Celebrating the Installation of Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D. as Fifth President of Governors State University

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Celebrating the Installation

of

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.

as

Fifth President

of

Governors State University

November 3, 2007
Governors State University was established in 1969 as a university where graduates from community colleges in the region could earn baccalaureate degrees and continue on to graduate studies. It was to be a university where working adults could return to school to complete undergraduate degrees or earn a master's or doctorate. It was to be a university that welcomed those often underserved by higher education -- first generation students, minorities, and the underprivileged. It was to be committed to openness and access, to innovation and academic quality.

Over the years, Governors State has realized the vision of its founders. It is a university of inclusion. Several years ago, the Lumina Foundation rated GSU as the most accessible university in the region in terms of affordability. Approximately 45 percent of its students are minorities, as are more than 30 percent of its faculty. More than 80 percent of faculty hold a doctorate or the highest degree in their discipline. And each of the university’s 48 academic programs meet the highest standards of demonstrable quality.

True to its mission, the university has focused on practical research in education, health care, the environment, and economic development.

GSU is involved in improving the quality of life in the community through the Center for Performing Arts, its support of local school districts, and its collaborations with healthcare providers, government agencies, and businesses in the region.

Since its first commencement in 1971, approximately 30,000 men and women have graduated from GSU. Most remain residents of the region. They are the teachers and educational administrators, business executives and entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals and municipal leaders who enrich the area through their work and service.

Today, Governors State University stands as a tribute to a remarkable collaboration of farsighted legislators, aware local officials, and enlightened business leaders. Its 760 acre campus is located on the site of the former summer home of Nathan Manilow, the visionary real estate developer who helped establish Park Forest after World War II and then University Park in the late 1960s. Mr. Manilow donated 100 acres of the land that the university now occupies. Over the years, he and his family provided financial support for many of the sculptures that are included in the internationally acclaimed collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, located on the grounds of the university.

With a belief in its students, GSU matches the best ideals of the past with the most promising innovations for the future.
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Program

Master of Ceremonies
  Warner Saunders – News Anchor, NBC-5 Chicago

Orchestral Music
  Combined Ensemble
  Rich Central High School/Prairie State College
  Phillip Crews – Director

Processional
  “Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1” by Edward Elgar
  Dr. Robert Donaldson – Coordinator of Marshals

Presentation of the Mace
  Paul Blobaum – President, GSU Faculty Senate

Presentation of the Colors
  Girl Scouts of South Cook County

National Anthem
  Crete-Monee High School Show Choir
  Kevin Benford – Director
Welcome on Behalf of the State of Illinois
   Debbie Halvorson - Illinois Senate Majority Leader

Greetings
   Al McCowan - Mayor, Village of University Park
   Paul Blobaum - President, GSU Faculty Senate
   Kathy Miller - President, GSU Civil Service Senate
   Rosa Moran - President, GSU Student Senate

Remarks
   Dr. Carol Geary Schneider - President, Association of American Colleges and Universities
   Diane Kaplan - President, Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska

Investiture
   Lorine S. Samuels - Chair, GSU Board of Trustees

Installation Address
   Dr. Elaine P. Maimon - President, Governors State University

Recessional
   “Fanfare for the Common Man” by Aaron Copland

Reception
   Hall of Governors
Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.

Elaine P. Maimon is the fifth president of Governors State University. Before assuming her present position, Dr. Maimon served as Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Dr. Maimon is an internationally recognized scholar who played a leading role in developing Writing Across the Curriculum, which has changed the way writing is taught in universities, colleges, and schools.

She is author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. Among her many publications, she is especially proud of the great success of A Writer’s Resource and The New McGraw-Hill Handbook, which are helping college students across the country to be independent writers.

Dr. Maimon earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania as a scholarship student, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She went on to earn her master’s and doctorate in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

In subsequent years, she held teaching and administrative positions of increasing responsibility at Haverford College; Arcadia University; Brown University; Queens College (CUNY); and Arizona State University West, where she served as Provost (Chief Campus Executive Officer), and Vice President of Arizona State University.

Dr. Maimon has been recognized for her considerable contributions to education by universities, the Girl Scouts of America, and business organizations.

