News

Convocation Marks Transformation’s End; New Beginnings at GSU

Governors State University reached a milestone of historic proportions as years of thoughtful planning, dedication, creativity, and hard work all came together in a day celebrating the rebirth and transformation of an entire community at its 46th Convocation. Governors State is now officially a comprehensive university with freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels.

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Welcome Week Events Set to Greet Students!
GSU Welcomes students back to campus for the Fall 2015 semester! Student Life and the GSU Program Council have created an exciting array of Welcome Week Events to engage, inform, and inspire student participation. There will be concerts, movies, an open-mic night, the kick-off to the women’s volleyball season, and the Welcome Week Carnival. You won’t want to miss any of it! The co-curricular programs are free to all GSU students. For additional information contact Student Life at 708-235-7362, or email SLCO@govst.edu.

Visit the New Emergency Management Website

To help ensure that campus safety remains at the forefront of our thoughts during the semester opening, whether you are a student, or faculty or staff member, please visit the newly revised and updated Emergency Response Team website. You will find links to current GSU alerts; updating your emergency contact information; emergency numbers, and links to traffic, weather, and Illinois state agencies. For your reference, the website also includes resources such as the GSU Safety Booklet.

Freshmen Participate in Service and Leadership Seminar
Students who participated in the inaugural Student Life Service and Leadership Seminar were from left: Katelyn Mattes, Carolina Serrato, Heather Orlick, Grace Eldridge, Nicole Ames, Hillary Chadare, and, seated, Arron Johnson. Carolina and Nicole are this year’s presidential scholars and join Arron as honors program students.

Seven incoming freshmen took part in the inaugural Student Life Service and Leadership Seminar, held August 17-21. The seminar was developed as a co-curricular certificate program to enhance the college experience through understanding other cultures, leadership skills, creating an awareness of self, and an understanding of social issues. The participating students included the two GSU Presidential Scholars and three honors program students.

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BUZZ

Facebook Post Gives Students Advice for College Success

A recent post to the GSU Facebook page became a veritable treasure trove of helpful hints for college students as we asked for "Tips for College Students to Succeed." Here is a narrowed down Top 10 List of our favorites.

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Dance Company Auditions September 2

The GSU Dance Company will hold auditions for its upcoming season Wednesday, September 2 in the Center for Performing Arts. Registration begins at 7:15 p.m. with auditions starting at 7:30 p.m. The Company is seeking dancers and student choreographers in modern, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and world dance for its 2015-2016 season, with performances on April 6-7, 2016.

Women’s Leadership Symposium Seeks Presenters

Coordinators of the S.H.E.R.O. Women’s Leadership Symposium (Sharing Her story of Empowerment Resilience & Opportunity) are looking for people who are interested in facilitating a small program during the event on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

The goal of this year’s S.H.E.R.O. Women’s Leadership Symposium, which has the theme "E3: Empower, Enrich, Engage," will be to empower, enrich, and engage women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. The program will provide perspectives in the areas of: workforce dynamics, social justice and civic engagement, health and sexuality, identity formation and professional branding, mentorship, relationship building, and negotiation. The conference format will include a featured keynote and breakout discussions, and is inclusive to all genders looking to support women in leadership.

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting a program, please email the following to Kyrie-Eleison Kirkland or Jessica Specht: program title & abstract (~100-150 words); names of presenter(s); length of program (up to one hour); requests for equipment or special accommodations (A/V and a computer will be available in all presentation rooms). Proposals are due by September 30 for full consideration.

Auditions for Fahrenheit 451 at CPA
Auditions for Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" will be held September 1 & 3 at the Center for Performing Arts. Producers are casting a large ensemble of high energy, versatile, and creative performers—women and men, students and non-students, faculty and staff, novices and veterans of all ages—interested in creating science fiction magic. Those interested in auditioning should prepare a one-minute monologue showcasing intensity (focus, power, force, etc.)

View the [audition promo video](#), [schedule an audition](#) or contact Dr. Patrick Santoro at 708.235.2842 or [psantoro@govst.edu](mailto:psantoro@govst.edu) for more information.

