NEWS

Fulfill the Promise Campaign Launched

This week marked the kickoff of the Fulfill the Promise campaign to reach the million dollar endowment goal for the GSU Promise Scholarship program. The Fulfill the Promise campaign is a final push to raise the $100,000 needed to endow the scholarships, which provide students enrolled in the DDP program with the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree free from crushing debt. Crossing the million dollar threshold helps ensure that an ever-growing number of students will benefit in the years ahead. To view President Maimon's message, meet some Promise Scholars, or to donate, click here.

Student Life Organizing Budget Cuts Campaign

With the threat of serious budget cuts to Illinois higher education looming, the GSU Student Life Department is organizing a campaign entitled #SaveOurEducation for GSU students.

The campaign includes:

- Writing letters to state legislators starting the week of March 30
- Tweeting facts about GSU under the #SaveOurEducation hashtag during the week of April 6
- Writing letters to the editors of local papers during the week of April 13
- Signing and asking family and friends to sign an online Change.org petition

The culminating event will be a student and staff trip to Springfield on April 22 to meet with state legislators. More details about the campaign and the Springfield trip will be coming soon! For more information, contact Sheree Sanderson at ssanderson@govst.edu.
Nursing Professor Receives Veterans Award

Congratulations to Shirley Ann Spencer, Ph.D., RN, COL, Assistant Professor of Nursing at GSU, who received an award from the National Women Veterans United (NWVU) March 21. She received the award at the group’s 10th anniversary Conference and luncheon, and Awards Gala. The NWVU is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting women veterans, as well as those women currently enlisted in the Armed Forces, including the National Guards and Reserves. Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner was one of the keynote speakers.

Shirley Ann Spencer, Ph.D., RN, COL

Shirley holds the high rank of Brigade Chief Nurse in the United States Army, a position to which she was recently promoted. She has been deployed several times overseas to Kuwait and Iraq. Shirley initially helped save lives in the midst of mortar attacks on the Army base in Iraq where she worked. Later, as Deputy Commander of Nursing Services, she oversaw nursing services at the main hospital and clinics near the Iraq border. Armed with this background, Shirley brings a unique philosophical and global perspective to all her roles: leader, teacher, soldier, and nurse.

"...I'm very grateful for the flexibility I've been given to serve my country," Shirley said. "To GSU, I would like to say thank you, thank you and thank you."

"My life impacts others."

Students in Jennifer Boender’s Principles of Peer Leadership course had an interesting assignment recently. Each student wrote a "Life Purpose Statement" of just one sentence. Twenty one students submitted the assignment, and each of the sentences was formed into a compilation. Here is what they said:

My life impacts others.

Everyone's life has a meaning because it's a story to tell; good or bad. My life has meaning because for some reason I have this crazy passion for helping others who are in need. My life has a meaning because every morning I have a fresh twenty four hours to do better than I did the day before.
My dream is to be the person I wanted someone to be for me. I want to inspire people to do better and help others. I want to work towards being a humanitarian. Everybody has their share of issues in life and I just want to be the one in my family who changes all of that. I want to be that someone. Someone who saw the world for what it has the potential to be.

Being exposed to drugs, guns, and violence at an early age and decisively choosing not to be a part of it gives life value and sets a person apart. You have the choice to make something out of your life. Life is too short to regret the chance you were given. Before you know it, you'll look back at all the things you've accomplished instead of all the downfalls that occurred. We cannot go back in time and change the past, but we can help other people change their futures!

Positivity is key in life; be positive, lead, and stand up for those who are scared to be happy. Be honest; always keep your word. Fight for what you believe in despite people's opinions. Live every moment as a growing experience. Help another's life situation. Be a role model.

We're all stories in the end; you just have to make yours worth reading.

**Students Give Back on Their Spring Break**

Last week, several students and staff members from GSU spent their Alternative Spring Break engaging in volunteer service, serving at shelters and youth centers across the country, in an effort to give back.

Pictured are GSU students, faculty and staff at the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago.

