From the Office of the President

As the registration period for Spring 2016 moves forward, I want you to know that Governors State University has decided to apply a student account credit to students who have been awarded a Monetary Award Program [MAP] grant. We did the same thing for the Fall 2015 MAP awards; that is, we honored the obligation of the State of Illinois to include MAP funding in students' financial aid packages. We have taken these steps because the State has not yet released funds for the MAP grants to the universities. By applying credits to students' accounts, the university, not its students, will be assuming the risk created by the state budget stalemate.

MAP funding from the state is just one part of the budget impact for Governors State University and all Illinois public universities. While GSU is taking on the liability for MAP funding, a decision by the state simply to provide MAP money would not be enough—not nearly enough. While we are committed to relieving you, our students, from fears and worries about financial aid, we also want to be clear that receiving MAP funds from the state must be one of many elements of adequate state support. The major issue, which remains deadlocked, is a university-wide operating budget that allows us to deliver the high quality education that you deserve and that ultimately benefits the public good.

Please focus on completing your bachelor's degrees, participating as informed citizens, and using your education to strengthen our state and our nation.

News

Chat with the President
Bring your questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions and be part of the conversation during three Chats with President Elaine P. Maimon. The first chat for students will take place Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. in E Lounge.

On Thursday, November 19, at 6 p.m., President Maimon will chat with students at Prairie Place.

Don’t miss Hot Chocolate with the President, Tuesday, November 17, at 10 a.m., in Engbreton Hall. Hot Chocolate with the President is open to all faculty and staff. RSVPs appreciated to pperdue@govst.edu, x4130

Student Panelists "Respond to Violence" through Advocacy

Jessica Love Jordan (L) and Mychael Vanarsdale (R) are the student panelists for "Respond to Violence" on Thursday, November 12 at 6-7 p.m. in Prairie Place’s Great Hall.
There are no "gray areas." Not when it comes to consent. And not when it comes to sexual assault. The "Rape Culture" on college campuses has become a national news story, and GSU is taking proactive efforts to educate students about campus violence and sexual assault. Two GSU students will be part of a panel discussion on Thursday, November 12 that they hope will educate their classmates and help them avoid sexual assault situations.

READ MORE on page 16

Psychology Students' Plan to Fight Racism Gets Response from Oval Office

Can a group of undergrads find the solutions to the daunting questions of racism and police brutality in the U.S.? Judging by the response from the President of the United States, they just might be on the right track.

READ MORE on page 19

Working with Financial Aid is an Art for Student-Employee
Working part-time as a hair dresser and going to school full-time at GSU wasn’t working for Jessica Roeder. The hours at her job weren’t compatible with her classes, and Jessica’s boss wasn’t too helpful in making the situation any easier. It wasn’t until she became a GSU student-worker that Jessica found a place where her studies came first and the boss was more than happy to oblige.

READ MORE on page 22

GSU HLC Accreditation Student Survey and Request for Public Comments

The Higher Learning Commission is the institutional accrediting association that comprehensively evaluates our school. Governors State University is going through the process this year. Your comments about your experiences are very important. A summary of your input will be provided to the team of representatives from the Higher Learning Commission who will be visiting our school. The answers you give on this survey are anonymous. Your participation is completely voluntary. The Higher Learning Commission and Governors State University will not have access to your identity.

Thank you for taking five minutes to complete this short survey. The survey will be open through November 18.

Click here to begin the survey.

Governors State University is also seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its mid-cycle comprehensive review by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a mid-cycle comprehensive visit February 22-23, 2016, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Governors State University has been accredited by the Commission since 1975. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university:
Public Comment on Governors State University
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s Web site by clicking here on this link.
Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by January 22, 2016

O'Shea Inducted into McAuley Hall of Honor

Congratulations to Physical Therapy Professor Roberta "Robbie" O'Shea on her induction into the McAuley Hall of Honor at Mother McAuley High School. Robbie was one of seven women inducted at the school's Banner Year Reunion on November 7.

