News

Jaguar Aims to Lead the Pack

On November 19, Stephanie Clarkson will represent GSU at her final collegiate competition, the 36th National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Women’s Cross Country National Championship. Clarkson, 35 and expecting to graduate in December, joined the cross country team without ever dreaming that her husband would take a job in Baltimore, necessitating that her education continue in the online realm and her competition continue as a fly-in commuter.

In less than one week, Clarkson will take one last flight to compete for GSU. And then in another month she’ll receive her degree. As one of six women chosen from the Chicagoland Collegiate Athlete Conference, and the only athlete from GSU, it’s certain that no matter the outcome of the race on Saturday, Clarkson will cross her finish line. Read more on page 9.

Hunger and Homelessness Week

Events during Hunger and Homelessness Week, November 14 – 17, are designed to bring greater awareness of hunger and homelessness to the community at GSU. Read more on page 12.

Match the Maimons Campaign
The GSU Foundation is pleased to announce the Match the Maimons Campaign. Through December 16, GSU President Elaine P. Maimon and Dr. Mort Maimon will match all new or increased donations, dollar for dollar, up to $54,000. Although the Match the Maimons Campaign emphasizes the success of GSU’s students via scholarships, your gift can go towards any program at GSU. To learn more about the campaign and participate, click here.

Students! Have You FAFSA’d?

You’re in the home stretch: Go FAFSA!
FAFSA Workshop. If you haven’t filled out your FAFSA, commit to getting it done this week. To help you, the Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid are hosting a FREE workshop on Friday, November 18, at 3:30 p.m. in D2430B (The Cube).

And remember, waiting until the very last minute to fill out the FAFSA may dramatically reduce your chance of getting the most money for your education.

Filling out the FAFSA is easy — and can secure you money for your education! When you come to the workshop, don’t forget to bring your:

- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- 2015 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned (Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- FSA ID to sign electronically

If you’re a dependent student, then you’ll also need most of the above information for your parent(s). If you’re married, you’ll need the above information for your spouse.

Emergency Readiness

New Emergency Alert System

Rave Alert is the new official emergency notification system used to communicate with students and employees during severe weather and campus emergencies. GSU recently licensed this service to offer the quickest and most reliable communications possible.

Students and employees are automatically subscribed to the Rave Alert system through your GSU email account, however, we rely on you to make sure we have your most up-to-date contact and emergency contact information.

Updating Your Personal and Emergency Contact Information

With upcoming weather changes, we ask that you please take a moment to make sure we can reach you, or your emergency contact in case of emergency, if there is a university closing or some other event that requires rapid, wide-scale notification of the community.

For Students

To update your personal contact information, please complete the Change of Student Information form and return it to the Registrar's office.

You can update your emergency contact information in the myGSU portal. The information provided is stored directly in our database and will be used only in case of emergency. Click here for a tutorial on how to update your emergency contact information. The process takes less than 10 minutes.

For Faculty and Staff

Update your contact information by sending an email to Human Resources with a subject line that reads "Update My Contacts."

To update your emergency contact information, go to the myGSU portal. Under Online Services, select "Employees," then select "Employee Profile" and "Emergency Information." You will be able to add and/or edit your contacts. After you enter the information, click "Add Contact." After editing or changing your emergency contact information, choose "Confirm" to save your changes. A confirmation notification
Winter Weather Preparedness Week

**November 13 – 19** is Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois and Indiana and the Chicago National Weather Service (NWS) is helping you prepare for the upcoming changes in weather by issuing daily Public Information Statements on winter hazards (Monday), outdoor safety (Tuesday), winter preparedness (Wednesday), winter fire safety (Thursday), winter weather travel safety (Friday), and winter weather reporting (Saturday). To find tips for preparation, visit the [NWS Winter Preparedness page](http://www.nws.gov) and [GSU's Emergency Management site](http://www.govst.edu).

