational Administration graduate students recently met with working school principals for a panel and small group discussion where real-life experiences were shared with aspiring school principals.

As part of a Program Assessment Review—GSU’s first—for the Educational Administration, future pre-K – 12 school principals sought feedback from working school principals who are also leaders in the Illinois Principal Association (IPA), representing the South Cook Region of the Illinois School Board of Education.

The students, currently enrolled in one-year internship courses, asked about a wide range of issues, from discipline to first administrative appointments, along with the importance of the IPA to both an aspiring and working school principal.

GSU Professor David Conrad designed and planned the evening with the support of Professors Jeannine Klomes and Sandi Estep.

**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.

**Call for Student Nominations for 2019 Student Commencement Speaker and Vocalist**

The Commencement Student Speaker and Vocalist Committee are currently accepting applications 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 March 29 via Jaguar Connection.** Please note students must attend the mandatory audition on Friday, April 12, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for speakers and 2 – 5 p.m. for singers.

[View criteria and application requirements.](http://www.govst.edu/foundationscholarships)

**Office of Career Services Celebrates International Women’s Day**
International Women’s Day is a global day celebrating the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. It is also a day that supports taking action against gender inequality around the world. The Office of Career Services celebrated this day on March 8 by hosting an event that showcased the accomplishments of some of the most influential women throughout history.

**Career Services Hosts Black Inventions Exhibit**

The Office of Career Services recently hosted an exhibit on Black Inventions highlighting inventions and improvements that African Americans have made through their innovation, entrepreneurship, and ingenuity. From the golf tee to the traffic light, many African American inventions have contributed to the modernization of our society.
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 . . .

HOPERA: The Role of Music in Community Action

Join Adrian Dunn, accomplished singer, composer and producer and CEO of HoperaWorld Entertainment, **Tuesday March 26** at 5 p.m., in Sherman Hall for a workshop discussion on the role of music and the arts in sharing community stories for a powerful impact.

His production *HOPERA: A Fallen Hero*, blends the magic of hip hop and opera to tell the tale of the challenges faced by many inner-city youth. Loosely based on the Libretto from *Otello*, Dunn makes the opera and the story accessible to youth affected by gun violence through the use of dance, a contemporary band versus an orchestra, and spoken word. These modern elements allow for a wider audience to appreciate both the music and the messages conveyed.

To Dunn, *HOPERA* is an antidote to traditional opera, which he sees as being somewhat racist (*Turandot, Aida, Carmen*) and not welcoming to everyman. According to Dunn, “This project is a slice of America. “This is opera on my own terms, outside the confines.” For a preview, [click here](#).

RSVP to [Lana@govst.edu](mailto:Lana@govst.edu) by March 22. Mention “ROSIE” when purchasing and a portion of the ticket will benefit the Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship Fund.
Nutman Company Nuts, Chocolates and Candies in support of Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship

The Nutman Company will be in the D Atrium Tuesday, March 26 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, March 27 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. in support of the Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship Fund for Theatre and Performing Arts students.

For more information, email Merri Wilkerson or call 708.534.4012.

RSVP Now for March 29 Spring All-Campus Symposium

GSU’s spring all-campus symposium will be held Friday, March 29 on the stage of the CPA. This semester’s symposium—Action Plan: Removing Obstacles for Adult Learners—will continue our work from last fall.

Last fall’s symposium discussion focused on the barriers adult learners face. Since its founding in 1969, GSU has been dedicated to meeting the needs of adult learners. On March 29, we will explore action plans that will help us increase the opportunities and successes of this nationally underserved population. Pam Tate, formerly of CAEL and now chief national partnerships officer at Strada Education Network, will be our facilitator.

A continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 a.m., and we will begin promptly at 9 a.m. A working lunch is planned to ensure an early afternoon conclusion.

RSVPs, required for this event, should be sent to Penny Perdue (x4130).