The Mother McAuley/Saint Xavier Academy Alumnae Association, which inducted Robbie, said she "continually personifies the spirit of Catherine McAuley, taking action wherever she sees a need. As a licensed physical therapist and a professor at Governors State University, she brings her compassion and care to assist children ages 0-3 who have developmental difficulties, particularly underprivileged and at-risk infants and their families. Outside of her profession, Robbie has worked with Chicago Area Families for Adoption and sits on the board at the Center for Independence, a non-profit committed to improving the lives of children with disabilities."

Freshman Fridays-A Great Decision Made Easy

Are you ready to start your undergraduate degree? Are you anxiously awaiting your admission? Freshman Fridays are perfect for you! Visit GSU, submit your completed application, official ACT scores and official transcript(s), and get your admission decision all in the same day. Tour our campus, meet with financial aid advisors, speak with an admission counselor, and learn about student resources. The next Freshman Friday is November 13. For more information please contact 708.534.4490 or Register today!

Bradbury Biographer Visits GSU
As part of the Big Read program, Sam Weller, the authorized biographer of the late writer Ray Bradbury, came to GSU on November 4 to speak about Bradbury and Fahrenheit 451. Afterward, Weller signed copies of his book, The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury. The book was a Los Angeles Times best seller, winner of the 2005 Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Biography, and a Bram Stoker Award finalist.

**Marketing Professor Has Two Published Papers in Advertising Research**

Dr. Praggyan (Pam) Mohanty, Assistant Professor of Marketing and co-chair of GSU’s Institutional Review Board (IRB), had two articles published recently. The Journal of Advertising, the official journal of the American Academy of Advertising, published her article on visual metaphor ads. In a paper published in the Journal of Promotion Management, Dr. Mohanty finds that visual metaphor ads have an inverted-U effect on the attitude toward the ad.

Students who would like to work with Professor Mohanty on research projects relating to consumer behavior and/or advertising should contact her.

**Food Drive Needs Donations**
Please bring your nonperishable food, toiletries, and personal care items for the Food Drive for the GSU Food Pantry. Collection bins are located at the C, D, and F entrances during the month of November. The Food Drive is sponsored by the GSU Chapter of Lambda Lambda, UPI 4100, and Student Affairs.

**Join GNSX Student Club**

The GNSX student club is open to all students (undergrad or grad) who are interested in gender and/or sexuality. The club meets every Thursday from 3-4 p.m. in E2590. The club is gearing up to participate in the Creating Change conference in January in Chicago and planning events for Women’s History Month. Interested students can contact Jason Zingsheim.

**Library Veterans Resource Collection Available For Checkout – November 11**

The Veterans Resource Collection, currently in the library, will be relocated to the Hall of Governors on Wednesday, November 11 where all can review the print materials along with cassettes and DVD’s on a variety of topics and check them out. All that students will need is their One Card. "We are inviting all GSU student veterans and family members to stop by our library table on Wednesday between 11-6 p.m. while they are attending the Veterans Resource Fair in the Hall of Governors," said Josh Sopiarz, Librarian, Assistant Professor.

"We have a strong commitment to supporting our student veterans and their families. Some of our current information and resources are specifically for those who have just returned from deployment along with those who have been working and are either beginning their education or returning to school. The library is an outstanding information resource for all GSU student Veterans. Stop by with your One Card, and you will be able to check out and take the information with you," Sopiarz said.

Contact Josh Sopiarz for more information.

**Attend an Excel, Word, or PowerPoint Workshop in the GSU Library**

The library is offering workshops in Excel, Word and PowerPoint. "We had very successful workshops last week," said Diane Nadler, Library Reference Desk Manager, Social Media Coordinator and First Year Student Contact. "We are once again offering three more sessions. Sessions will cover a basic
overview of Excel, Word or PowerPoint for those who want to learn or brush up on their skills. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend," she said.