**Student Clubs and Organizations Food Drive Competition**

Feed the hungry and win your club some cash! Your club or organization will get bragging rights and $200 in the club's account for bringing in the most food donations during Student Life’s Open House Wednesday, August 26 from 12-5 p.m. in the Student Commons. Which club wants it most?

**Deadline Extended for Latino Heritage Month Programs**

Friday, August 28 is the new deadline to submit programs for Latino Heritage Month. Celebrated September 15-October 15, Latino Heritage Month recognizes the history, culture, and contributions of Latinos in our global society past, present, and future. September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

Please submit your program, including title, description, program date, and type (lecture, service, social, visual arts, performing arts) online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LatinoHeritageMonth](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LatinoHeritageMonth). For more information or questions, email diversity@govst.edu or call x4551.

**Greater Food Depository Service Opportunity**
Volunteers are needed for a service opportunity at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Students and faculty are welcome to join us Saturday, August 29 from noon-4:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided by GSU. Sign up today!

Stepshow Announcement

The 2015 Step Show will be held Friday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. This inaugural event is one of the many highlights of our annual Family & Friends Weekend. We are currently seeking step teams from Greek lettered organizations to perform. There is a $1000 prize for the best fraternity and best sorority. The registration fee for teams is $100 and the deadline is September 18. Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSUSTepshow to register.

We are also looking for Greek lettered organizations to host an informational table that will be featured in the lobby of the Center of Performing Arts during the step show. If you know of vendors that sell Greek products or an agency who would like to be a sponsor we welcome their participation as well.

For more information, please call 708-235-4362 or email slco@govst.edu.
Click here for the event flyer

Volleyball Pre-Game Alumni Reception

The Office of Alumni Relations invites all GSU alums to join us at our first ever Pre-game Reception with GSU's athletic coaches, followed by an exciting evening of GSU volleyball action! The reception will be held Tuesday, August 25, from 4:30-5:45p.m., in the upper lobby of the Center for Performing Arts. The first-ever home women's volleyball match will take place at 6 p.m. against Indiana University Northwest.

Come cheer for the GSU Jaguars in reserved alumni seating as they take on the IU RedHawks at their very first NAIA volleyball game. Enjoy light bites, beverages, and networking with other GSU alumni and friends. This is a great opportunity for you to meet our coaches whose impressive athletic accomplishments as both players and coaches- allow them to develop each student athlete. Please RSVP to (708) 534-4105 today! Be sure to check out the full schedules for GSU women's volleyball, as well as men's and women's cross country and men's and women's golf.

EVENTS

Secretary of State Mobile Unit at GSU on August 25

The Secretary of State's Mobile Service Unit will be at GSU on Tuesday, August 25, from noon-6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Services available at the mobile service unit include driver's license and State ID renewal, replacement, and corrections; vehicle sticker sales; passenger and b-truck license plates; vehicle title and registration; parking placards for persons with disabilities; and organ/tissue donor information. In addition, vision tests and the written driver's license exam can be taken. No driving tests will be given. The services provided are available to all qualified Illinois residents.

Students—Employment Job Fair is Wednesday

Students, are you looking for employment? The Office of Career Services is hosting a Student Employment Job Fair, Wednesday, August 26, from 3-6 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Check out the link to see the registered participating employers and positions available.

Library Skylight Gallery Receptions August 26-27
All are invited to attend receptions in the library’s Skylight Gallery Wednesday, August 26, and Thursday August 27 from 4-6 p.m. Visitors will get a first look at "NOT ALLOWED TO BE SEEN," the library’s new, interactive exhibit in conjunction with the "Fahrenheit 451," Big Read campus wide project. Refreshments will be served. Guests can also learn about some of the changes that have taken place in the library over the summer, including new hours and a new service desk.

**Bookstore Summer Clearance Event Through August 30**

The GSU Bookstore is having a Summer Clearance Event through August 30. Take an additional 40 percent off already reduced items while supplies last. The offer is not valid on food items, Starbucks products, or graduation items, and cannot be combined with any other offer. See store for details.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DPT Information Session/Open House**

The Department of Physical Therapy will host an Information Session/Open House for its entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 4-7 p.m. in Room F 2505. GSU offers an on-campus entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy degree for those interested in starting a career in Physical Therapy. Information about admission criteria and course curricula will be available.

