

Big Wins in Club Sports Ignite Momentum for Competitive Athletics

Many in the GSU community are well aware of the successes of our Table Tennis team, but fewer may be aware of the recent success of our Club Sports teams, notably our Women's Club Volleyball and Men's Basketball teams; both of which had a very successful launch during the fall semester. In total, GSU sponsors six active club sports teams that also includes Softball, Bowling and Golf.

The emerging and sustained interest in competitive sports was energized when the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on October 11 to expand recreational sports and develop a competitive athletics program. The expansion will be phased in over the next five years and will kick-off during the Spring 2014 semester with a process to select GSU's first official mascot. Over the summer and early fall, GSU plans on submitting its application for candidacy to a competitive conference membership with a final decision in Spring 2015. For more information on these exciting developments, be sure to visit our website at www.govst.edu/Athletics.



GSU OPERATION MASCOT

Get in the game and help name GSU's Mascot.

Suggestions til March 10

Website:

www.govst.edu/operationmascot

Facebook

www.facebook.com/gsuoperationmascot

Instagram:

@gsuoperationmascot

Orland Park Fall 2013 Women's Volleyball Park District Champions!



2013 Fall Women's Volleyball Roster: Critisha Ashley, Karesa Charles, Kirstie Cua, Amber Dybala, Andrea Johnson, Anita Kunkes, Rachel Matthews, Katie Limberopoulos, Cezanne Shannon, Arriahn Tucker, Maricela Vega and Sarah Wicklin.

The Governors State University women's club volleyball team began with their first practice on September 16, 2013. Most of the women did not know each other and none had played together. Most of that practice involved working on the basic volleyball skills of passing, setting, and serving. One week after their first practice GSU began competitive play in the Orland Park park district league. Most of the teams they faced have played together for multiple years and it showed. Even though the GSU women possessed individual skills, they often struggled to play as a cohesive unit. Nevertheless, as the season progressed so did their success. Slowly GSU began to show its potential. When the leagues playoffs began, the GSU women were all but unrecognizable on the court from the ones just three months prior. They became much more than a group of individual volleyball players, they became a team - a team that would sweep the playoffs and capture the league title.

Congratulations to the Governors State University Women's Club Volleyball Team!

GSU Wins Over Judson University in Historic Intercollegiate Basketball Scrimmage Game.



2013 Fall Men's Basketball Club Roster: Darnell Aytch, Alex Bennett, Marcus Butler-Davis, Mitchell Cronk, Quinton Crudup, William Grant, Melvin Hayes, Julius Johnson, Brandon Onuselogu and Gerald Rowan.

Last November, the GSU club basketball team hosted Judson University's junior varsity team in an exhibition game. It was the first college level basketball game played at GSU. The newly formed GSU club team, undersized, under coached, and unknown to the university community, pulled off a classic upset.

Down by one point with thirteen seconds left on the clock, GSU club team captain Alex Bennett gave final offensive instructions to his team just as Judson's coaches were overheard aggressively telling their team "every white shirt on that court, you stick with them tight." 94 feet of court, 10 feet of height, and 13 seconds of time stood between victory and defeat. Under tight defensive pressure, GSU moved the ball up the court and forward Brandon Onuselogu drove to the net to score. The crowd went wild. With four seconds left, Judson pushed the ball down court. As the clock hit one second, Judson's guard attempted a half court buzzer beater but the ball bounced harmlessly off the rim and the crowd burst into cheers.

Final Score: GSU 67, Judson 66.

Spring 2014

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From the Dean of Students: A Semester of Firsts, Well Before Our First First-Year Students Enroll at GSU!



With so many transformative changes just around the corner, it's easy to be focused on the future and not take time to reflect on the achievements of the recent semester - of which there are many. While this newsletter certainly hints at the many changes ahead, its purpose is to celebrate the accomplishments of our talented students along with those of our dedicated student affairs educators and academic affairs professionals.

