This Saturday at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 1,525 students will graduate from undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. The ceremony for the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business will take place at 10 a.m., and the ceremony for the colleges of Education and Health and Human Services will take place at 4:30 p.m.

Please review etiquette guidelines. Late arrivals will not be allowed into the ceremony once it has begun.
#GovStateGrad

Grads, use #GovStateGrad to join the Commencement conversation! Add your photos from all of this week’s events, including cording ceremonies, doctoral hooding, honorary degree chats, and the Commencement ceremony itself!

Trading His Police Badge for Therapist's Notepad

2019 Graduate Profiles

As a Senior Police Officer and a trainer at Governors State University, Maurice Hill is highly skilled to adapt to whatever situation he faces on campus. Tempering tactical training with compassion, he makes staff and students feel safe.
It’s one role that pulls from many. “I wear lots of hats—I always enforce the law—but in a college setting, sometimes I’m daddy or uncle, and sometimes I’m a spiritual leader,” said Hill, who first came to GSU in 1998 as a Criminal Justice major.

Now more than 20 years and a bachelor’s degree later, Hill looks forward to trading his police badge for a therapist’s notepad once he receives his Masters of Arts in Counseling degree on May 18.

He plans to retire from the GSU Department of Public Safety in 2020, just in time to see his son graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work.

Long-term, Hill wants to move to Atlanta to practice in a field he sees as a culmination of all the jobs he’s had since he was a young medic in the U.S. Army.

After graduating high school, Hill went to Triton College, and then joined the military.

He arrived at GSU in 1998 on the advice of a co-worker familiar with the university’s Board of Governors program for returning adult students. While studying for a degree in law enforcement, Hill assumed real-life experience as a police officer joining a team he estimated at up to 25 full- and part-time officers.

In 2001, Hill left briefly but returned, finished his bachelors, and began work on a master’s degree—in special education.

At the time, he was working full-time as a gym teacher in a south suburban school district and at GSU as a police officer, all while going to school.

Though his schedule was jam packed, Hill said the experiences as an educator and police officer, children and adults, gave him a new perspective to change his major.

“I realized I wanted to help people—and not just kids. As a counselor, I would be available to everyone.” he said.
Now, with a special training in clinical mental health counseling, Hill said he is well prepared to help his clients navigate difficult emotional terrain.

"With the practicum, we were seeing clients with actual issues. That’s not the experience my peers had at other schools,” he said.

Many of those clients were from the African American community, where studies show individuals have less access to mental health services than their white peers and are less likely to receive needed care.

Hill turns somber as he discusses an uncle who returned from Vietnam a shell of his former gregarious self who never received treatment for what we now know is PTSD.

The scenario is all too familiar, Hill said.

“Being a black male, I’ve seen so many people fall by the wayside because they didn’t get help. It doesn’t have to be this way anymore.”

Hill is already making a change as an intern in the Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Tinley Park, where he notices some clients are more comfortable talking with him than other therapists.

He’s not sure if it’s cultural or gender preference, but Hill is celebrating the fact that he’s filling a need. “I know I can make a difference because I can I can talk to the janitor or the president of the United States and have a good time with either one.”

Dual Degree Program Cording Ceremony

Sixty graduating students were corded at tonight’s Dual Degree Program graduation, celebration, and cording Ceremony.

“The Dual Degree Program is a partnership between GSU and 17 Chicagoland community colleges, with the goal of ensuring that students save money, save time, and earn DUAL degrees . . . Since the program’s first transfer cohort to GSU in 2012, over 740 students have transferred to GSU through the DDP,” said Jessica Specht, Director of the Dual Degree Program.
Dean Catherine Balthazar Named ISHA Fellow

Congratulations to our very own Dr. Catherine Balthazar, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, who was recently recognized by the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA) for her outstanding contributions within the profession of Speech-Language Pathology in the State of Illinois.

Dr. Balthazar was admitted to the ISHA Honors Class and named a 2019 Fellow. In her nomination letter, peers wrote, “One faulty member defined excellence as ‘consistently striving to produce outstanding results of lasting value.’ These words describe the professional contributions of Dr. Balthazar to ISHA and to the wider professional community.”