All three workshops will be offered on Wednesday, November 18th in Room D2401B in the library. The schedule is as follows:

*Intro to Excel: 2pm - 4pm, dnadler@govst.edu
*Intro to Word: 5pm - 6pm, jegolf@govst.edu
*Intro to PowerPoint: 6pm - 7pm, lsmith14@govst.edu

Space is limited, please email the instructor to let them know if you will be attending or if you have any questions.

**Students-Enter the Literacy Autobiography Writing Contest**

Students enrolled in English 1000 this fall are eligible to participate in the Literacy Autobiography Award Writing Contest. As a required assignment in the first semester, the Literacy Autobiography assignment asks students to reflect on how writing and reading have shaped their lives.

Students enter the contest by submitting their Literary Autobiography by February 27, 2016. Winners will be announced by the end of March and honored at a luncheon. Entries will be judged by a committee appointed by the President's and Provost's offices.

Students are encouraged to continue revising their autobiographies after they have been graded - in preparation for the contest.

Awards:

- First place - $200
- Second place - $100
- Third place - $50
- Honorable Mention - $25

Awards are funded through the generosity of Dr. Elaine P. Maimon and Dr. Mort Maimon.

**New Way to Submit your News and Events to GSU View**

Do you have a great story you would like the GSU community or the press to know about? Are you unsure how to submit your story or event to the GSU View, social media, or local press? Fear not, because there is now an easy way to submit all your news. Simply go to the new Request for Event Promotion page on the GSU website. Once there, you can decide where you want your news to be shared: GSU View, social media, community announcement in local press, or on the outdoor marquee. You can tell us who your target audience is and whether any pre-event announcements or follow-ups are required. Getting your story shared has never been easier!

**Events**

**Veteran's Day Week Events**
Veteran’s Day is November 11, and the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at GSU has events during the week scheduled to help honor the university’s veteran community.

**Veterans Resource Center Open House**  
On Tuesday, November 10 from 2-7 p.m., all veterans who are thinking about attending GSU are encouraged to attend the Veterans Week Open House - Marine Corps Birthday Celebration in VRC - A2108.

**Veterans Day Point-One K Race - Running with the Jaguars**  
Wednesday, November 11  
On Veteran’s Day, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. the GSU community is encouraged to participate in the Veteran’s Day Point-One K Race-Running with the Jaguars. “Walk, run or crawl with the Jaguars” starting in the Hall of Governors. Contact Kevin Smith for more information.

**Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp**  
Thursday, November 12  
To coincide with Veteran’s Day, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at GSU is sponsoring a Veteran’s Entrepreneurial Boot Camp on Thursday, November 12 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The Boot Camp continues a legacy of supporting veterans as they act in the private sector as current or future business owners. Speakers will include State Senator Tom Cullerton, as well as many business owners and professionals who will share their personal experience and advice.

**GSU to Celebrate International Education Week**

Prepare to be impressed by the diverse and rich culture that surrounds us. GSU will offer a colorful mixture of dance, food, and exchange of knowledge during International Education Week November
16-20. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S Department of State and the U.S department of Education to celebrate and promote international education and exchange all around the world. If you have any questions, stop by the Office of International Services in GMT 168 or contact Amy Schoenberg at 708.235.7157.

"Paper Tigers" Screening at CPA

The Illinois Education Association, GSU - College of Education, and the Southland Education and Health Initiative cordially invite you to a screening of the movie "Paper Tigers," Wednesday, November 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts.

The film is an intimate look into the lives of selected students at Lincoln High School, an alternative school that specializes in educating traumatized youth. Set amidst the rural community of Walla Walla, Washington, the film intimately examines the inspiring promise of Trauma Informed Communities - a movement that is showing great promise in healing youth struggling with the dark legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). Reserve your seat today.