As Prairie Place, our first on-campus residence, rose from the ground this semester, we also saw our institution's first intercollegiate athletic competition (and first win) against Judson University's Men's Junior Varsity Basketball team. In addition, we also celebrated the opening of the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service, located in A-2130, which hosted our first Oxfam Hunger Banquet, in the Fall semester and will cohost our first on-campus Relay for Life this semester with the Recreation and Fitness Center team on April 5, 2014. Think about forming your team now!

The firsts don't stop there; Career Services hosted the institution's first Student Employment Fair. And as you read this in this newsletter, you'll see the success of our first (of many future) efforts with Supplemental Instruction. To ensure new students to GSU have access to leadership opportunities as early as possible, Student Life also hosted the first student election in the Fall semester. As you may know, elections have been exclusively held in the

Spring semester. Given the strong response from the student body, Student Senate elections will now be held every semester.

With the Spring semester underway, I encourage you to participate in more firsts! Consider applying for our first summer Orientation Leaders that will welcome our first-year students and their families. In addition, consider applying for Peer Mentor positions that will serve alongside full-time faculty who are teaching in our innovative cohort first-year curriculum. Applications for both positions are available now at www.govst.edu/orientation.

Lastly, please join the excitement, and participate in the selection of our institution's Mascot! Opportunities to provide suggestions will be available in February, and voting in March Madness bracket style will occur in early March! Look for a new Mascot to be announced in April, and on-campus this summer!

If anything, I hope this newsletter captures the energy and momentum on campus this semester as we prepare for what President Elaine P. Maimon has dubbed "Renaissance 2014." As always, please feel free to contact me if you need anything, either via email at deanofstudents@govst.edu, or stop by my weekly office hour on Tuesdays, from 4 to 5 p.m., in A-2134!

Best wishes,

Dr. Aurélio Manuel Valente
Dean of Students and Associate Vice President
of Academic Affairs



www.twitter.com/GSUDean

**Notary Services are now
being offered in the
Office of the Dean
of Students
(Room A-2134).**

**Please contact Lisa Carra
at lcarra@govst.edu for
more information
or just stop by.**

What's New @ GSU



*Stay Healthy,
Don't Delay -
It's the Law*

**New! Immunization
Requirement for
ALL Students**

You must submit proof of
immunization before you
can register for classes.

This applies to **EVERYONE** -
new *and* current students.

Visit www.govst.edu/immunizations

Take A Stand Against Violence Week, Cancer Awareness Silent Auction and Days of Service are Among Fall 2013 Civic Engagement Programs.

Annual Silent Auction raises awareness and supports community organization

On October 22 and 23, the 9th Annual Cancer Awareness Silent Auction took place in the Hall of Governors. This event occurs on a yearly basis to increase the awareness, provide resources and support to our cancer survivors. The GSU and community donated over two hundred items in support of this event. In addition to raising awareness about breast cancer and working with the nearby Riverside Immediate Care in Monee to distribute Women's Health information, this year's event raised approximately \$2,500. The proceeds from this event benefit Faye's Light; a not-for-profit organization which provides quality services to those who are currently facing their battle with cancer.

"To look around and see how people came together for one cause was overwhelming, but to think that one kind soul organized this event with significant thought and attention to detail is to be commended. It was an awesome experience and I am looking forward to the next silent auction." SaLenea Goggins, Student CPBA, Business Administration and Navy Veteran.



Vanessa Newby and Sarah Jasso at Faye's Light, a Cancer Comfort Treatment Center.



GSU Women Take a Stand Against Violence: (l to r) Machel Anderson, Vanessa Newby, Yvette Brown, Doria Scott, Sarah Jasso, Tamekia Hill, and Katie Wagner.

GSU Partners with YWCA Chicago Heights and Takes A Stand Against Violence

The purpose of the **Take a Stand Against Violence** event held November 5-7, was to bring awareness to the escalating violence in our community. This event was made possible through the collaboration of multiple partners: the YWCA, GSU Communications Department, Wellness Club, and The Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice.

