Don’t Miss Convocation 2016

One of the most important dates on the university’s calendars is Convocation. This year’s formal welcoming ceremony of the new academic year is on Friday, August 26 at 3 p.m. in the GSU Center for Performing Arts. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend. The incoming class of 2020 will be welcomed and the 2016 Excellence and Baysore Awards will be announced.

After Convocation, the annual Ice Cream Social will give the GSU community a chance to catch up and get set before the Fall 2016 Semester begins on Monday, August 29.

A Student Reflects on Convocation

Jujuan Day began his college journey as part of the first freshman class at GSU. He recalls Convocation 2014 when he and the rest of the first freshmen class were welcomed with a standing ovation from the GSU community.

Read Jujuan’s reflections on the impact of Convocation on page 8.

Expect Delays on Metra

Construction schedules on the Metra Electric Line to University Park for midday and weekend trains are set to go into effect on Monday, August 22 as Metra begins a major tie replacement and track resurfacing project on the line. Delays up to 10 minutes are anticipated. Construction is scheduled to end by October 1.

For more information and to view a revised Metra schedule, visit the Metra website.

Check Out the Stress Free Study Zone
Students, are you looking for a place to de-stress and take time to study at the same time? Check out the Stress Free Study Zone on the Library Balcony. Available while the library is open, you can find games, puzzles, coloring sheets, a text book exchange, ongoing book sale, and much, much more on the library balcony.

“As we begin the new school year, we want to welcome all students back to GSU and invite them to visit their GSU Library,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “We want all in the GSU community to think of the library as the living room of the university,” she said.

In addition to the Stress Free Study Zone, the GSU Library offers staff and faculty who can help with research needs, group study rooms, quiet study areas, The Skylight Gallery in the Library, instant messaging, and much more. Students can access the library either in person or online.

**Career Services on the Move!**
For the Fall 2016 Semester, the Office of Career Services will be located in room C3385. All the services, all the assistance, and all the information on your career development is readily available in the new location.

Visit us in our new area!

**Welcome Week Volunteers Welcomed!**
It’s time to bring in the new semester, and helping hands are always needed and appreciated. Any faculty and staff members interested in meeting new students, connecting with the GSU community, and having a lot of fun at the same time are encouraged to serve as volunteers during Welcome Week.

Please sign up today by visiting [https://govst.collegiatelink.net/form/start/107395](https://govst.collegiatelink.net/form/start/107395).

**Carts & Cocktails 2016 Honors Tony Tasset**
The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is once again hosting its premier annual fundraising event that offers an afternoon of fun, food, and fine art. Carts & Cocktails, an experience unparalleled in the Chicago region, will be held on September 10, from 2 – 5 p.m. in E-Lounge and on the patio, and will include cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, sweets, and a park tour.

This year’s event will be hosted by Marley Kayden of NBC5 Chicago and honors special guest Tony Tasset, the sculptor of Paul in the park collection. The Chicago Tribune’s Lori Waxman recently wrote, “Tasset … is the Midwest art world’s chief satirist, a conceptual artist who lives to level hierarchies as much as he loves to enjoy their luster.” Paul accomplishes both goals.

To purchase tickets for the event online, visit our secure website. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, purchasing seats, or the event in general, contact Gina Ragland at 708.235.7559.

**Events**

**Library Scavenger Hunt Challenge**

Students — How would you like to win a brand new backpack filled with lots of GSU branded items including mouse pads, hot cups, luggage tags, and much more and have fun at the same time? Visit the library and participate in the Library Scavenger Hunt Challenge on Wednesday, August 31 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Two winners will be selected from a random drawing of scavenger hunt participants.

For more information, please contact Alexis Sarkisian.
Take a Walk through Art

Join the ART WALK on Tuesday, September 6 beginning at 4 p.m. in the Skylight Gallery in the GSU Library with the “Print on Clay” exhibit. The walk continues with Clay and Print Demos in the ceramics and printmaking classroom, E1526, at 4:30 p.m. followed by the “Ways of Making: Abstraction” reception in the Visual Arts Gallery at 5:30 p.m. The walk concludes at 6 p.m. in E-Lounge, adjacent to the gallery, with an Artists’ Talk.

All exhibits will be open during the entire event for those who cannot join the walk.

Small Bites Tours in the Sculpture Park Are Back!

Exploring our Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park on a Small Bites Mini Tour is a great way to get to know this internationally acclaimed park. Join us for this free guided tour delivered by one of our knowledgeable docent corps. This is an ideal way to enjoy a Saturday morning walk and the beauty of the park.