Save the Date

Mindfulness Art Workshop

Creativity has been associated with improved life satisfaction, career growth, and improved relationships, among other benefits. The Academic Resource Center will present a Mindfulness Art Workshop Tuesday, November 10 at 10 a.m. in B2203 or at 6 p.m. in D34160 to engage in mindfulness practices while tapping into your creativity. You will create art that resonates, while simultaneously practicing deep breathing, stress management, and other mindfulness skills. Supplies will be provided; however, feel free to bring your own. For more information contact Daniel Raedel at 708.235.7512.

Dodgeball Tourney Looking for Teams

The Alternative Spring Break Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser is set for Friday, November 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the GSU Gymnasium. Participant fees are $5 for one person, and $25 per 6-player team. Friends, clubs, and departments are welcome to create teams. Registration is required by November 3.

Visiting Artist Troy Nickle
Troy Nickle is an artist living in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada whose practice encompasses a variety of ideas and processes that stem from working in relation to the landscape and in nature. He will be visiting GSU November 16-20 to create a site specific, temporary, land art piece. Student volunteers will be able to sign up to assist with the project. Troy will also be doing a talk about his work, visiting classes, and installing related work in the Skylight Gallery in GSU’s Library. Watch for announcements about the schedule and ways to get involved - coming soon!

All Nursing Programs Information Session: BSN, MSN, DNP & FNP Certificate

Students interested in learning more about any of the Nursing programs offered by the College of Health and Human Services are invited to attend an Information Session on Wednesday, November 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at GSU (location to be announced).

Prospective students will have the opportunity to obtain information about the RN to BSN program, the various Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Family Nurse Practitioner program. To RSVP for the Information Session, contact Kelly Robinson, or 708.534.4035.
Fall Vendor and Craft Fair

Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the annual Fall Vendor and Craft Fair, Thursday, November 19, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Shoppers can beat the Black Friday crowds and shop for one-of-a-kind gifts, arts and crafts, and unique creations. The Vendor Fair is free and open to the public. Refreshments are available for purchase. The fair is sponsored by the GSU Civil Service Senate. Interested vendors and crafters are encouraged to participate. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call (708) 235-7559 or email.

Undocumented Students Seminar

What does the term "undocumented" student mean? Please come out and learn more about this ever growing diverse population of students at the Supporting and Serving Undocumented Students Seminar on Thursday, November 19th at 10am in the Hall of Honors. This will be a great opportunity to learn about resources we have available at GSU as well as be enlightened on current trends and policies on how to assist undocumented students in their educational pursuits. For more information email or call x7619.

"Start Something that Matters" Summit

Celebrate the determination of local people to have a global impact at the "Start Something that Matters" Summit on Friday, November 20, from 1:30-4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. The event is in being held as part of GSU’s One Book One University activities centered on the book "Start Something that Matters" by Blake Mycoskie.
Presentations by local experts whose efforts have made a positive impact in the lives of others will be featured. The keynote address, "The Heart of the Matter," will be given by Thea Polancic, founder and executive director of the Chicago Chapter of Conscious Capitalism, Inc., and advocate for the power of business as a force for good.

Also at the event, Harry Rhodes, executive director and co-founder of Growing Home, Chicago's leading organic agriculture social enterprise focused on empowering people and communities, will present "Sustainability and Social Justice: Social Enterprise, Transitional Jobs and Community Development."

Additional speakers include Criminal Justice Adjunct David Deeds presenting "Combating Human Trafficking" and Shaniqua Jones of the Office of Continuing Education presenting "Implementing Restorative Justice."