Read more here.

National College Signing Day 2019
The class of 2023 celebrated their decision to join Governors State at the national College Signing Day event last week.

“National Signing Day is our staff’s favorite event. It’s really a culmination of the relationships we have been building with these students during the past year. The students and their families are able to celebrate that they are not only making their commitment to attend college, but that they also found their university home at GSU,” said Lisé Schneider, Admissions Coordinator.

Don’t forget to welcome new GSU students at an upcoming ROAR orientation!

**My Now, My Next**

The Governors State University Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, hosted the first annual "My Now, My Next" panel discussion on Thursday, April 25. This event offered GSU students and the community an opportunity to hear from female leaders who are excelling in their public sector careers. The program was an open discussion on leadership, governance, and public service.

The following panel participants visited to share their expertise and knowledge with the GSU community: Honorable Cynthia Y. Cobbs Illinois Appellate Court Justice 3rd Division, First District; Dr. Amara Enyia Executive Director Austin Chamber of Commerce/CEO of ACE Municipal Partners; Tawny R. Smith District Director/Community Outreach Coordinator for Representative William Q. Davis; Police Chief Elvia Williams Village of Richton Park; Catherine Wojnarowski Village Administrator Village of Bradley Illinois.

PAA recognizes outstanding graduate students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs. The GSU Chapter of PAA is dedicated to encouraging and recognizing outstanding accomplishments in public affairs and administration, while fostering integrity, professionalism, and creative performance in the conduct of governmental and related public service activities. PAA is committed to making a difference at GSU.
Generating Hope Named Program of the Year

A Generating Hope program that called attention to women’s experiences with incarceration recently received the 2019 Program of the Year Award at the recent GSU Student Leadership event.

“A Woman’s Journey Through the Criminal Justice System” was facilitated by graduate student, Falisa Byers, President of Generating Hope, which was founded in 2013 by students who had been impacted by incarceration.

Its mission is to increase accessibility to higher education, awareness around mass incarceration, and advocate for the dismantling of systemic barriers, while promoting support and healing.

If you would like additional information about this organization please contact Falisa Byers.
Governors State University (GSU) recently hosted a community-wide discussion on how racial segregation has impacted employment in Chicago and the surrounding communities—especially the Southland.

The breakfast discussion was one of many taking place across metro Chicago as part of the Chicago Community Trust’s (CCT) “On the Table” annual series. This year’s discussion highlights and—potential solutions—will be sent as a memo to Chicago’s Mayor-Elect Lori Lightfoot.

"Memo to the Mayor" is CCT’s grassroots attempt to influence Lightfoot’s priorities for better communities. "Segregation is policy driven and needs to be addressed," GSU Vice President of Institutional Advancement Will Davis said during the breakfast. He was joined by faculty, staff, and elected members of the surrounding community.

Social Work Scholar Phyllis West and Historian David Golland led the engagement and presented the paradox, “If Chicago is home to many key industries, why is there high unemployment and segregation?”

Frequent responses included business and arts promotion, as well as a wide-spread investment in technology and innovation.

For a historical perspective, Golland suggested the group read Thomas Sugrue’s “The Origins of the Urban Crisis”, which illustrates the roles of race, housing, job discrimination in the decline of Detroit.

Community devastation creates trauma to residents that must be addressed to re-build, West, a public health educator, told the group.

“When you talk about preparing human capital, you also must talk about healing human capital,” she said.
David Golland's New Book Explores the Life of a Black Republican Civil Rights Leader

Historian and Professor David Golland chuckles as he reads a line from his new book: “Arthur Fletcher was the most important civil rights leader you’ve (probably) never heard of.”

Golland recited a passage to an intimate group gathered outside Governors State University’s E-Lounge. They’ve come to celebrate the publication of Golland’s second book, “A Terrible Thing to Waste: Arthur Fletcher and the Conundrum of the Black Republican.”

In it, Golland recovers the story of a central character often overlooked in historical accounts of the civil rights era.

Fletcher, a Black Republican who served under four Republican administrations, fathered Affirmative Action as President Richard Nixon’s Assistant Secretary of Labor. He was advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, and President George H.W. Bush named him Chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

As Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, Fletcher was key in coining their trademark phase, "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste."