Join us to get your questions answered, meet faculty and students, and tour our newly-renovated classroom/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 or
Illinois Sen. Toi Hutchinson (40th), Rep. Anthony DeLuca (80th), and members of the Illinois Sierra Club are scheduled to attend a Clean Energy Town Hall Forum, Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. in Sherman Hall. A panel of experts will discuss clean energy in Illinois, job training in the clean energy sector, and ways you can save money on your electric bill with clean technology. The event is free and open to the public. Pizza and light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Melinda Elliott.

Suicide Prevention Symposium

The Counseling Center is co-hosting a symposium on suicide prevention. "The Unconscious Veil of Suicide: Recognizing the Signs and Characteristics of the Potential for Suicide" will be held Wednesday, September 23 at 6 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex. A reception will follow. For more information, contact Suzette Shepherd.

Men’s Leadership Summit September 26

A leadership summit especially designed for men, "Redefining Manhood: Finding Your Story" will be held Saturday, September 26 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. in Engbreton Hall. The summit, sponsored by Student Life is free, but you must register by September 18 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaleSuccess to attend. A Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Facebook Posts of the Week

Response to our Convocation 2015 photo album:
Julie Anderson Amazing things are happening at GSU. So proud to be a part of it!!
Dolores Nubie Great school
Danyale Lucado I'm so proud of my alma mater. Go JAGUARS!!

Response to our post about the start of GSU's 2015 Convocation:
Felicia Ames It was a wonderful event!!!
Joyce Edwards My daughter attend this school

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
Governors State University reached a milestone of historic proportions as years of thoughtful planning, dedication, creativity, and hard work all came together in a day celebrating the rebirth and transformation of an entire community at its 46th Convocation. Governors State is now officially a comprehensive university with freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students at the
master's and doctoral levels.

As the members of GSU's first-ever class of sophomores entered the Center for Performing Arts, proudly carrying a banner proudly proclaiming "First Class–Class of 2018," the circle had been completed. They represented the final piece of an amazing metamorphosis. GSU is now a fully-populated comprehensive university.

The atmosphere was brimming with history right from the start. Not merely a formal assembly, but more of a Convocation Day, the students were motivated and arrived early, taking pictures, rekindling friendships, laughing, and enjoying the beautiful campus. Carrying signs proclaiming "Success Starts Here," they seemed to revel in all the traditions of Convocation and, at the same time, sense their part in the future innovations of the university. Early in the afternoon, students enthusiastically gathered for photos with President Elaine P. Maimon at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, where even the art itself seemed to be smiling.
Meanwhile, inside the gymnasium, the electricity in the air was palpable as GSU athletes assembled for a celebration to kick off the start of National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NAIA) competition. The long wait from the announcement of NAIA acceptance in April to the first contest—a women's volleyball match set for that night—was finally over, and the Jaguars were ready to let loose. All the teams—women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's basketball—were there to mark yet another historic event in a day filled with them.

All the day's parts kept moving through the culminating ceremony in the Center for Performing Arts. Everyone was buzzing about the special Convocation pins they received to mark the occasion, which can be worn at Commencement. The auditorium was already pulsing with anticipation as President Maimon enthusiastically introduced the Dual Degree Program (DDP) students, whom she called "a special group of GSU juniors." The sophomores and freshmen followed to thunderous applause. The audience's appreciation of the university's long-awaited accomplishment was clear.

After presenting the students to the assembled faculty, staff, Trustees, alumni, and guests, President Maimon said, "I now hereby officially declare the opening of the 2015-16 academic year, another historic year for Governors State University."