**Don’t Miss Chévere de Chicago**

Chévere de Chicago, the city's leading Latin/Jazz/Funk/Blues Band, will be at the Center for Performing Arts Saturday, November 21 at 8 p.m. Composer, virtuoso pianist, and master harmonica player, Howard Levy, will perform with his long-time comrades in a night filled with Latin inspiration. The band will also welcome five Latin dancers and special guest Grammy-nominated Trumpeter, Victor Garcia (of CALJE, Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble). **Tickets** are just $28. Order tickets by phone at 708.235.2222 or in person at the CPA Box Office. Groups of 10 or more, students, seniors and patrons who purchase a flex package of four or more shows are eligible for discounts.

**Healthcare Professionals Career Workshop**
Are you a Healthcare Professional starting the job search soon? Join a panel of Human Resource professionals to hear from the experts themselves and understand all aspects of the hiring process specific to the healthcare industry. "Negotiating Job Offers for Healthcare Professionals," sponsored by the Graduate Professional Network and Office of Career Services, will be held Monday, November 23 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Matt Gentry for any questions.

Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

Come celebrate and be a part of the inaugural Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, Monday, November 23 at 7 p.m. in Sherman Hall. The Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration will consist of a libation ceremony, lighting of candles, special performances and keynote speaker. The ceremony will reflect a key element of Kwanzaa, according to Malauna Karenga, PhD, founder—to bring the community together so that it can collectively reflect on "the rich resource(s) and meaning of a people's culture" and to individually and collectively affirm how they will contribute to enhancing the culture. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, email or call 708.534.4551.

Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair

The Health and Human Services Career and Internship fair, hosted by the Office of Career Services is Tuesday, November 24 from 2-5 p.m. in the CPA lobby. Everyone is welcome—especially those in the fields of healthcare and human services. Be sure to bring resumes!

Student Employee Recognition Reception

All on-campus student employees are cordially invited to attend the Student Employee Recognition Reception on Thursday, December 3, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Mingle with fellow student workers while enjoying light refreshments. All Students who attend the reception will be entered into a drawing for a $50 gift certificate to the GSU bookstore.

Student workers who attend at least three professional development offerings presented by the Office of Career Services will receive a Certificate of Professional Development which President Maimon will present to you personally at the reception. Students who attend and who are eligible for the certificate will also receive an additional ticket for the drawing. You can find a listing of qualifying events on the Upcoming Events page of the Career Services website.

Register Today for the 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to register for the 2016 Inclusive Leadership Conference. The conference is designed to help students create an understanding and appreciation for cultural differences through self-awareness while encouraging them to be free of misconceptions and prejudices through social justice education. The conference is scheduled to take place Friday, January 29, 2016. RSVP before Friday, December 4. Please email or call x4551 with questions.

Sports

Men’s Basketball Team Records First Win of Season

The men’s basketball team scored its first win of the season as they topped Purdue University North Central 99-93 on November 2. Freshman Dalvin Echols finished with 21 points, four assists and five steals in the victory, with sophomore Jalen Miller adding 21 points and five rebounds. Despite Echols’ 29 points, the Jaguars weren’t as fortunate in their next game, a 103-92 loss on the road against Purdue University Calumet Friday, November 6. On Saturday, November 7, the Jaguars lost to Holy Cross University 80-72. Freshman Christopher Seaton scored a season-high 25 points in the loss. Next up, the Jaguars will host the University of Saint Francis on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m.
On the women's side, the Jaguars lost a home game to Robert Morris University 81-54 on November 3. Junior Kanitra Averhart scored a team-high 14 points and secured eight rebounds while freshman Rachel Destor added 13 points. The news wasn’t much better on Friday, November 6 as the team lost to Cardinal Stritch University 89-49. Guard Zaporia Smith finished the game with 10 points, three assists and five steals while center Marlynda Bishop grabbed five rebounds. On Saturday, November 7, GSU lost 95-48 to Saint Xavier University in Milwaukee. Junior GeLina Webb led the Jaguars with 10 points and 7 rebounds off the bench. The Jaguars will host Indiana University South Bend at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10.