The next Mini Tour, the Prairie Property Tour, will be held on Saturday, August 27. Visitors should gather on the patio behind D-Wing’s Hall of Governors at 10 a.m. This tour will take us deep into the park to visit Martin Puryear’s poetical landscape-based masterpiece Bodark Arc and other works.

This tour involves extensive walking and is limited to 20 people. RSVP to 708.534.3084 or email sculpture@govst.edu.

Balancing Academics with Work, Family, and Other Responsibilities

Non-traditional students often juggle multiple responsibilities and face unique challenges when pursuing a degree. This program provides keys to successfully balancing academics with everything else. The program, conducted by trained staff from the Counseling Center, will explore topics such as developing effective study habits, fostering mentor/advisor relationships, time management skills, networking, and more.

This program is open to anyone who may have taken some time off before coming back to school, has multiple responsibilities, or who has stress/anxiety over their schedule.

Sessions on balancing academics are offered on two dates to accommodate busy schedules. Attend either session on Wednesday, August 24 from 4 – 5 p.m., or Thursday, September 8 from 6 – 7 p.m. Both programs will be held in the Academic Resource Center.
The program is sponsored by the Counseling Center and Graduate Professional Network. For additional information, contact Matt Gentry.

### 2016 Student Employment and Part-Time Job Fair

Federal Work Study or regular student-employment positions will be showcased at the 2016 Student Employment and Part-Time Job Fair on Wednesday, August 31 from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Some external employers as well as on-campus employers will be participating. Students planning to attend should dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes. The job fair is sponsored by the Office of Career Services. For more information, contact the Office of Career Services at 708.235.3974.

### Constitution Day Panel Discussion

Every year, we recognize the adoption of the Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens with a Constitution Day event. This year, in honor of Constitution Day, the Division of Humanities is hosting a faculty panel on refugees and the Constitution of the United States on September 19, from 3 – 4:15 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Panel members include Associate Professor Khalil Marrar, Associate Professor Vincent Jones, and Assistant Professor Ellen Walsh. The panel will discuss the history, current status, and future of displaced peoples in America.

For more information, email Dr. Amanda Athon.

### GSU Dance Company Auditions

Whatever your dance style, whatever you love, the GSU Dance Company has the steps for you! Auditions will be held on Monday and Wednesday, September 12 and 14, at 7:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 7:15 p.m., on the GSU Center for Performing Arts stage. Interested students, faculty, and staff should register for one audition by emailing Megan Lindsay.

The GSU Company performs student and faculty choreography in the styles of modern, jazz, contemporary, African, and hip-hop. The GSU Dance Company's main stage performance will be held on March 4, 2017.

### Highlights

#### GSU Veterans Resource Center named Best of the Best 2016

For the second year in a row, Governors State University has been awarded “Best of the Best” by U.S. Veterans Magazine as a Top Veteran-Friendly School. GSU is one of only 84 schools nationwide to receive this honor. Kevin Smith, GSU's Veterans Coordinator, said, “It is a privilege to be recognized as 'Best of the Best' for 2016. This award would not be possible if it wasn't for the dedication to veterans’ academic success from faculty, staff, and students at GSU.”

Read the article in U.S. Veterans Magazine.

#### Excellence Award for Illinois Small Business Development
Center

Congratulations to the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Governors State University for receiving this year’s 2016 Roger Luman Program Excellence Award at the Illinois Entrepreneurship & Small Business Growth Association (IESBGA) annual conference in May. The Center was honored for its Heels of Business Breakfast and Peer Coaching.

Read more about this well-deserved honor on page 10.

GSU Golfers Swing for the Foundation Scholarship Scramble

The GSU golf team was out in force to help out at the GSU Foundation Scholarship Scramble at the Flossmoor Country Club on August 15. This summertime event draws participants who not only enjoy a good round of golf but also wish to support the university. GSU golf team members assisted with drives and putting on the 13th and 14th holes.

“I’m really pleased that we were invited to take part in today’s scramble and to have our golfers help out with the program,” said Head Coach Mark Haynes. “We have some outstanding student-athletes and I know they enjoyed interacting with the groups as they came by. It’s great exposure for our program as well.”

Both the men’s and women’s golf teams open their 2016 – 17 campaigns on September 1 with the inaugural GSU Jaguar Invitational.

To learn more about this event and the golf team, visit the GSU Jaguars’ website.