A celebration of GSU wouldn't be complete without honoring the faculty that propels its excellence. Three Faculty Excellence Awards were presented at this year's Convocation. This year's award winners were: Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, Carlos Ferran; Academic Support Professional and Coordinator for New Student Programs and Cohort Advising, LaTonya Holmes, and Professor of English, Rosemary Johnsen. Each of the winners, whom President Maimon called "true exemplars," was awarded $6,000 prizes for their outstanding contributions to GSU.
One of the highlights of Convocation is the presentation of the Baysore Award. Presented in memory of Dr. Gerald C. Baysore, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, who, for 18 years, served GSU with distinction, the award is the highest honor GSU can bestow on its employees. This year's winner is Geoff Bates, Director and Curator of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

The Educators' Legacy Awards were presented to a K-12 teacher, nominated by a member of the freshmen class, and a community college teacher nominated by a DDP student.

President Maimon introduced the athletes and noted that equity and excellence are hallmarks of GSU. "We are proud of our new athletic program. But the Jaguar symbol goes beyond athletics. The jaguar is beautiful, sleek, and nimble. The jaguar unites us—freshmen, transfers, graduate students, faculty, administrators, staff, trustees, family, and community members. We are Jaguar Nation—all of us together, and the whole is more than the sum of its parts. Welcome everyone to Jaguar Nation."

A special guest—Jax—then made an appearance onstage. "Hi, Jax, I'm sure you agree. It's a great day to be a Jaguar," President Maimon said.
The enthusiasm had reached its crescendo. Through hardships and triumphs, history had been made at GSU. Afterward, at the Ice Cream Social, sprinkles awaited for all.
Students who participated in the inaugural Student Life Service and Leadership Seminar were from left: Katelyn Mattes, Carolina Serrato, Heather Orlick, Grace Eldridge, Nicole Ames, Hillary Chadare, and, seated, Arron Johnson. Carolina and Nicole are this year’s presidential scholars and join Arron as honors program students.

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“The program was specifically designed to create a pathway for incoming freshmen not attending Early Start to receive an opportunity to become acclimated to the university in a meaningful way,” said
Sheree Sanderson, Assistant Dean of Students.

The weeklong seminar encompassed community service projects, workshops, speakers, and interaction with current campus leaders. Students were immersed in an array of activities that enabled participants to discover how they can help create positive, sustainable change on their campus and communities.

The program concluded with the presentation of certificates to the students by Dr. Maimon and Provost Bordelon, and the students marching in the freshman procession for Convocation.
A recent post to the GSU Facebook page became a veritable treasure trove of helpful hints for college students as we asked for “Tips for College Students to Succeed.” Here is a narrowed down Top 10 List of our favorites, but there are triple that number available to see.

**Top 10 Tips Every Student should know for College Success**

10. *Erica Jackson*—Don’t be afraid to ask your professors any questions. Don’t wait until the class is almost over to ask for help.

9. *Young Ceo*—Prioritize your schedule and utilize all the assistance on campus GSU have some of the most accomplished staff.

8. *Pablo Reyes*—Manage your time wisely to efficiently complete your tasks so you can have your fun.

7. *Joseshua Elkanah Young*—Help can come from many different places. Oftentimes, staff members that are not involved with academics are great resources for advice, support, and
knowledge. If you feel like things are taking too long, maybe a staff member knows who to talk to that make things move quicker.

6. Jeff Ahearn—Make sure you understand the opportunities and marketability of your major before choosing it. I suggest talking to people who also have the major you intend to pursue.

5. Sandra Alvarado—Don't be afraid to talk to your professor when you need help!!! Yes, they may seem intimidating, but honestly they are there to help you; and, I have not met a professor at GSU that didn't go above and beyond to help their students succeed.

4. Evelyn SouthernGirl Green—Get involved and join an organization.... It'll keep you out of trouble, occupied, and instill school spirit.

3. Mirabel Lebarim—Think of your life and what you want to become in four years. Do all your work on time. Start as soon as you can; ask for help. Surround yourself with people or friends who are hungry for more. Challenge the process. Make friends with students from other cultures.

2. Michelle Adams—Go to tutoring; dont be ashamed. Go the moment you don’t understand... if you wait you will fall behind.

1. Vicki Zentera Nieto—Be assertive. Ask questions. Seek answers. The responsibility is yours now. It's all up to you!