The women’s volleyball team wrapped up its season with a three-set defeat at home to Clarke University November 6. In its season finale, the Jaguars dropped a straight-set match to Judson University 25-10, 25-19, 25-17. Senior Briana Clark led the team defensively with 16 digs. Junior Hayley Wacker finished with 4 kills and 15 digs, and freshman Erika Halverson helped the offense with 9 assists. GSU ended its first NAIA season with a record of 2-31.

Facebook Posts of the Week

Response to our post: Find out why GSU was named a Top Veteran-Friendly School! Attend the Veterans Week Open House, Tuesday November 10 from 2-7p.m. in VRC A2108:
Nitro Phish Awesome. I am a veteran. I am seriously considering transferring there next year.

Response to our post: New I-57 Interchange Means Better Access to GSU:
Jess Specht It's been awesome! They did a very nice job on it.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
Student Panelists “Respond to Violence” through Advocacy

November 09, 2015

Jessica Love Jordan (L) and Mychael Vanarsdale (R) are the student panelists for “Respond to Violence” on Thursday, November 12 at 6-7 p.m. in Prairie Place’s Great Hall.

There are no “gray areas.” Not when it comes to consent. And not when it comes to sexual assault. The “Rape Culture” on college campuses has become a national news story, and GSU is taking proactive efforts to educate students about campus violence and sexual assault. Two GSU students will be part of a panel discussion on Thursday, November 12 that they hope will educate their classmates and help them avoid sexual assault situations.

The panel is part of the “Respond to Violence” project in partnership with GSU's Advocating for Sexual
Assault Prevention (ASAP) team, the Digital Media Production department and the "It's On Us" national campaign. Respond to Violence is an on-going multi-media initiative created in 2012 by Media Studies Professor Yevette Brown which is now housed in the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service. It is part of the Center’s continuing efforts to help students become fully engaged in their civic responsibility. By discussing issues such as campus and community violence, students become more aware of what they can do to advocate and develop ideas for change.

GSU Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale and Jessica Love Jordan, an MHS, Addiction Studies student are the panelists who believe helping students make better decisions will make the campus safer for everyone.

Love Jordan has been working as an advocate with the YWCA in Chicago Heights for a year and has taken training courses that made her want to get involved with the Respond to Violence program. "Learning about the rape culture that exists throughout the U.S., especially on college campuses, made me want to get involved. Having the opportunity to be on a panel that’s saying 'hey, this is an issue, here’s what you can do to help,' is important. I want to get other people to see what I’ve seen as an advocate."

Being an advocate, she said, can mean many things, including knowing what to do when you see an incident occurring. "Be more conscious of things and be willing to speak up if there’s something wrong. ‘If you see something, say something’ definitely applies here. I feel people underestimate the power they have to make a difference, when it can be as simple as seeing somebody home or making sure somebody’s OK. That’s what I would like people to walk away with, knowing that they can help others. Even if they are small things, they can make a difference."

Vanarsdale is hoping the panel can inform GSU’s younger students about what is and is not proper behavior. “Understanding the rape culture and sexual assault is the first step toward eliminating them. Now that we have moved to being a four-year institution, the younger students really need this information because they are unaware of the statistical findings that impact most college campuses. These are trends that could happen here if we don’t inform our students now. To eliminate potential sexual assaults, it’s best to be informed now before it ever gets out of hand,” he said.

The panel will take place at Prairie Place’s Great Hall, a venue chosen to enhance the opportunity for its residents to happen upon it. “We want people going to the C-Store to stop by and check it out. We know that’s how a lot of activity happens at Prairie Place,” VanArsdale said. In addition to Love Jordan and VanArsdale, the discussion participants will include another advocate from the YWCA as well as a rape survivor.

Love Jordan is appreciative of the university’s community partnership with the YWCA on the issue of campus violence prevention. “It absolutely shows that GSU is being proactive about this issue. This initiative and all the work GSU has done with Title IX are pretty good examples of how serious they are taking it. There are a lot of universities that are kind of slow embracing Title IX and that is when things get swept under the rug, but GSU forming this partnership and saying we’re going to be serious about this, makes me feel a lot better as a student,” she said.