“The momentum of change that Dr. Maimon’s leadership has begun in such a short time is truly energizing,” said Lorine S. Samuels, Chair of GSU’s Board of Trustees. “With deliberate speed, she is moving GSU in the right direction.”

Samuels added, “This really is a new beginning for GSU. As we build on the accomplishments of the past few years, there is no limit to what we can achieve.”
Excerpt from President Elaine P. Maimon’s Installation Address

“What I call the University as Public Square is defined, symbolically, by GSU’s integration of public art with the academy: creating a place inspiring engagement with the aspirational values of our diverse cultures; a place where the city and nature meet; a place where education is a life-long process in a publicly shared environment.”
Dr. Elaine P. Maimon  
President, Governors State University  
1 University Parkway  
University Park  
Illinois 60466-0975  

Dear Dr. Maimon:

As Governor, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the State of Illinois and to congratulate you on your new post as President at Governors State University.

As you know, GSU has a strong and proud tradition of providing affordable and accessible undergraduate and graduate education to culturally and economically diverse students. Your accomplishments and achievements make you uniquely qualified to help the university continue their mission and to lead them forward during the next chapter of their short but rich history. As you forge ahead, I want you to know you have my unqualified support and backing. Your ability and many skills are a tremendous asset to GSU, and they are very fortunate to have you at their helm.

For all these reasons, I am honored to serve as honorary co-chair, along with Governor State University Board of Trustees Chair, Lorine Samuels, of your installation as President. Congratulations again, and on behalf of all the citizens of Illinois, I offer you my best wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours,

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor
Platform Party

Joseph Addison
Interim Associate Provost for Academic Personnel

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Vice-Chair, GSU Board of Trustees

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GSU Professor Emeritus and Member, Illinois Board of Higher Education
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Zerrie Campbell

1933
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University of North Carolina at
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Prairie State College
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Kankakee Community College
Dr. Jerry Weber

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College of DuPage
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1967
Moraine Valley Community College
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Olive Harvey College
Dr. Valarie Roberson

1973
Sherman College of Straight
Chiropractic
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California State University-San
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Wartburg College
Washburn University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Waubonsee Community College
Webster University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan College
West Texas A&M University
West Virginia University
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Western Carolina University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Kentucky University
Western University of Health Sciences
Westminster College
Wheaton College
Wheaton College, Massachusetts
William Paterson University
Williams College
Winthrop University
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
York College of Pennsylvania
October 25, 2007

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon  
President  
Governors State University  
University Park, IL  60466-0975

Dear President Maimon:

I would like to congratulate you on your installation as the fifth president of Governors State University. During your distinguished career in higher education, you have gained a wealth of experience and knowledge, making you the ideal choice to lead GSU through the challenges of the new century.

Governors State University was established by an act of the Illinois legislature in 1969. It was established as a university where graduates from nearby community colleges could earn a baccalaureate degree and continue their graduate studies; a place where working adults could complete their undergraduate degree or earn their master's or doctorate degrees; a university where individuals could get an education that raises them up, lifts their families, and improves their communities as well.

Through your initiatives, you clearly recognize this unique role of the university. I applaud your bold commitment to ensuring that every qualified graduate from an Illinois community college at or below the poverty level will have the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree debt-free at GSU. With your passion, integrity, and vision, I know that GSU will play an important role in the education of the future leaders of our state and our nation.

I wish you all the best for what I know will be a long and successful tenure as president of Governors State University.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama  
United States Senator
Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Elaine Maimon as Governors State University's fifth president.

I am proud to represent Governors State University, the only public university in the Chicago's south suburbs. Established in 1969, GSU's student body currently numbers 6,000 students, consisting primarily of young adults transferring from community colleges as well as older working adults returning to complete their education and advance their lives.

On November 3, GSU will formally install Dr. Elaine Maimon as its fifth president.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university committed to the principles of diversity. Forty-five percent of GSU's students are minority. Thirty-one percent of its faculty is minority--double the national average.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university that is accessible. A study conducted by the Lumina Foundation has recognized GSU as the most accessible university in the region.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university that meets the highest standards of demonstrable academic quality. Eighty percent of its faculty hold doctoral degrees or the highest degree in their field. The university itself is fully accredited, as is each program with an associated national accrediting body.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university connected with its community. Approximately 25,000 elementary, middle-school, and high school students visit Governors State each year for educational and cultural experiences. GSU faculty members work closely with local governments, school districts, and law enforcement agencies to help meet the needs of the region. The university's business development center has helped secure nearly $55 million in financing since 2000 and has created and retained more than 1,100 jobs in the region.