Check out Twitter hashtag #GSUASB to see more great pics of Alternative Spring Break service events.
Vacation Education at Governors State University

Take advantage of the ultimate summertime college opportunity...the chance to pick up a class you need to fill a General Education requirement while you have the time and none of the stress.

Vacation Education at GSU offers Gen. Ed. courses at convenient times—when you have the time. Our flexible summer schedule accommodates your need to work as well as your need to have a summer break by offering daytime and evening classes. Click here for more information.

How would you like to sing the National Anthem at Commencement?

Applications are now being accepted for the honor of singing the National Anthem at the GSU Commencement ceremony. Two graduating students (may be undergraduate or graduate) are needed.

Applicants must meet specific criteria. Applications are due by Thursday, April 9, 2015. Submit application to the Office of the Dean of Students, A2134 or by email to lcarra@govst.edu.

Auditions will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. The auditions will be performed acappella. The Commencement performance can either be acappella or with live band accompaniment. The selection of the singer will be based on quality of vocal ability, quality of presentation, academic record, and contributions to campus life.

To download the Commencement Singer Application, visit: www.govst.edu/dos

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Carra in the Dean of Students Office at: 708.235.7595 or lcarra@govst.edu

The Annual Student Leadership Awards

The Student Leadership Awards will be held on Friday, April 24, in the Hall of Governors. This program is designed to highlight the achievements of GSU Student Clubs and Organizations, as well as the staff, faculty, and administrators who support these groups. This year’s event, will celebrate the students’
many accomplishments, and remind them of the impact that their student clubs and organizations have on the university and campus community. Nominations are currently being accepted in the following categories:

* Outstanding Student Club/Organization Award
* Outstanding Graduate Student Award
* Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award
* Freshman of the Year Award
* Rising Star Award
* New Student Club/Organization of the Year
* Program of the Year
* Outstanding Club/Organization Advisor
* Outstanding Support Staff
* The Elaine P. Maimon Award

GSU Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration are eligible to nominate by using the link below. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StudentLeadershipAwards2015](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StudentLeadershipAwards2015). DO IT TODAY!

**Student Commencement Speaker Nominations**

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015. There are two ceremonies; one at 10 a.m. and one at 5 p.m. ceremony. As a result, we will select two commencement speakers, one for the morning and the other for the evening ceremony. We will need candidates to represent all colleges, so please make a conscious effort to nominate deserving students for this prestigious honor.

Access the Student Commencement Speaker nomination form at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SpringCommencementspeakerssubmission](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SpringCommencementspeakerssubmission) and fill out both the nomination form and the recommendation form no later than April 3.

In order for students to be eligible they must be available for an interview on Friday, April 10, 2015 between 9 AM and 3PM. Please be sure to share the information with your nominee before you submit the nomination.

If you require additional information don’t contact Sheree Sanderson, Assistant Dean of Students at: ssanderson@govst.edu.

**The Experience Hub is Changing to Jobs for Jaguars**

GSU students/alumni will be able to explore jobs and internships, RSVP for career events and share your resume with employers recruiting at our university. The look has changed, but the log-in remains the same! Look for the change Coming Soon!
Students Chat with the President March 30

Students, do you have questions or ideas you would like to share with GSU President Dr. Elaine P. Maimon? This is your chance! Join Dr. Maimon for a Chat with the President session on Monday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. A pizza dinner will be served. No RSVP's required.

Questions? Contact Penny Perdue at pperdue@govst.edu or call 708.534.4130.

2015 Women's History Month Events

March is Women's History Month and GSU has a full lineup of events celebrating women. Below are events scheduled for this week. The events are co-sponsored by the Black Student Union, Communications Department, Criminal Justice Department, Education Department, Intercultural Student Affairs, International Culture Club, the Library, Student Life and the University Program Council. You can download the full event calendar in this link.

March 24th
THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CIVIL RIGHTS
6pm, Sherman Hall
This presentation will focus on the leadership role that women of all colors and cultures took during the Civil Rights Movement. This will be demonstrated through a power point presentation. The presentation will include; videos of interview excerpts and photos. Additionally, guest performers will reenact a scene from this Era and present spoken word and music.

