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GSU View

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News and Events

[Under Secretary Kanter Praises GSU Programs](#)



The nation's top-ranking post-secondary education officer Friday praised Governors State University's Dual Degree Program, a groundbreaking initiative designed to increase graduation rates on both the community college and university level.

Dr. Martha J. Kanter, Under Secretary of the United States Department of Education, spoke at *Success by Dual Degrees: Meeting the President's College Completion Goal*, a higher education rally hosted by GSU President Elaine P. Maimon.

"We are going to shine a spotlight on the Dual Degree Program," Dr. Kanter said. "This is absolutely the right direction in which to go." She called the Dual Degree Program a model partnership between GSU and community college partners that will help first generation college students overcome obstacles that are often found in the challenging higher education environment.

The GSU rally was Dr. Kanter's final stop on a three-day "Education and the Economy" back-to-school bus tour, which included events in several Midwestern states. Dr. Kanter and other Department of Education senior staff members, including Secretary Arne Duncan, visited schools they consider "islands of excellence" that are preparing students to compete in the global economy. GSU, she said, fits that description.

"Your Success by Degrees strategy has all the right elements," Dr. Kanter said. "You are offering students educational opportunities that are affordable and doable, and you are helping them stay on track to finish what they started."

President Barack Obama has called upon American institutions of higher learning to take steps to increase the national college graduation rate by 50 percent by 2020. GSU, responding to the president's call, initiated the Dual Degree Program, an innovative partnership between the university and area community colleges that offers financial incentives, university advising, and other assistance to students, who join the program during their freshman year in community college.



Anne Pramaggiore, president and chief operating officer of ComEd, and Rafiah Muhammed, a

Prairie State College student who is enrolled in the Dual Degree Program, also spoke at the rally. A children's choir from the Family Development Center presented two songs, "America the Beautiful," and "Success by Degrees," with original lyrics by Ayita Woods of GSU's Human Resources Department.

Changes Announced in Student Support Services

Changes in GSU's Student Academic Support Services were announced last week by Provost Terry Allison. Dr. Peggy Woodard will serve as Interim Dean of Students in addition to maintaining her role as Associate Provost. Sheree Sanderson has been appointed as Interim Assistant Dean.

Read [Dr. Allison's memo](#).

Four-Year Plan is Town Hall Topic

President Elaine P. Maimon will host a Town Hall meeting for faculty and staff on Wednesday, September 14, at 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The forum will address the possible transition of GSU to a four-year institution with both upper and lower division programs.

For further information, please review a [white paper](#) and [executive summary](#) on the proposed changes.

A Chat with President Maimon

Students, bring your questions – and your ideas – to a chat with President Maimon on Tuesday, September 13, at 6 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. You can find out about the many changes on campus this fall, and GSU's plans for the future.

Free pizza will be served at the get-together with President Maimon.

BSU Snow Cones

Enjoy an end of summer treat at the GSU Black Student Union snow cone social. The BSU will be creating these tasty treats to celebrate the new semester on Thursday, September 15, from noon to 3 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Everyone is welcome while supplies last.

For more information about the Black Student Union, contact [Tina Hughes-Burke](#) at ext. 7312.

September 11 Memorial Events



GSU is commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9-11 today with a series of public events.

Bells on the university carillon tolled from 9 to 9:30 a.m. During a morning ceremony, President Elaine P. Maimon and Keith White, coordinator of Veterans Services at GSU, spoke to those assembled. Tamekia Scott of the Academic Resource Center served at emcee.

A public discussion of the events of 9-11-2001 and its impact is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. The discussion is sponsored by the Academic Resource Center, Student Life, and Veteran's Affairs. For information, call 708.235.2228.

Stories about "Where Were You on 9-11?" will be read from 1 to 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Commemorative stories were submitted to Reinhold Hill, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

All events are free and open to the public.

Thriving Through and Beyond Trauma

Gary Karp, author and Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame inductee, will speak at *Thriving Through and Beyond Trauma* on Monday, September 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The program is presented by GSU's Physical Therapy program and sponsored by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center.

Karp, who suffered a spinal cord injury in 1973, has spoken extensively at rehabilitation facilities. During his insightful, engaging, and enjoyable talk, he will draw from his own experiences as a wheelchair user. Among the questions he will address:

- How do people respond to traumatic change and disability?
- What are the adaptive processes people draw upon?
- What is the social context for how we all view disability and adjustment?
- How does the experience and services of acute rehab make a difference?
- What is the optimal relationship for a clinician with a patient to best draw on their capacity to thrive?
- How did he learn to be such an incredible juggler?

For more information, contact [Dr. Robbie O'Shea](#).

Auditions This Week For GSU Chorale

Do you love to sing? If so, come to auditions for the GSU Chorale on September 13 and 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts Green Room.

The GSU Chorale is open to students, faculty, and staff. All voice types are needed. The immediate goal of the Chorale is to sing holiday tunes around GSU in December.

Following the auditions, flexible rehearsals will be held once a week during a lunch hour time frame. The group will mainly perform a cappella. Instrumentalists interested in adding tones to our sound should also apply.

At the audition, singers should be prepared to perform a song a cappella. To reserve an audition time, contact [Lynne Clayton](#) at 708.534.3075.

The GSU Spirit Committee is sponsoring the chorale.

Learn About PT Doctoral Programs

The GSU Department of Physical Therapy will host an Information Session/Open House for its entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT) degree programs on Wednesday, September 14, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., in room D34000.

Information will be presented about admission criteria and course curricula for both physical therapy programs. GSU offers an on-campus, entry-level doctor of physical therapy degree for those interested in starting a career in physical therapy and an advanced (transitional) doctor of physical therapy for clinicians who are already licensed and have at least one year of clinical experience.

Get your questions answered, meet the faculty, and tour classroom and laboratory spaces.

Advisors will be available for individual consultation. Light refreshments will be provided.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting [Mary Tracy](#) at 708.534.7290.

Come to Fall Meditation Sessions

Develop your ability to meditate during free meditation sessions, offered on campus throughout the semester to help students, faculty, and staff bring a sense of peace to their lives. Research shows that meditation helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and increase creativity.

- Mondays, from 3:30 to 4 p.m., in room C3380, with Dave O'Donnell
- Tuesdays, from 3 to 4 p.m., in room C3380, with Barb Gormely
- Thursdays, from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m., in room D34160, with Tim Pedigo
- Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m., in room C3380, with Maristella Zell

All sessions are free. Everyone is welcome.

Zookeeper at GSU Drive-In

GSU students and their families can enjoy an old-fashioned night at the drive-in on September 23. The East 3 parking lot (formerly Parking Lot E) will be transformed into a drive-in movie theater with a big screen showing *The Zookeeper* under the stars. The show begins at dusk. Popcorn and candy – perfect movie refreshments – will be served.

The Zookeeper, starring Kevin James and Rosario Dawson, is the family-friendly comedy about a group of zoo animals who decide to break their code of silence in order to help their friend and zookeeper find love.

Everyone is welcome. The event is sponsored by Student Life. For more information contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 4552.

Student Tickets Available for Ultimate Thriller

Students can enjoy *Thriller, The Legend Continues*, a tribute to Michael Jackson, on October 1, at the Center for Performing Arts, for the special price of \$25 per ticket.

The show begins at 8 p.m. and includes an onstage lineup of "Our Michael," musicians, background singers, and dancers. The concert replicates Michael Jackson's BAD and Dangerous tours and is a musical thrill for everyone.



Student tickets are available at the Center for Performing Arts box office. Student ID is required.