Respond to Violence (R2V) is a GSU media campaign initiative to combat violence in the Chicagoland area. R2V is a group of concerned educators, community leaders, and people just like you. A Speakers Corner, which asked the question "How has violence changed your life?" to students, staff, and any other members of the GSU community who wanted to share their story. For more information: <http://respondtoviolence.com/>

Other events included: "How to Start a Conversation" that provided information and discussion about how to begin talking about violence to various age groups. "Pledge to be a Pal," was a commitment to support someone in a violent situation and "I Care T-Shirts" which was an outward expression of the desire and support to end violence.



Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Delta Delta Chapter participated in a Service Day at the local public access TV station WTTW in Chicago.

Service Days demonstrate a sustained commitment to Civic Engagement

The Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service sponsors Service Days that provide a community service component for students to work with neighboring communities and community partners. Service Days are organized with different themes depending on the time of year. Each day presents an experiential learning opportunity to connect to the community and assist others.

The first Day of Service was the 9/11 Days of Service and Remembrance held in collaboration with the Veterans Resource

(continued on page 4)

Student Organization Spotlight: GSU Program Council (GSUPC)



GSU PC Board Top Row (left to right) Douglas Nanfeldt, Cherish Brown, Jeremy Joyce, Kristie Nieman. Bottom Row (left to right) Doria Scott, Michelle Adeniyi, Dennis Dent, Coordinator of Campus Programs, Brittany Frangella, Keyana Marshall

The Governors State University Program Council (GSUPC) is a volunteer board of students who work to plan, promote, and present events for the GSU campus and community. Each program is designed to provide social, recreational, co-curricular, cultural and entertainment value to the student experience at GSU. Students who become involved with GSUPC and Student Life will develop leadership and professional skills, and etch their mark in GSU history by presenting memorable and quality events for their fellow students and the campus community.

The council has been busy planning a string of Spring Events that promise to be spectacular. The semester started with Welcome Week and the Student Resource County Fair, a country-western take on the traditional club and organization fair. The Open Mic Night series will be featured the last Thursday of each month, transforming the Café Annex into a cool coffee house, where students can freely express themselves on a different topic each month. As the semester progresses GSUPC will be planning a Gatsby themed Casino Night, complete with live music, and performances by GSU students. Students who are interested in volunteering with GSUPC should contact Dennis Dent, Coordinator of Campus Programs at ddent@govst.edu or 708.235.7609 for more information.

Upcoming GSUPC Events

MLK Celebration

February 27
Center for Performing Arts, 10 a.m.

Open Mic Night

February 27
Cafeteria Annex, 6 p.m.

Community Service ... Get the Facts

March 11
Room A2110, 3 - 4 p.m.

Alternative Spring Break

March 19
Chicago Communities

Salute to Grads

March 12-13
Hall of Governors, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Grad Celebration

May 3
GSU Campus, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Clubs and Organizations Workshops

It's Only Money ... Managing Club Budgets

March 5/April 1
Room A2110, 3 - 4 p.m.

Creative Programs and Procedures

March 25/April 8
Room A2110, 3 - 4 p.m.

Service Days (continued from page 3)

Center. It involved three components; a letter and card writing campaign to soldiers on active duty via the charity A Million Thanks, a wreath decorating station for students inspired by Wreaths Across America, which were later placed at the grave site of veterans at the Oakland Memory Lanes Cemetery and finally, a donation station where students could donate certain items deemed useful for troops on active duty, this was done with Operation Gratitude. The room itself was decorated with numerous soldier stories and yellow ribbons were given out to participants.

The second Day of Service was sponsored as part of the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week where students worked with the Riegel Farm and the Living Museum helping to construct

new stables for their animals. The day consisted of barn-yard chores practiced for generations; cleaning chicken coops, feeding animals, and sweeping the stables. Students were able to reflect back to the days of prairie life and imagine how people worked for their food, and compare it to our modern means of food access.

Our third Day of Service in the fall demonstrated clearly that our students at GSU take civic responsibility seriously, which is demonstrated by our clubs and organizations coordinating service opportunities to aid neighboring communities. The members of Tau Sigma National Honor Society developed a WTTW Service Day at the local public access station in Chicago while the Bowling Club and the Computer Science Club created a holiday luncheon to support the elderly. Students provided

and served lunch, played games and provided much needed companionship to elders.

