



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



Fall 2015

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Student Employment Making an Impact!!



On-campus employment is more than an opportunity to provide students with some extra spending money, done well; it's also a high impact practice. What makes it a High-Impact Practice? High-Impact Practices (HIPs) share several traits: They demand considerable time and effort, facilitate learning outside of the classroom, require meaningful interactions with faculty and students, encourage collaboration with diverse others, and provide frequent and substantive feedback.

As a result, participation in these practices can be life-changing (Kuh, 2008). National Survey for Student Engagement founding director George Kuh recommends that institutions should aspire for all students to participate in at least two HIPs over the course of their undergraduate experience—one during the first year and one in the context of their major (NSSE, 2007).

Governors State University supports the professional development of all student employees as they are a valuable part of our community and students who are highly engaged increase their opportunities to be highly successful.

With this spirit of providing meaningful high impact practice experiences at GSU, the Office of Career Services has set out to make the student employment experience at GSU an institutional wide effort and a high impact practice experience. The Office of Career Services began this venture by kicking off the academic school year by hosting its annual Student

Employment Fair on August 26, 2015. The fair was a resounding success with 400 students in attendance vying for on campus positions throughout the University. One hundred and forty-one students found on-campus Federal Work Study and Regular Student Worker jobs, and we encourage those students who are still seeking employment to continue to watch for on and off campus job opportunities on GSU's Job for Jaguars electronic job board.

Additionally, Career Services, with the support of President Maimon, has launched a series of workshops and events that will be offered to enhance a student worker's professional development experience. Are you interested in learning more about our Four Year Career Compass, or perhaps how to obtain an internship? Whatever your career development need, the Office of Career Services can help. Furthermore, any student worker attending three or more workshops or events will receive a student employee Certificate of Professional Development from President Maimon at the Student Employment Recognition Reception on December 3, 2015 in Engbretson Hall from 3:30-4:30 pm.

Students can find a list of qualifying events on the Career Services Website: <http://www.govst.edu/careerservices>. If you're interested in obtaining more information, call the Office of Career Services at 708.235.3974.

Welcome from Dean of Students



Rightfully, the fall 2014 was cited as the semester that marked the transformation of Governors State University from an upper-division institution to a comprehensive residential four-year institution. However, because we took a measured approach to our transition and only admitted first-year students last year, it is this fall in 2015 that GSU now educates undergraduate students in all four academic years – freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior year!

Our first freshmen made history again, this time as our first sophomores. As you will read in this newsletter, they are participating in “Jaguar Jump” programming to focus on supporting their transition from our innovative cohort model to their academic major.

This year is also a year of establishing traditions by continuing our support for what were recently inaugural initiatives. This fall we hosted the 2nd annual Family and Friends Weekend, 2nd Halloween Bash, and 2nd Jaguar Jamboree, just to name a few.

Of course, our commitment continues with longstanding traditions. Jerry Davis EI was named our 40th Lincoln Laureate and long-standing programming such as Non-Traditional Student Week continues this November. This blend of new traditions highlighting our transformation and long standing events celebrating our sustained commitment to adult learners is just one way in which the vitality of our community comes alive!

Please do not hesitate to visit my office, located in A-2134, if I can be of assistance. I hold two open office hours per week, on Mondays from 9-10 a.m. and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. Even if you don't need anything, stop in and simply visit!

Sincerely,

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

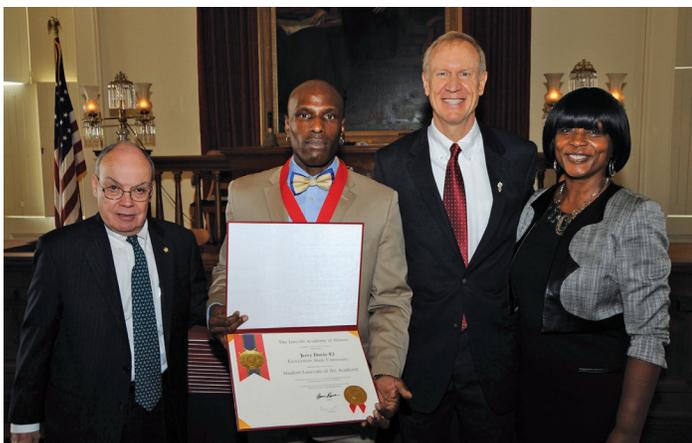


www.facebook.com/GSUDean



www.twitter.com/GSUDean

Jerry Davis EI Chosen as 2015 Lincoln Laureate!



Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student Laureates are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. The 2015 GSU Lincoln Laureate is Jerry Davis EI. He and the other student laureates from around the state were honored Saturday November 7 in a ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

Accompanying Jerry at the ceremony was, Dr. Lori Glass, Associate Professor, Social Work.

In nominating Mr. Davis EI, Dr. Glass stated “I highly recommend Jerry as GSU’s Lincoln Laureate as he is a true reflection of the character of this award. He is civically engaged and an active participant of his community. He is a living example of resilience and the transformative power of education. He will undoubtedly continue to impact our society and touch the lives of many others.”

Jerry is currently a Bachelor of Social Work student in the College of Health and Human Services. Upon graduation in 2016, he will pursue a Masters in Social Work with a concentration primarily toward Families and Children. He is a champion for social justice — working with the traumatized, socio-economically deprived, and marginalized populations indicative of the inner City of Chicago where he was raised.

Photo, top: Jerry Davis EI receiving this year’s Lincoln Laureate award. Pictures (l to r) Lincoln Laureate Chancellor William Bennett, Jerry Davis EI, Lincoln Laureate President, the Honorable Bruce Rauner, and Dr. Lori Glass.

Photo, bottom: Jerry Davis EI with Dr. Lori Glass and his family.



Jaguar Jump Major Network Debuts to Serve Sophmores!



Apifani Grillier discusses picking a major with Community Health staff.



Dr. Ellie Walsh discusses major options with Eric De Avila and Ashley Albright.

Career Services were invited to provide services for undecided students to assist with major selection/exploration. This provided an opportunity for career services to work individually with students and introduce them to various assessment tools. Career Services also provided information regarding internships and used this event as a platform to recruit for the Professional Image and Career Conference.

Part two of the Jaguar Jump is the Major Network took place Monday, October 12 - Thursday, October 16, 2015. During this multi-day event, each major/college provided representatives to speak to students about programs, answer questions and make introductions. Each major determined how their session would flow. They varied from interactive, to information, to question and answer sessions.

Finally, the third part of Jaguar Jump, College Signing Day will be take place during Spring 2016 welcome week. This will be a unique event, the first of its kind, and will start a great new tradition at GSU. If you've ever watched Harry Potter and seen the celebration after the sorting hat has announced a student's house placement, or you've ever watched the NBA draft and experienced the welcome an athlete receives once they've been selected to a team, you can imagine the kind of energetic environment we plan to create. Students will be photographed, and presented with a certificate. There will be representatives from each of the four academic colleges available to congratulate their new students and celebrate this milestone in their academic journey.

Fall 2015 Admissions Trivia (see page 5 for answer key)

- Match the number of Fall 2015 applications received to the correct month?

a. 526	April	_____
b. 625	May	_____
c. 485	June	_____
d. 516	July	_____
e. 578	August	_____
- How many total applications did the Office of Admissions receive for the Fall 2015 semester?
 - 3,756
 - 5,751
 - 4,418
 - 5,133
- How many international student applications have been received for the Spring 2016 Semester (as of October 15, 2015)? International applications are defined as applications from students who are non-US citizens or permanent residents.
 - 643
 - 721
 - 659
 - 898
- How many admissions decisions were made in the month of August 2015 for the Fall 2015, Spring 2016
 - 423
 - 667
 - 658
 - 574

New Student Success Efforts Help Achieve Academic Goals



The Academic Resource Center is excited to start another year helping students achieve their academic goals! We offer assistance beginning with freshmen Smart Start all the way to graduate students. Last year, the University went through a transformation of becoming a four year institution that caused our services and programs to grow. This fall, the Academic Resource Center implemented a variety of collaborative efforts in support programs and early alert initiatives to enhance student success and persistence.