An unsuccessful run for lieutenant governor in Washington—as the first Black nominee for a statewide office there—drew national attention for the second time in as many decades. In 1950, he had been the first African American to play for the Baltimore Colts football team.

Ironically, during the book-signing reception, GSU Visiting Professor Chris Greiner discovered he’d worked on Fletcher’s 1968 campaign as a child in Washington. Greiner saw Fletcher’s black-and-white campaign poster and was flooded with memories he later shared with Paul Fletcher, Arthur’s son, who flew in from Florida for the event.
Golland discovered Fletcher while he was researching his doctoral dissertation. “Constructing Affirmative Action: The Struggle for Equal Opportunity,” was published in 2011. Though Fletcher’s name commonly came up in documents, there was little recognition.

“Every time I turned around when I was researching, there was Art Fletcher—and yet nobody knew him,” Golland said.

For the second book, Golland took a deeper dive into Fletcher’s life and upbringing in segregated Kansas, which inspired his lifelong pursuit of equity and inclusion until his death in 2005.

When asked how his father reconciled being part of a political party that seemed to shun policies and programs that supported African Americans, Paul Fletcher said his father taught him a critical lesson he carries to this day.

“He would say, ‘There is no permanent party, there’s just permanent interests, and ours has to be civil rights.’ So we have to be in both parties.”

Paul Fletcher said he was elated to learn Golland was writing his father’s story, and he encouraged GSU faculty, staff, and students at the reception to keep fighting.

“Governors State University is a political institution, whether you know it or not. Education was the first place we made strides in the civil rights movement,” Paul Fletcher said. “We have to keep going. We’re in a battle for the minds of the masses.”

“A Terrible Thing to Waste: Arthur Fletcher and the Conundrum of the Black Republican “ is available in the GSU Library.
April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) team honored the “I Ask” for consent campaign this year. This year ASAP provided students with several opportunities to receive resources, education, and training regarding sexual assault prevention.

Over 180 students visited and attended programs this year. Some campus and community partners to ASAP include Student Life, MSI, Dean of Students, Athletics, Human Resources, Housing, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Christian Community Health Center, Hartgrove Behavioral Health System, South Suburban Family Shelter, Guardian Angel Community Services, and GSU Health & Student Counseling Center. Please follow ASAP on Twitter @GSU_Jaguar_Wellness for future ASAP events.

College of Health & Human Services Recognition Night 2019

On Wednesday, May 8, the College of Health & Human Services recognized 14 outstanding students in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Eleven outstanding supervisors, preceptors, and field instructors were also recognized for their contributions.
GSU Celebrates 50th Anniversary with History at Risk Conference

On Friday, May 3, more than 45 members of the GSU Community attended a conference to discuss common issues, needs, and concerns for those interested in caring for the rich history of the Chicago Southland. President Maimon welcomed the group, who listened to sessions on History at Risk South of Chicago, Creating a Regional Archive, Caring for Collections, and Outreach and Advocacy. The day culminated in workshops on the Care of Collections as well as Disaster Plans and Recovery. Attendees also enjoyed group tours of the GSU Archives.

The event was sponsored by the Steering Committee for Regional Archives, South Suburban Heritage Association and The Friends of the GSU Library. “It was phenomenal to learn that there was so much knowledge about the history of our Chicago Southland in the room,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library.

For questions, please contact the archives.

Save the Date: GSU’s 50th Birthday/Day of Giving
On **July 17**, celebrate GSU’s 50th birthday! Join the entire GSU community including employees, retirees, alumni, and students for a free “family reunion” style festival, then drive or take the party bus to the Park Forest Main Street Nights for a free concert by Maggie Speaks and Theo Peoples + fun activities for all ages.

The birthday will also become GSU’s annual Day of Giving, because what better way to celebrate a milestone than to support a great cause? For GSU’s 50th birthday, please consider donating $50 or more. You can make your donation at [www.govst.edu/donate](http://www.govst.edu/donate).