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**Announcements**

**Deadline Now for Study Abroad Programs**

Tomorrow — **Tuesday, November 15** — is the deadline for applying to GSU faculty-led study abroad programs. The College of Business is traveling to India during Spring Break and there will be a four-week Honors Seminar on Leadership in Rome, Italy, from May – June 2017. For more information, visit the [Education Abroad page](http://www.govst.edu) or contact Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator, at [aschoenberg@govst.edu](mailto:aschoenberg@govst.edu).

**Intellectual Life Grant Recipients Announced**

Thirteen spring and summer grants representing programs and disciplines at GSU have been awarded by the Intellectual Life Committee. The [list of recipients and grant topics](http://www.govst.edu) is available on OPUS. “We received outstanding submissions for this grant cycle,” announced Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library and Chair of the Intellectual Life Committee, adding, “We encourage those who did not receive a grant to consider re-applying. We will make the announcement next semester if we are able to offer grants for Fall 2017.”

**Seeking 2017 Black History Month Program Submissions**

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

Please submit your program by **Friday, December 9**, by visiting [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHM2017](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHM2017).

For more information, email [diversity@govst.edu](mailto:diversity@govst.edu) or call ext. 4551.

**Date Change for Inclusive Leadership Conference**

The Inclusive Leadership Conference, designed to help our campus community create an understanding and appreciation for multiple identities through self-awareness, while encouraging them to be free of misconceptions and prejudices through social justice education, will be held on **January 20, 2017**. This year’s theme, “Stop the Violence: Listen, Learn, Lead!!!,” addresses how violence impacts multiple identities of diversity. Participants will learn ways that their background and skills can play an influential role in ending violence “one leader at a time” through social change.

Workshop proposals are due **December 9**: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/inclusivegsu](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/inclusivegsu)

Registration is open until **December 9**: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/inclusive2016](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/inclusive2016)
Holiday Schedule for GSU View


(Quiet) Buzz

Guidelines for Amplified Sound

GSU has a responsibility to all faculty, students, and staff to moderate noise, especially during an event or activity held on campus. Extreme or disturbing levels of noise within the campus buildings (specifically, the Hall of Governors) that infringe on the rights of other students, and the GSU community at large, is considered a violation of the university’s guidelines. As part of the event planning process, the event planner/requestor must obtain all appropriate approvals regarding the use of amplified sound during an event or activity.

Information regarding whether or not and how the use of amplified sound is permitted is available from Event Scheduling at 708.235.7656 or eventscheduling@govst.edu and Student Life at 708.235.7362 or SLCO@govst.edu.

Deals

Two-Day Sale at the Bookstore

On Tuesday, November 15, and Wednesday, November 16, the GSU Bookstore will offer 25 percent off outerwear, sweatpants, and sweatshirts. Winter is coming: think layers.

Events
International Education Week

Every year, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education sponsor International Education Week (IEW). IEW is a celebration of the importance of international education in the United States and takes place this year on November 14 – 18.

During IEW, GSU’s Office of International Services works with units around the university to host several cultural programming events. The Office has arranged for a variety of speakers from outside and within GSU on topics of immigration, poetry, travel, study abroad, language, culture, and more!

Please check out the Office of International Services’ website for the schedule.

School Psychology Awareness Week

The Student Affiliates of School Psychology are hosting a week’s worth of events to celebrate School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW), November 14 – 18. Our theme is “Small Steps Change Lives.”

The events include:
Monday: Box Top/Book Drive in the D Wing Atrium
Tuesday: Yoga 5:15 – 6 p.m. (Free! All are welcome)
Thursday: Bully Prevention Workshops at local elementary schools
Friday: Richton Park Book Reading (All ages welcome!)

Hunker Down with Your Peeps for Family Reading Night

Make reading a family affair! Thursday evening, November 17, is Family Reading Night throughout Illinois — “a time when families simply spend time together reading and sharing what they have read with one another,” offered Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “Many of our students here at GSU have children. Family Reading Night is a time to read with your children and help give them a love of reading.”

All at GSU are invited to share their stories and pictures of Family Reading Night by posting to: www.facebook.com/GSULibraryhttps://twitter.com/LibraryGovst.

Click to learn more about Family Reading Night.