Library Represented at International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Conference

Assistant Professor Cynthia Romanowski, Technical Services Librarian, delivered her paper, “A Comparative Analysis of the Distinct Evolution of Cataloging and Information Technology Towards the Creation of the Next Generation Library System” at the World Library and Information Congress 82nd IFLA General Conference and Assembly in Columbus, Ohio earlier this month.
“Presenting to more than 140 people from around the world attending the Joint Session of the Cataloging and Information Technology Groups was an inspiring experience. It helped me to realize the impact that an international group of librarians can have on the global future of librarianship,” said Romanowski.

“We have all become so accustomed to the speed of Google and assume that this is how information access should be,” she said. “As library collections become more digital, current library cataloging rules/formats combined with library systems make access to electronic resources cumbersome, even though information accessed might be more valid or reliable,” she offered. “After researching the information for this paper, my recommendation to the group was that this is a good time for librarians to work together universally, along with vendors, to determine how to make library access to information more user-friendly.”

For more information, email Cynthia Romanowski.
Jujuan Day began his college journey as part of the first freshman class here at Governors State University. He remembers lining up for Convocation and not really knowing what to expect from a school that historically had served only upper division students.

“I remember they told us we were the first, but the meaning didn’t hit me until we marched into the auditorium,” said Day. “I was excited yet nervous, but when I heard the applause I felt like they were applauding my presence. When I sat down it felt like I was joining the community.”

The year JuJuan Day arrived, 2014, was a year of transformation —The Trans4mation — as GSU became a comprehensive four-year University. This momentous year of change marked a shift for the University and the tone of Convocation.

In the past, the ceremony had welcomed students, but the emphasis was on the State of the University Address given by GSU President Elaine P. Maimon.

2016 is the third year of our new tradition, making students the focus of Convocation. All student classes—2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 (the new
freshman class) will march in with gonfalons (big banners) heralding their entrance. The Dual Degree Program (DDP) students will act as an honor guard.

While students are at the center, Convocation will also honor faculty and staff members who serve students. Three Faculty Excellence Awards and the Baysore Award will be announced as a surprise to recipients and to those assembled. Students will share in the excitement and hear the remarkable work done by faculty and staff.

President Maimon will speak briefly, emphasizing the student experience and what it means to be a part of GSU’s Jaguar Nation. For Jujuan Day, that experience has led him to become a peer mentor and orientation leader. He is now responsible for helping new students throughout the school year. He credits Convocation with helping him gain the confidence to join programs that integrated him into GSU’s community.

“I definitely felt like Convocation was necessary for me because when I first got here I didn’t want to talk to anybody,” remembered Day. “Convocation opened me up to talk to people, and I was happy to see the president there to welcome us.”

“We are welcoming new and returning students into the Jaguar Family,” says President Maimon, “Second only to Commencement, Convocation is an important GSU tradition.”

The 47th annual Convocation ceremony will be held on Friday, August 26 at 3 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. There will be an ice cream social in the Hall of Governors immediately after.
This year’s 2016 Roger Luman Program Excellence Award was presented to the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Governors State University for their Heels of Business Breakfast and Peer Coaching at the Illinois Entrepreneurship & Small Business Growth Association (IESBGA) annual conference. The award is presented to one center in the state whose program embodies Mr. Luman’s dedication to supporting small businesses in their communities.

Participants in the Heels of Business Breakfast and Peer Coaching receive valuable information regarding free resources and services currently available through the SBDC, its affiliates, and its partners. With the support of Dr. Elaine Maimon, GSU President, and Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean of the College of Business, along with clients and partners, the Heels of Business Breakfast and Peer Coaching has evolved into an annual event reaching over 250 participants.

The inception of the Heels of Business Breakfast was formed with the help of GSU students Denea Beale and Arriahn Tucker, who worked with the Center’s staff to provide an opportunity for women to widen their network and develop productive business partnerships. When asked about her contribution to the program, Beale said “We saw a need and fulfilled it the best we knew how with the Heels program. It was an excellent opportunity for me, as a GSU student, to contribute my opinions and have my superiors execute them.”

Priscilla Cordero, Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at
Governors State University, is proud of the dedication of her team which led to the success of the program. “What I’m most proud of is that launching the program was a team effort between staff and GSU students. They worked diligently to help make this program happen.”

The Roger Luman Program Excellence Award was created to recognize programs offered by SBDCs throughout the State of Illinois who demonstrate innovation, measurable best practices, and outstanding delivery. Recipients of this award are recognized for their particular programs created to meet a specified need and not necessarily the compilation of services rendered. As a result of receiving the 2016 Roger Luman Program Excellence Award, the Heels of Business Breakfast and Peer Coaching program will be replicated and used to promote the excellence of Illinois small business assistance programs to businesses throughout the state.