Love Jordan would like to see more people on campus become active for the cause of eliminating campus violence. “You see the YouTube videos where athletes are speaking out against sexual assault and those are very effective. I think that would have a big impact at GSU as well.”
She said the YWCA is always looking for volunteers. They provide Rape Crisis Hotlines, which offers survivors of sexual assault/abuse and their significant others immediate support, crisis intervention and referrals for the city of Chicago and surrounding suburbs, and also provides 24-hour medical and criminal justice services to survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse.

A #Biology major from St. Rita High School. #KnowYourJaguars #GSUJaguars #NAIA #Basketball https://t.co/LtfxD3AVzz
November 24, 2015

https://t.co/vVCCIBJ7xd
November 24, 2015

Charles Nolley posted "App test" to the "Test ERT Group" group. Check it out: https://t.co/68rUkXISiV
November 24, 2015
Can a group of undergrads find the solutions to the daunting questions of racism and police brutality in the U.S.? Judging by the response from the President of the United States, they just might be on the right track.

Students in Associate Professor of Psychology Barbara Gormley’s Forensic Psychology class were given a research project to go online and read and collect responses from people across the social spectrum—white or black, police officers or community members, politicians or community organizers, and find out
Welcome to Governors State University in Chicago Illinois

where the conversation has gone since last year’s infamous Ferguson, Mo. incident.

After researching what was said and by whom, the students then shared with each other the information they found on multiple sides of the controversy in a structured classroom discussion. Then they brainstormed various solutions to the problem.

From their research, the class came up with a seven point plan of ideas the students thought would go a long way to eliminating the problems and creating solutions. The list included such ideas as police training with alternatives to gun use, officers living in the communities they serve, and a national effort to reduce racism across all citizens, beginning with schools at every grade level. When the students' plan was finalized, it was sent out to 22 elected officials on the local, state and federal level. As of now, only one of them responded back-President Barack Obama.

Associate Professor of Psychology Barbara Gormley’s Forensic Psychology class came up with a seven point plan of ideas they thought would go a long way toward eliminating problems of racism and police brutality cases.

According to Gormley, the classroom discussion was not hard to have and the solutions were easy to generate after the students researched different points of view. What impressed the professor was the amount of examples the students came back with. “I was expecting them to find two or three examples, but some of them went on and on, finding multiple people saying different things,” she said.

For Chavonne Little, the project took on additional importance because her grandfather is a detective in the Chicago Police Department. "I'm crazy worried about him all the time, especially with the recent articles about police brutality and racism. It was really important that I knew where everyone stood and his potential danger, so I could inform him about what was going on, even if he knows already," she said.

Little and fellow students Geddy Barr and Kyle Wheeler said they did much of their research through Google. Barr said reading the responses from people on line was eye-opening. "When you read these comments, you realize there is a lot of hatred out there," he said. In order to avoid the usual

anonymous comments, Wheeler and Little said they researched comments on the PsycINFO website from the American Psychological Association. "I used that site for getting statistics on police departments and racial bias, and then I looked at peer reviewed items on Google so I would know that it was more credible than just somebody's anonymous opinion," Little said.

How did these students keep their own opinions from clouding their research? "Going into psychology, I have to go into situations with an unbiased perspective, so that's how I approached it," said Wheeler.

While hearing from the Commander in Chief was, as Chavone said, "pretty cool," fellow students Geddy Barr and Kyle Wheeler said they would have liked to have heard from some local officials. "It's kind of alarming that the elected officials who are looking over the cities didn't respond. I think they should be more willing to reach out with solutions," Wheeler said.