**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.
Second Annual CSIFF Accepting Submissions

The deadline for submission to the Chicago Southland International Film Festival is this Sunday, May 19! 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, and learn more at www.govst.edu/CSIFF.

Announcements and Events

Plots Available in University Sustainable Garden

Plots are currently available in the University Sustainable Garden. Plots can be rented by the GSU Community (faculty, staff, and students) and the community at large. Each year, planting starts on or around May 15th.

For information, click here.
South Africa Study Abroad Program

The College of Business will take a group of students—from any discipline—to study abroad in South Africa in December. This is an excellent opportunity for all students to learn about the business and culture of the emerging market of South Africa, particularly in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Special grants and scholarships are available to students.

Come to the next info session on May 30 at 4 p.m. in D1496 or contact Study Abroad Coordinator Amy Schoenberg for more information.

Fall 2019 Welcome Week Doodle Poll

Student Life has begun the initial planning phases for Welcome Week 2019. As we prepare to welcome students back to campus in the fall, departments, divisions, and student organizations are encouraged to plan events and activities that offer a festive and lively environment during the first week of classes, August 26—August 31. Requests are accepted via a Doodle Poll.

Steps to access Welcome Week Doodle Poll:

1. Click here to access the poll.
2. Select an available time frame.
3. Include your name or department name in the “participants” field.
4. Click send.

Welcome Week is an exciting time of the year for the GSU community. Although departments are not mandated to program an event, Student Life is excited to offer the opportunity to make this year’s Welcome Week one for the record books! Our goal is to have a jam-packed calendar of events that support student connections while making students’ first days on campus memorable.

Requests are due by July 11. Email Konya Sledge for inquiries.
Bench for Michele McMaster

We’re almost halfway to our goal: approximately 230 pounds of plastic have been collected to date; 270 pounds are remaining to reach the goal of 500 pounds to make a bench in honor of Michele McMaster. The faculty and staff of the Division of Arts and Letters and College of Arts and Sciences welcome you to continue collecting plastic bags to reach the goal. Remember, you can recycle any of the following items:

Bring them to the T-Rex Boxes located inside and outside of the library, the CAS Dean’s Office, across from the E Wing Elevator on the second Floor, and the F Wing entrance on the first floor. Please, no plastic bottles.

Questions? Email gsulibraryinfo@govst.edu.
Support Red Nose Day

Watch Red Nose Day special TV event on Thursday, May 23. From now until May 23, join SEA & KDP to help raise awareness for childhood poverty across the globe. Get your red Nose Day gear at Walgreens. To support this cause, post pictures in red noses (with hashtags), donate money, and watch the TV event special on NBC.

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 or call 708.534.3044.
June 2019 IDOC State Testing

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

For questions, contact Cynthia Staples.

Celebrate the Life of Tim Fisher with a Night Out at the Ballpark

The late Tim Fisher was a student in the College of Health and Human Services pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Health Administration. Tim was also the husband of Katie Frossard Fisher, a graduate of the College of Business, an employee in Financial Services and a Civil Service Senator. Tim was also a huge fan of the Joliet Slammers.

Tim passed away in 2017 after a brief illness. To celebrate his love for the Slammers as well as his passion as a GSU student, the Civil Service Senate and the GSU Foundation are sponsoring a night out at the ball park with profits from the ticket sales being donated the Civil Service Senate Scholarship funds that benefit employees, their spouses, and their dependents. The game will take place June 15 at 6 p.m. at 1 Mayor Art Schultz Drive in Joliet, IL.

For more information or for tickets, please contact Katie Frossard Fisher in Financial Services at X7411.
Emerald City Theatre Summer Camp

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

Register your camper through the box office at 708.235.2222. Camp registration fee is $250. Limited to 60 campers.

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

Starting **July 15**, the School of Extended Learning will offer the CAPM® Exam Preparation Course 100% online. The course breaks down complex topics for anyone who is interested in or are just starting out in project management.
By successfully completing this course, participants will earn the required 23 contact hours needed to meet the credential application requirements for the PMI CAPM® Certification Exam. GSU is a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P) with the PMI® with all material approved through the PMI®.

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

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

Workshops & Trainings

A complete list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found here.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.