The first event in the Spring semester was the MLK Service Day on January 20th where students reflected on the effect that Dr. King and other civil rights activists have had on their lives and the lives of others. The GSU community chose to honor his legacy on this national holiday by treating it as a "day on, not a day off." Thus, GSU created the MLK Challenge where students were divided into teams of 8-10 and assigned service challenges around the south suburbs and Chicago. Students had the opportunity to work with community partners such as the YWCA, the Benton House, and Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten of the University Library.

Supplemental Instruction Arives at GSU!



Dr. Angela Thompson, College of Arts and Sciences with Andrea Johnson, graduate student and SI Tutor.

When students entered Professor Angela Thompson's college algebra (MATH 1423) section this past August, they probably didn't realize that they had enrolled in the first SI – enhanced course to be offered in the history of Governors State. The main difference between SI and tutoring is that the SI leader is connected to the course through attending lectures and facilitating interactive study groups.

Supplemental Instruction (known as SI) began back in 1973 when Dr. Deana Martin, who was a still a graduate student at the University of Missouri Kansas City, noticed that students continued to perform poorly in lower division courses which had an established lecture – recitation model. She devised a plan that would be peer facilitated and student centered. The goal was to decrease the large percentage of D, F and W grades by way of increased student engagement.

SI sessions (known as a SI study group at GSU) are run separately from the lecture. SI study groups are facilitated by a student who recently completed the course with a high grade. The SI leader does not lecture, but rather promotes an inclusive and supportive environment through various group activities and student presentations. The student is always the star of the show! Attendance at SI sessions does not have an impact on a student's grade (versus a recitation, which is more punitive). All SI leaders sit in on the lectures and hold 1 – 2 office hours per week in addition to facilitating the study group.

Andrea Johnson, graduate assistant tutor in the Academic Resource Center, served as Governors State University's first SI leader. Both Dr. Thompson and Andrea worked together to provide a supportive environment for the college algebra students. According to Dr. Thompson, "the class time itself was specifically structured to maximize student access to both Andrea and myself. Our class was highly interactive and participatory. We moved the students around, and they got to know each other. Andrea and I both had sufficient time to speak individually to every single student in class every week. We got to know them, and even if they were not able to attend the weekly sessions, Andrea and I both offered continuous support for all students both in and out of the classroom."

In the end, everyone who completed the class received a passing grade, with nine students earning an A in the course. Supplemental Instruction will once again be offered to students who plan to enroll in Dr. Thompson's applied calculus (MATH 2281) section with Andrea Johnson once again serving as the Supplemental Instruction leader. Daniel Ferry, the Coordinator of Tutoring in the Academic Resource Center, has set an ambitious goal to include Supplemental Instruction in all first year general education math and science courses during the 2014 – 15 academic year.

Students who may be interested in becoming SI leaders should contact Daniel Ferry at dferry@govst.edu.

NOW HIRING! New Student Programs is seeking students to participate in the GSU Orientation Leader and Peer Mentor programs.

Orientation Leaders will assist new students and their families in their transition to GSU. Selected students will play an integral role in the success of the First Year, transfer and graduate students and family members as they transition to the GSU community. (Summer employment)

Peer Mentors will be integrated into the First-Year Seminar (FYS 1001) and will be recognized leaders throughout the university community. They will serve as group leaders, contacts between departments, peer educators and positive role models. (Fall and Spring employment)

Attend a mandatory information session to learn how you can join our team.

Information Sessions (Room B1215 – Academic Resource Center)

Wednesday, February 26 • 3 – 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 6 • 6 – 7 p.m.

Monday, March 3 • 6 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12 • 3 – 4 p.m.

Don't miss this great opportunity to help new students discover GSU.
Join the team that makes a positive difference in our campus community.

Apply now at www.govst.edu/nsp For more information, email fye@govst.edu or call 708.235.6819.