March 25th
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE TALK & FUNDRAISER
10am–4pm, Hall of Governors
Come learn about how women have played a major role in the farming of coffee globally. There will conversations about their experiences throughout the day as well as opportunities to purchase coffee from around the world.

WOMENS HISTORY JEOPARDY
3:30pm, Cafeteria Annex
Are you a guru of women's history? Do you know of the many contributions of women? If your answer is yes or even no, join us as we learn more about women through trivia.

March 26th
OPEN MIC
6pm, Cafeteria Annex
Come join us as we celebrate women through spoken word, song and other performing arts.

**NSA Presentation March 25**

On Wednesday, March 25, Diana Parr from the National Security Agency (NSA), Washington, D.C. will give a presentation in the Hall of Honors from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., on the NSA’s Mission, Academic Alliances and Internship/Employment Opportunities. After her presentation, Ms. Parr will hold a Q&A session, meet and greet faculty members and tour GSU’s computer and science labs. All interested faculty and students are invited to attend.

**How to Advance Your Career Workshop**

Join Park Forest Village Manager Tom Mick and Park Forest Human Resources Manager Denyse Carreras on Monday, March 30 from 6-7 p.m. in Lecture Hall F1622 as they discuss methods designed to help you advance your career.

Tom Mick and Denyse Carreras

Topics to be covered include:

- Advanced résumé and interviewing tips
- Important qualities of a good candidate
- Common mistakes applicants make
- How to impress and make the most out of the April 16 Career Fair at GSU
- Important considerations for a job with local government
- How to compete for a promotion

For more information, contact Matt Gentry: mgentry@student.govst.edu. Sponsored by the Graduate Professional Network and Office of Career Services.

**The Cotton Mouth Club**
Hip-hop and ballet? The music of OutKast and Michael Jackson. The 1920's and the 1980's. These odd couples combine to create an undeniably unique performing arts experience—and one with a message about violence. The Cotton Mouth Club, presented by Chicago Dance Crash, brings its characteristic fusion of dance styles, known widely on the Chicago contemporary dance scene, to GSU's Center for Performing Arts, Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $25 for adults and $10 for students with valid I.D. Adults 65+ save $5. For tickets and more information, click here, or call: 708.235.2222.

Funded by: The Chicago Community Trust and Affiliates and the National Endowment for the Arts. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

**Informatics Faculty Candidate Presentation March 27**

The Search Committee for the College of Health and Human Services, Department of Health Administration, Informatics Program invites all Faculty, Staff and students to the presentation of Health Informatics faculty candidate __________{(redacted)}_____________. Friday, March 27, from 2–3 p.m. in #G227. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Ning Lu, nlu@govst.edu or Debra Sbalchiero, dsbalchiero@govst.edu.

**News from the Registrar's Office**

The Registrar's Office has some upcoming events this week:

On March 23, priority registration for summer 2015 will begin. New this year, students in master's programs, who enroll in at least 3 credit hours in the summer, will be eligible for financial aid. Register early so you can get into classes they need before they fill up.

March 24 is the Salute to Grads: Commencement Prep. This event will take place in the Hall of Governors/Cafeteria Annex. Students who plan to participate in commencement can come to order their cap and gown, commencement items (class ring, diploma frames, invitations, etc.), and take professional pictures. The event takes place from noon until 6 p.m. More information about commencement events can be found at [www.govst.edu/commencement](http://www.govst.edu/commencement).

The Academic Calendars for next several years are available online at [www.govst.edu/academiccalendar](http://www.govst.edu/academiccalendar), to help with planning.

**Spring Career Fair, April 16**

The Spring Career and Internship Fair will be held Thursday, April 16, from 2-5 p.m., in the Center for Performing Arts Lobby and Engbretson Hall. The fair is for people interested in jobs and internship opportunities in communications, technology, business and public administration, criminal justice, addiction studies, community health, and related fields.

Current students, alumni, and community members are invited to attend. Potential employers are also invited to register as participants. This is an opportunity to match jobs and internships positions with qualified personnel. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (708) 2353974.