Intervarsity Multicultural Worship Showcase

On Friday, November 18 at 7 p.m., Intervarsity is collaborating with the International Cultural Organization and the Trans4mation Gospel Choir to present a Multicultural Worship Showcase. Everyone is welcome for an evening of song and praise in room F1622.
Ana Dutra Book Signing with Networking Social

Business leader and author Ana Dutra, best-selling author of “Lessons in LeadershiT: Detoxing the Workplace,” will discuss her work on Thursday, November 17, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in E-Lounge. Dutra is the CEO of Executives’ Club Chicago, a senior executive organization focusing on networking and leadership development. She is a Chicago United Business Leader of Color and Nueva Estrella Latina Award winner, and has more than 28 years of business experience specializing in growth strategies, management, and executive consulting.

Mark your calendars for this premiere event. The first 50 RSVPs at www.surveymonkey.com/r/anadutra will receive a FREE copy of Dutra’s book, “Lessons in LeadershiT: Detoxing the Workplace.” You must be present to claim your copy, and RSVPs made after the book quota is met will be entered in a drawing for a free book on the evening of the event.

This event is sponsored by the Office of Development, the Office of Career Services, and the Graduate Professional Network.

Elton John Tribute at GSU

Get up close and personal for a performance of Elton John’s greatest hits. In “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road,” the audience will be seated on the stage for an intimate experience as Chicago-based nationally touring recording artist Jess Godwin offers chart-topping piano-based hits like “Your Song,” “Rocket Man,” and “Benny and the Jets.” Godwin has sung with Kristen Chenoweth, written songs for Dance Moms, and is a hit on iTunes and Spotify.

The performance is at GSU’s Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, November 19, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $36 for adults, and admission includes an Elton-John-inspired drink. Order online from CenterTickets.net or by phone from 708.235.2222.

This production is presented by Artists Lounge Live, and is supported by contributions from First Midwest Bank and the Illinois Arts Council.

2016 Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

Come celebrate and be a part of the inaugural Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration. This event will be held on Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall. Highlights will include keynote speaker Dr. Lasana Kazembe, traditional African dance performances, and other activities, as well as vendors. This celebration will reflect a key element of Kwanzaa: 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 (according to Malauna Karenga, the creator of Kwanzaa).

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, email diversity@govst.edu or call 708.534.4551.

Workshops & Trainings

Looking for GSU workshops and training opportunities?

This week’s list of opportunities — including Faculty Profile Page update information, Career Services activities that help student workers become eligible for a $50 GSU Bookstore gift certificate, information
sessions on applying to be an Orientation Leader or Peer Mentor, GSU STAR training, and the Global Lunch Lecture Series — can be found here.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
Jaguar Aims to Lead the Pack

Chicago, IL, November 14, 2016

Jaguar Aims to Lead the Pack

More adults are enrolling in college than ever before. Nationally, 40 percent of students at American universities are age 25 or older, but serving the returning student is not new to Governors State University.

GSU has traditionally offered the flexibility and convenience that adult learners need to reach their academic goals. In fact, that's what attracted Stephanie Clarkson to GSU. In many ways, Clarkson exemplifies the returning learner at GSU. She's a 35-year-old senior who carries a 3.85 GPA. She's also a student athlete.

On November 19, Clarkson, who expects to graduate in December, will represent the Jaguars at her final collegiate competition, the 36th National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Women’s Cross Country National Championship. In the short two-year existence of GSU Athletics, no student-
athlete has ever participated in a national championship. Clarkson will compete against 300 of the best runners in the NAIA, representing 96 schools.

Clarkson’s road to this race and earning her degree has been long and winding. “Growing up, I was always involved in athletics. I started running cross country in high school. My senior year, I was recruited by Ashland University in Ohio. I ran there for two seasons, and then just being a knucklehead kid, I basically quit the team and stopped going to school because I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” Clarkson said.

She left school and entered the workforce. Clarkson eventually found her way into marketing and settled into a career. “My company was acquired after five years, and I found myself pigeonholed because I didn’t have my degree. It hit me in the face—I needed to get it done now. I contacted several colleges and coaches in the Chicago area, but when I came to GSU’s campus, I loved it immediately,” Clarkson said of her decision to become a Jaguar.