Internship Advisory Council Kickoff

In preparation for the establishment of a robust four-year career development program, and in an effort to collaborate on best practices for internship efforts across the university, the Internship Advisory Council (IAC) was formed this past fall. Spearheaded by the Office of Career Services, faculty and staff from across all of the divisions were identified who regularly assisted students in their efforts to gain real world experience within their fields. Together members of the Office of Career Services and participating colleges shared their ideas and feedback regarding difference aspects of internship practices.

The IAC was initially formed to serve as a collaborative group to share resources, develop strategies for best practice, and to discuss current internship topics on how to better assist students to attain internships. The Internship Advisory Council held their inaugural meeting on September 12, 2013 with a presentation regarding the importance of internships, based on recent findings from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U, 2008). In an article by Dr. George Kuh, Indiana University, leading research stated just how important internship practices are to fully engage students to be well-rounded and successful individuals. “Engagement increases the odds that any student—educational and social background notwithstanding—will attain his or her educational and personal objectives, acquire the skills and competencies demanded by the challenges

of the twenty-first century, and enjoy the intellectual and monetary gains associated with the completion of the baccalaureate degree” (Kuh, 2008).

This kicked off a series of meetings to be held throughout the academic school year. The October IAC meeting topic was presented by Career Services Recruitment Coordinator, Cynthia Staples, who spoke about soft skills that are in high demand by employers. In November, Robin Sweeney, the Director of Student Disability Services presented the topic of ADA: Determining Reasonable Accommodations for Internships, Clinicals and Practicums.

In February, the council had Brian Feeley, VP of the Washington Center Internship Program travel from Washington to University Park to give faculty and staff an overview of the program and how we can establish a relationship for student internships. In addition, Colleen Sexton, Division Chair for the College of Education will be presenting on Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment during our March meeting. The Office of Career Services Team is pleased with the results and we look forward to another successful semester when the IAC convenes again.

Source: Kuh, G.D. (2008). High impact educational practices: Who has access to them and why they matter for all students. Association of American Colleges & Universities, pages13-22.

For more information contact the Office of Career Services at 708.235.3974 or at the website: www.govst.edu/careerservices

Save the Date for Spring Career Services events:

Graduate Student Boot Camp

Monday, March 10, 2014 to Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Professional Etiquette Luncheon

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Internship Orientation Workshop

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 2 - 2:50 p.m.

Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Business, Technology and Communications Career and Internship Fair

Thursday, April 17, 2014, 2 - 5 p.m. (NEW DATE!)

Veterans Appreciation Week raises awareness and support for student veterans.

There were a number of activities and major milestones reached by the Veterans' Resource Center (VRC), located in Room A2109, during the Fall semester, most notably a robust Veterans Appreciation Week held November 5 to 19 in conjunction with Veterans Day.

Veterans Appreciation Week activities began November 9 with the annual Richton Park Veterans Day Parade hosted by VFW Post #311 which featured a delegation of members from the GSU Chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA). On Veterans Day, the Social Work Department sponsored a panel discussion entitled "Transitioning: Are Veterans Failing College?" of which the Veterans Resource Center contributed.

The honoring of our veterans continued with two events sponsored by The Intellectual Life Committee with leadership from Dr. Elizabeth Johnson and Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten; "Where Soldiers Come From" Documentary and Panel Discussion on November 11 and Footprints of Veterans - Veterans from St. Leo's Residence spoke regarding homeless veterans with an overview by Dr. Eddie Taylor, Director of St. Leo's Residence.

The Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp sponsored by The Small Business Development Center helped connect aspiring veteran entrepreneurs with resources centered around launching and sustaining a veteran owned business.

The Missing Soldier Brunch concluded a very successful Veterans Appreciation Week. There was a presentation on veterans housing initiatives by representatives from The Department of Veterans' Affairs



The 2013-2014 Student Veterans Association Executive Board (l to r) Kenneth Walker-President, Kevin Smith- Exec Director-Coast Guard, James Flagg-SVA Advisor, Risa Stegall-Vice President and Exec Director-Army, Chloe Russell- Exec Director-Navy, and Greg Dole- Treasurer and Exec Director -Marines. (not pictured James Brown-Exec Director-Air Force)

Supportive Housing Program. This event was sponsored by the GSU Chapter of Student Veterans of America.