More than 30,000 men and women have graduated from GSU since its founding. Most graduates still reside in the region, where they serve as teachers, healthcare professionals, executives, entrepreneurs, and municipal leaders. Their lives have been transformed and their communities enriched because they had access to a quality university education.

GSU is a model for the kind of university Dr. Maimon has advocated, developed, and enriched throughout her academic career. Over the years, she has invested her considerable talents to provide access and opportunity, to encourage dreamers to help dreams come true, and to help meet the needs of the underrepresented and underserved.

She has demonstrated the integrity, vision, and commitment required to take GSU to new levels of excellence and service.

Welcome, Dr. Elaine Maimon, and congratulations, Governors State University.
Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President
Governors State University
The President’s Office
University Park, Illinois 60466-0975

Dear Dr. Maimon:

Thank you for your kind words about Chicago and your gracious invitation on behalf of Governors State University. I am pleased to serve on the honorary committee for your installation as President. Education is the key to a better life for our citizens and we need to ensure all students have access to quality degree and training programs.

While I am delighted to lend my name in support of your installation, please know that I may be unable to attend due to my obligations as Mayor. You have my best wishes for a wonderful event and much continued success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor
Installation Week Events

Monday, October 29
Art Exhibition - Dr. Margaret Burroughs
(Continues through November 5)

Global Solutions: Demanding Total Accountability for Climate Change
Distinguished Lecture - Tom S. Mullikin, Author and Lecturer

Artist Reception - Dr. Margaret Burroughs

Tuesday, October 30
Discussion and Exploration of the Creation of a Doctoral Program in Leadership at GSU
Panelists: Dr. Eric Martin - Dean, GSU College of Arts and Sciences (Moderator); Dr. Sondra Estep - Coordinator, Educational Administration, Governors State University; Dr. Dorothea Fitzgerald - Coordinator, GSU Graduate Cohorts; Dr. William Nowlin – Dean GSU College of Business and Public Administration; Angela Winters-Harmon - Assistant Dean of Student Life & Multicultural Affairs, Prairie State College; Dr. Doreen Vieitez - Professor of Education, Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, Joliet Junior College

Wednesday, October 31
Business Ethics and Social Responsibility - Panel Discussion
Panelists: Dr. Anthony Andrews - Associate Professor, GSU College of Business and Public Administration (Moderator); Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite - President, Chicago Theological Seminary; Dr. Christopher Anne Robinson-Easley - Associate Professor, GSU College of Business and Public Administration; Reverend Dr. Leon Finney - Woodlawn Organization & Woodlawn Community Development Corporation; Patrick Ormsby - President, Bimba Manufacturing

Thursday, November 1
The Impact of Education on Health and the Workforce in the Latino Community - Roundtable Discussion
Panelists: Dr. Catalina Ramos-Hernandez - Director, GSU Latino Center for Excellence (Moderator); Jose Arrom - Grant Development Investigator, UIC Midwest Latino Health Research, Training, and Policy Center; Dr. Adriela Fernandez - Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, West Lafayette Campus; Phyllis Johnson - Director, GSU Center for the Research on Vulnerable Populations; Virginia Martinez - Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF); Alicia McCray - Director, GSU Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education; Jorge Mujica - Mexico del Norte

The Globalization of Higher Education - Panel Discussion
Panelists: Dr. Mary Clark - Assistant Professor, GSU College of Business and Public Administration; Dashan Cui - CenterPoint Global Trade Center at GSU; Dr. Marsha Katz - Professor, GSU College of Business and Public Administration; Dr. Gary Lyon - Associate Professor, GSU College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Nancy MacMullen – Nursing Department Chair, GSU College of Health Professions; Vreni Mendoza - Director, GSU Office of International Services
Scholars or Citizens, Workers or Poets? The Fertile Mess of Teaching and Learning Writing
Panelists: Dr. Elaine P. Maimon – President, Governors State University (Moderator); Dr. Douglas Hesse - Professor and Founding Director of the Marisco Writing Program, University of Denver; Jason Evans - Professor of English, Prairie State College; Bette Conkin – Kankakee Community College