Formerly an upper-division school, GSU has an established tradition of helping adult learners move along their chosen degree paths. Washington Monthly recently ranked GSU No. 26 in its national ranking of the best four-year colleges for adult learners. At Governors State, older students aren’t just welcomed into classrooms; they’re embraced by the university community.

“I had a beautiful opportunity to meet with the coach and [Dean of Students] Dr. Valente and they recommended GSU’s Interdisciplinary Studies program. I went home, researched it, and saw it was a great opportunity.”

The IDS program allows students—particularly adult learners—to tailor their degree to their needs and even receive credit for previous professional experience in their chosen field. It’s a program designed for flexibility, and Clarkson needed flexibility. This past summer her husband, Dan Gale, accepted a job offer in Baltimore. Married in June, the newlyweds were going to be moving.

Gale didn’t want his career move to be the end of his wife’s dreams. He and Clarkson contacted Coach Kevin Kreden, and they talked about the options. GSU wanted to keep Clarkson, and Clarkson wanted to keep GSU, so the long-distance runner became a long-distance student athlete. GSU helped Clarkson transition into an online course schedule, and she began commuting from Baltimore for meets.

“It’s a unique situation,” Clarkson said, and laughed. “The extended learning community is really great, though. Campus classes were a diverse mix of students, and so are the online courses.”

In less than one week, Clarkson will take one last flight to compete for GSU. And then in another month she’ll receive her degree. As one of six women chosen from the Chicagoland Collegiate Athlete Conference, and the only athlete from GSU, it’s certain that no matter the outcome of the race on Saturday, Clarkson will cross her finish line.

“Everyone’s story is different,” Clarkson said. “This is just how I did it. I had set a
goal when I started running again of qualifying for the national meet. That part is behind me. With this race, I just get to go out and run my hardest and prove what I can do.”

And demonstrate, in dramatic and dynamic fashion, what many of the students at GSU do every single day: work to make their dreams a reality at an institution that affords them the support and flexibility to succeed.
Chicago, IL, November 14, 2016

GSU Promotes Engagement during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2016

Student Life is organizing a series of events from November 14 to 19 as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Week 2016. It is perfect timing to educate ourselves about national issues and give back as the season of gratitude nears.

The scarcity of food and affordable housing in the U.S are devastating problems...
worthy of attention. In 2015, 42.2 million Americans, out of which 13.1 million were children, lived in food insecure households. Moreover, on any given night, 564,708 people were homeless with 83,170 chronically homeless and 47,725 veterans.

Governors State University, as an educational institution, plays an important role in raising awareness as well as fighting hunger and homelessness.

“Our local communities are particularly sensitive to this topic given regional poverty levels,” said Dr. Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students. “Many of our students are susceptible to these issues, and it’s our responsibility to improve the lives of our communities There is no more basic way to do that than fight hunger and homelessness.”

Since the foundation of the Civic Engagement Center, GSU has been raising awareness and giving back during National Hunger and Homelessness Week. Here is what we have lined up for the GSU community this year:

Bands of Awareness

Students will receive armbands for raising awareness during the Hunger and Homelessness Week

November 14: Noon – 3 p.m.

Hall of Governors, Governors State University
GSU Promotes Engagement during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2016

**Lunch for a Cause**

Free lunch for students who donate a can of food

November 15: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Student Commons, Governors State University

**Home Ownership Talk**

Banking professionals from the community will hold a panel discussion

November 16: 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Prairie Place, Governors State University

**Game of Life**

Students will showcase their budgeting skills with an interactive version of the board game

November 17: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Hall of Governors, Governors State University

**University-Wide Service Day**

Students will provide service at the Chicago Food Depository

November 18: 9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Chicago Food Depository, 4100 W Ann Lurie Pl, Chicago, IL 60632

**University-Wide Service Day**

Students will provide service at Restoration Ministries

November 19: 9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Restorations Food Ministries, 253 E 159th St, Harvey, IL 60426

If you have the time, please join us in the fight against hunger and homelessness.