Regardless of the feedback, Professor Gormley said she is impressed with how her students handled the discussions, which because of the issue, could have become testy. "These students have impressed me because they are having conversations at a very high level that most people avoid. Who wants to talk about racism in police departments? It's kind of a hot-button subject, and they did a really good job. They stayed calm, they were respectful, and they had a lot of really interesting ideas and thoughts. They were so engaged."

Barr said he has learned that having discussions exploring solutions to racism is the only way to make sure anything will change. "We need to get things out in the open. The more we talk about things, the better understanding we all have of one another," he said.

"One of the things I hope they will get out of this is that they will come away feeling that they can make more of a difference than they thought they could," Gormley said.
Working with Financial Aid is an Art for Student-Employee

November 09, 2015

Jessica Roeder

Working part-time as a hair dresser and going to school full-time at GSU wasn’t working for Jessica Roeder. The hours at her job weren’t compatible with her classes, and Jessica’s boss wasn’t too helpful in making the situation any easier. It wasn’t until she became a GSU student-worker that Jessica found a place where her studies came first and the boss was more than happy to oblige.

Hoping to find something on campus, Jessica learned of an open position through the Office of Career Services for a student-worker in GSU’s Financial Aid Department. That was in the summer of 2014, and Jessica has been there ever since, working as an office assistant. Her duties include answering phones and emails, returning messages and performing filing tasks for the busy department.

As one of the High Impact Educational Practices the university has embraced, the student-worker program at GSU provides students with direct experience in a work setting and gives them the benefit
of supervision and coaching from professionals in the field. Studies show that students who work on campus 20 hours or less each week actually do better academically than those students who work off campus or don’t work at all.

Jessica has become so well-versed in the comings and goings of the department that she even is able to answer questions from students regarding financial aid. Her supervisor, GSU Director of Financial Aid John Perry said Jessica has become an invaluable member of his office staff. “Jessica is very reliable, a hard worker, and a valuable asset to our office. We could not function at the level we do without her. It is great to be able to work with talented students such as Jessica,” he said.

Keeping tabs on the office while working full-time as a student is much easier because of the commitment GSU makes to its student-employees to have studies come first. “I like the fact that they are completely willing to work with me, especially on scheduling. It’s hard to work an outside schedule around the classes I need to graduate. Here, it’s the opposite. They tell me to do whatever I need to do and then they will work around my schedule. It makes for a stress-free environment. If I need time off for studying for finals, they are very good about that,” she said.

Jessica will graduate in December with a B.A. in Fine Arts. Her concentration is in Art History. Working with financial aid may seem like a strange place for someone with an artistic flair, but Jessica said it has made her more of a well-rounded person. “Working in an area apart from what you are studying gives you more diversity and the opportunity to see things from a different perspective. I may be extremely artistic, but I fit well into the financial aid process because I’m also very organized,” she said.

In December, Jessica will receive a Certificate of Professional Development from President Maimon at a Student Employee Recognition Reception. She is the first student worker to complete the requirements of attending at least three professional development offerings presented by the Office of Career Services. Jessica looked at attending the workshops as another opportunity to grow. “They were giving free workshops and I wanted to take advantage of as many of them as possible. They had a lot of very interesting subjects like how to get an internship and resume writing. For me, it was sort of a golden little jackpot. I’m one of those people who believes you can always learn something. I feel that any education I can get, especially free education, you should take advantage.”

Jessica said she would definitely recommend it the student-worker program to GSU students. “I feel like if you are going to be working a part-time job while you go to school anyway, working at GSU is more beneficial for you. It gives you more of the networking and skill sets you need for the outside world rather than a service job. It looks better on a resume and it also helps to fit your schooling better into your schedule.”

Jessica said she will always be grateful for her student-worker experience. “I have had an amazing experience and I’ve really liked it. I feel this has opened up opportunities for me and given me my skill sets.”

Students who are interested in employment, including Federal Work Study, Regular Student Employment, and Graduate Assistantships, can find out more at the Office of Career Services website, or visit them in A1120.