GSU Dance Company Pays Tribute to Michael Jackson in Who’s Bad

The GSU Dance Company commemorates the tenth anniversary of legendary Michael Jackson's tragic death with a tribute to his music. Combining a variety of dance disciplines including jazz, contemporary, tap, and more, the company performs to Jackson's iconic favorites, such as "Bad," "Thriller," as well as PYT, Off The Wall, Earth Song and Xscape in Who’s Bad: A Tribute to Michael Jackson on March 28 at 7:30 p.m.
The performance is open to the public. Tickets are $15 and $10 for students with valid I.D. at the box office. Contact the box office or call 708.235.2222.

Chicagoland's Annual Money Smart Week

Money Smart Week began in 2002 as a coordinated effort of the Money Smart Advisory Council, a diverse group of more than 40 Chicago-area organizations working together to promote personal financial literacy. This year, GSU will be hosting three Money Smart Week presentations to be held in room #D34165. There will also be an information table located in front of the Financial Aid Office, with free literature and information about the week's events.

- April 1, 2 – 3 p.m. – "Student Loans 101" – learn about student loans, both federal and private. Learn about borrowing limits, borrowing responsibly and repayment options.

- April 2, 2 – 3 p.m. – "Making the Most of Scholarships" – learn how best to take advantage of all of the scholarship opportunities that are available for college students.

- April 3, 2 – 3 p.m. – "Graduating Debt Free" – get first-hand knowledge from a student graduating with her Bachelor’s Degree debt-free. She will talk about what steps she has taken to avoid borrowing student loans, and alternative ways to finance her education.

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 from Monday, March 25 – April 5, 2019.

Take the survey.

Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) Hosts Blood Drive

Governors State University Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) is pairing up with
Heartland Blood Centers to host a blood drive at GSU for students, faculty, staff and community members on Tuesday, **March 26** from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors (D1490). Walk-ins are welcome. You will also receive a free t-shirt and refreshments for donating.

Visit the [website](#) or contact Aviana Valdez to schedule your appointment.

**Careers in Film Discussion**

Join four successful Chicago filmmakers who graduated from the [Independent Film and Digital Imaging](#) MFA program at GSU for a discussion on careers in film.

Panelists Anike Bay, Levilyn Chriss, Mercedes Kane, Seth McLellan, and Rachel Rozycki will tell how they got started on diverse paths to achievement in film, higher education, and more. The discussion will be hosted in the Center for Performing Arts on **April 1** at 12:30 p.m.

**International Autism Awareness Day**
All in the GSU Community are invited to attend and participate in this important forum with a Q & A to follow. Join Michael Hart, University Senior Lecturer in the MFA program, along with Dr. Scott E. Wakeley, Superintendent of Schools Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School District 307, and our own Robin Sweeney, Director of Student Disability Services for a lively conversation regarding making GSU a successful option for adults with autism. The forum will be hosted Tuesday, April 2 from 3:30 - 5PM in Engbretson Hall.

This program made possible through a GSU Intellectual Life Grant. Contact the GSU Library with questions.

Time to Get Ready to Celebrate Sandy's Birthday
Be sure to stop by the library on **Monday, April 1** from 2 – 4 p.m. for Sandy's birthday party. To help celebrate, we are creating a birthday blanket for Sandy and need pictures of students, faculty, and staff with Sandy.

Stop by the library any Tuesday from 2 -5 p.m. Take your picture with Sandy and post it to Sandy's Facebook page.

Questions? Email **GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu**.

**SHERO Women’s Leadership Symposium**

The S.H.E.R.O. Women’s Leadership Symposium inspires women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development through a greater understanding of leadership and the acquisition of new ideas to optimize and sustain personal potential. S.H.E.R.O. stands for Sharing Her Story of Empowerment, Resilience and Opportunity.

The annual SHERO Women’s Leadership Symposium will be held **Friday, April 5**.

**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.
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. Pagone or Dr. Andujar.

**Save the Date: 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.

**SEA & KDP host Earth Day Park Beautification**

The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) are hosting an event the weekend before Earth Day on Saturday, April 13th, 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.

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 predominate 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](#).

**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 their physical and emotional well-being through dance. Participants will enjoy quality instruction from Dawn in a relaxed environment which 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).