**Dr. Sonia Nieto, April 16**

The Faculty Scholarship and Teaching Center and the College of Education with support from The Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Present: A Conversation with Dr. Sonia Nieto, April 16, 5:00 p.m. in the E-Lounge.
Dr. Sonia Nieto

Educator, researcher, writer, and teacher, Sonia Nieto is Professor Emerita of Language, Literacy, and Culture, College of Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has taught students from elementary school through doctoral studies and her research focuses on multicultural education, teacher education, and the education of Latinos, immigrants, and other students of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.


The program includes a reception and book signing. Books will be available for purchase at event.

For further information about Dr. Nieto, please see her web page [http://www.sonianieto.com](http://www.sonianieto.com). For further information about this workshop, please contact Teri Sosa, Director Faculty Scholarship and Teaching Center, [tsosa@govst.edu](mailto:tsosa@govst.edu).

**Fundraiser for Sertoma Centre, April 18**

The GSU Chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) will host a Spring Bowl fundraiser for Sertoma Centre, Inc., on Saturday, April 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Oak Forest Bowl and The Park, 15240 Cicero Avenue, Oak Forest. NSSLHA members are graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in Communication Disorders at GSU.

In addition to bowling, a Silent Auction featuring evening gowns, sports tickets and more will be held. All proceeds will go to Sertoma Centre, Inc., a not-for-profit agency headquartered in Alsip that serves individuals with developmental disabilities.

Children age 11 and under may bowl for free. Adults and children age 12 and older who want to attend the event (but not bowl) will be charged $5. Adults and children age 12 and older who would like to bowl will be charged $10. Admission for senior citizens is $5; senior citizens who want to bowl will be charged $7.
Faculty Research Salon April 24: Impact of Environments on Children with Disabilities

Nine faculty members from the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Education will discuss their evidence-based scholarship relating to the role that physical, social, cultural, political and economic environments play in the daily lives of children with disabilities.

The event will commence with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2015, and will end at 1 p.m. All GSU students, faculty, staff members and the general public are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Katie or Melissa at chpintern@govst.edu or call 708.534.4910.

21st Annual Student Research Conference

GSU will hold its 21st Annual Student Research Conference on Tuesday, April 28.

Conference: The conference will provide students an opportunity to present their research work before an audience of their peers, and will provide a forum to highlight research accomplishments at GSU. All the presentations will be made by students only. All students are encouraged to present their research and other scholarly work in this conference.

Registration and Abstract Forms: The registration and the abstract submission forms are available here. Please send the filled forms electronically by email to skumar@govst.edu.

All attendees are required to register using the registration forms. Students are encouraged to attend the conference even if they are not presenting any paper. Faculty, invite your students to attend the conference and join for lunch. There is no registration fee, however, students must be registered before the deadline of Friday, April 17, 2015.

Deadline: Registration and Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday, April 17, 2015.

Program: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. and will have morning and afternoon podium presentations. The posters will be displayed right after the lunch, which will be provided to all registrants. Certificates of Merit will be awarded to all student participants.

Conference Format: Students may present their work in podium presentation or poster presentation formats. The podium presentations will be 15 minutes in duration followed by a five minute question/answer session. In the poster presentations students will display their work in small posters which will cover an area of 4' W x 3' H.

Conference Proceedings: All abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings.

Kimberly Akimbo, April 24-25

GSU Theatre and Performance Studies will present "Kimberly Akimbo" Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m. in the Sherman Recital Hall.

This hilarious play follows a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. When she and her family flee Secaucus under dubious circumstances, Kimberly is forced to reevaluate her life amidst dealing with a totally dysfunctional family, her own mortality, and, most terrifying of all, the possibility of first love. Click here for tickets and more information.
Response to our Where in GSU Is This? (The upgraded Student Commons) post:
Andrew Zachariah Head Woot woot!! The student lounge Lisa Suliman Schneider
Commons! Looks amazing!

Response to our post about students taking time from Spring Break to volunteer at shelters and youth centers to give back:
Kevin Kredens Way kewl!
Marilyn McSteen Way to go!!