The week could not have been possible without the support of external partners such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and nonprofit organizations St. Leo's Parish, and Featherfist.

The Spring 2014 semester will be just as busy as the Fall! The VRC kicked off 2014 Welcome Week with a volunteer service project into honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and in memory of the late Mr. Nelson Mandela in conjunction with the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service. Look for a full compliment of upcoming events that include

regular installments of Tactical Tuesdays, an effort to connect student veterans and traditional students through free pizza and pop in a friendly, informal setting, and our second induction for the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society.

Be sure to visit our website for more information at www.govst.edu/veterans, or better yet, visit us in person in Room A2109!



Veterans Advisory Board

On October 30, the Governors State University Veterans Advisory Council met for the first time under the new direction of Veterans' Coordinator, James Flagg. The council comprised of GSU student veterans, faculty and staff will meet regularly to share resources and ideas of how to best serve our student veterans and their dependents here on campus. Among the many action items the advisory council is tasked with, the group will focus on getting a better understanding of who our student veterans are and establishing a system of best practices to meet their many needs as they transition into college and out into their respective careers. The Veterans Advisory Council will be aligned with the University's mission to be a stimulating, public square with an emphasis on the interdepartmental collaboration of ideas and resources to mutually benefit both the GSU student and our communities of practice.



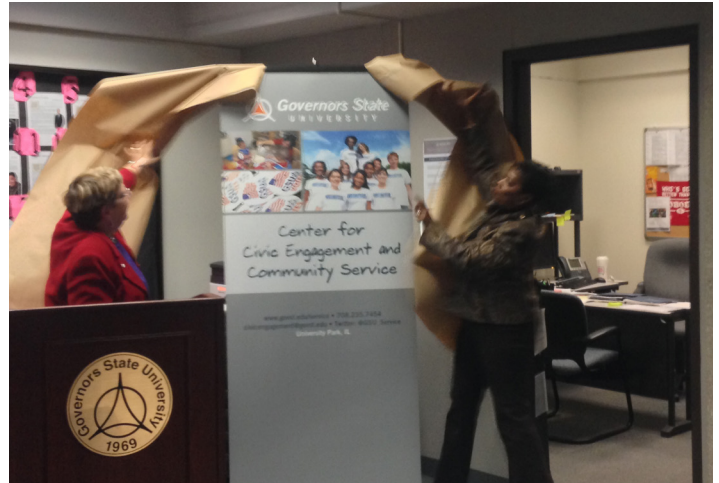
Veterans Advisory Council established to ensure campus-wide support for student veterans.

Student Life Fall 2013 Snapshots



Lincoln Laureate

GSU Lincoln Laureate winner Ricca Louissaint with her mentor Dr. Terri Christiansen and special guest, Jace Christiansen.



Center for Civic Engagement Opening

President Maimon and Assistant Dean of Students Sheree Sanderson at the unveiling for the Grand Opening of the Center for Civic Engagement



Hunger Banquet

Hunger Banquet sponsored by Oxfam was attended by Neel Rana, Vivian E. Covington (Mayor of University Park), and Shaniqua J. (back row) and Ariel Alexander, Sanaa Alexander, and Ayanna Alexander (front row).



Missing Soldiers Brunch

Attending the Missing Soldiers Brunch held during Veterans Appreciation Week were Risa Stegall, Clyde Wilson, Eric Williams, Kenneth Walker, James Baker, Ashley Tillman (front row) and Greg Dole, Lamont Warren, James J. Flagg, and Thomas Deegan (back row).

Save these Spring 2014 Dates:

- February 28: Black Women Rock Awards, Sherman Hall, 7 p.m.
- March 14: Immunization Forms Due, Academic Resource Center, B1215, by 7 p.m.
- March 19: Hot Flashes, CPA, 6:30 p.m.
- March 24-28: Student Senate Elections
- April 5: Relay for Life, GSU Gym, 2 p.m.
- April 29: 2nd Annual Leadership Awards Banquet, E-Lounge, 6 p.m.

For updates and a complete calendar of events, visit: www.govst.edu/campus_life/