**Friday, November 2**
**Business Appreciation Breakfast** (Invitation Only)
Presented by The CenterPoint for Entrepreneurs at GSU

**Seeds of Greatness – A Salute to Student Achievements**
Presented by the GSU Student Senate

**Presidential Reception**

**Saturday, November 3**
**Pre-Program Breakfast** (Invitation Only)

**Installation Ceremony**

**General Installation Reception**

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Tours

**Display - Juried Works of GSU Faculty**
Academic Symbols

The Presidential Medallion

The President’s Medallion is one of the grand traditions of higher education, symbolizing the authority and responsibility associated with the presidency.

The specially designed medallion is worn around the neck on a chain and compliments the dignity and symbolism of traditional academic regalia. The Governors State University President’s Medallion is worn whenever the president participates in ceremonies involving the use of academic regalia, including all such services held by other educational institutions on their campuses or in nearby facilities.

GSU’s Presidential Medallion signifies the authority conferred by the Board of Trustees upon the President as the chief executive officer of the university. By virtue of her office, the President is personally entrusted with the responsibility of promoting the mission and values of Governors State University.

Typically, the Medallion is presented at the Presidential Installation, signaling the beginning of a newly appointed president’s tenure in office. Each Governors State University president has proudly worn the Presidential Medallion as a symbol of the responsibility of the office bestowed upon her.
The Governor’s Mace

The governor’s mace, carried by the marshal who leads the academic procession, is a symbol of the authority of the university as a degree-granting institution. The legal authority of the university is grounded in the intellectual authority of the distinguished faculty who follow in the procession.

In antiquity, the mace was a weapon used to establish the “authority” of the physically strong. Its transformation into a symbol of intellectual authority is both a tribute to, and a reminder of, the civilizing force of a university’s teaching, research, and community service.

Engraved on the four side-panels of the governor’s mace are (1) the seal of the state of Illinois; (2) a cardinal, the state bird; (3) the seal of the former Illinois Board of Governors Universities; and (4) an inscription which reads “The governor’s mace, a symbol of tradition and authority of Governors State University, dedicated to the search for excellence in the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and the love of learning. Presented by Peter Levin, friend of the university, June 2, 1979.”

GSU Logo

The three sides of the “triangle” symbolize the university’s teaching, research, and community service functions. The three lines visually suggest the shape of a rocket, reminding us both that the university was founded within days of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon and that the university is a hope-filled, pioneering community, committed to a better future for all men and women.

The circle symbolizes the fact that the university is, indeed, a community. Finally, the fact that the tips of the triangle reach beyond the circle indicates the university’s outreach into the region, state, and nation and its commitment to teaching, research, and community service.
The GSU Promise

The GSU Promise is a commitment to provide qualified low-income graduates from Illinois community colleges the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree debt-free.

The plan addresses a critical social need. Only 10 to 15 percent of students who enter community college with an intention of earning a bachelor’s degree actually do so. The numbers are depressingly low in part because students fear to burden themselves with large amounts of debt, and in part because they simply do not know of aid that is available. That represents more than a personal tragedy. It is also a loss for our region, which needs a well-educated workforce.

Low-income students are eligible for Federal Pell grants and aid through Illinois’ Monetary Assistance Program. But federal and state aid may not cover the full cost of an education. The GSU Promise will cover the difference.

For the region, the GSU Promise is an investment that will inspire, educate, and motivate the future teachers, entrepreneurs, nurses and healthcare professionals, administrators, law enforcement officials, mayor and city managers, and others – the professional workforce we need to lead the development of one of the fastest growing regions in the nation.
Founding Contributors
GSU Promise

$10,000 - $20,000
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Dr. Mort Maimon
Mr. Wilbur Morrison
GSU Alumni Association

$5,000 - $9,999
Bimba Manufacturing/
Mr. Pat Ormsby
Dr. Gebeyehu Ejigu and
Mrs. Genet Ejigu
Dr. William A. Nowlin &
Mrs. Gloria Nowlin
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Mrs. Pamela Woodward
Dr. Darlene Wright
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