New Programs and Initiatives:

At the beginning of Fall 2015 semester, the ARC introduced the ACHIEVE Program to support (1) freshmen placed on academic warning after Smart Start completion; and (2) for students admitted after Smart Start needing additional support. The program gives students additional support to help them successfully complete their first semester at GSU. Students connect with peer mentors/resident coaches, build a relationship with their advisor (create a study plan), and attend tutoring sessions for English and/or Math. In addition, students' progress is monitored through early alert initiatives such as attendance; attitude toward class; and participation tracking in First Year Seminar and Mastering College courses,

and midterm grades. Students are encouraged to attend the Save My Semester workshop to evaluate progress.

The Lower Division Academic Recovery Program (LDARP) is a branch of GSU's Academic Recovery Program focusing on freshmen and sophomores placed on academic probation. Lower division students placed on academic probation are required to participate in LDARP. The program gives students the resources needed to help them persist. Students receive assistance by working with peer mentors/resident coaches, receive supplemental instruction/tutoring assistance, meet with their advisor to develop a study plan, and attend student success workshops, including Save My Semester. Student progress is monitored through program participation and midterm grades.

In Fall 2015, the ARC implemented the Back on Track Program designed to support GSU students who are readmitted after academic suspension. Students are required to participate in the program as part of their readmission conditions. The program helps students get back on track by creating an individualized student support plan and setting academic, personal goals. Students meet as a group on a weekly basis to discuss various academic support topics, set weekly goals, and receive support from the Academic Resource Center's Graduate Assistant.

With the growing number of students and academic needs, the ARC in collaboration with staff and faculty, has implemented mid-term grades and attendance tracking. All faculty are encouraged to enter midterm grades, and in return, the Academic Resource Center sends out mid-term alert letters to students performing below "C" work to offer assistance and provide resources. Students are asked to meet with their advisor and/or instructor to discuss their academic performance and are encouraged to attend the Save My Semester workshop. Besides flagging at-risk students during midterm, the Academic Resource Center also recognizes students who demonstrate above average performance. Students who receive a midterm grade of "A" or "B" will receive an acknowledgment letter congratulating them on their success and efforts thus far.

For upcoming student success workshops, visit:
www.govst.edu/GS2U

2nd Annual Family and Friends Weekend was a Great Success!



Variety show winners (l to r): Fatal Dance Academy, Jamal Kidd, and Felice Kimbrew with Cherish Brown.

The GSU's annual Family and Friends Weekend was held October 8-10, 2015. Parents, families and alumni were invited back to campus to join students, faculty and staff in an exciting three-day event celebrating our shared community and this transformative moment in our history. The weekend kicked-off Thursday with the Jaguar Jamboree, with over 300 students, faculty and staff in attendance and the Hillcrest High School Marching Band, cheerleaders and dance team started the event in style, they were amazing! The GSU Jaguars' sports teams were introduced amongst roars and cheers as they moved into the women and men's scrimmage games.

Saturday's events got us off to a great start with the "Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll," followed by Dr. Maimon's jazz brunch featuring our very own "Legacy," and our new food service Arena did an amazing job with the food. There was an array of events to choose from, Passport World, sponsored by the ICO club, face painting, caricature artist, magical balloons, build-a-bear, children story hour, bingo, the Manilow Sculpture Park, and there was standing room only for GSU's debut of the movie Minions.



Hillary Chadare and her family enjoy Friends and Family Weekend.

The big story of the day was the Saturday night anchor program, the GSU Student Variety Show. The talent that was demonstrated by our students Saturday night was absolutely amazing from the saxophone solo to a dance routine that was just short of unbelievable! Performers were: J. Smooth, saxophone; Fatal Dance Academy, Dance Production; Aaron Johnson, spoken word; Felice Kimbrew, Solo, accompanied by Inspirational Dance Solo Cherish Brown; Phil Richardson, Solo; Jamal Kidd, Solo; Danielle Wills and Ju'Juan Day, Duet. Placements were: 1st Place- Fatal Dance Academy, 2nd Place- Jamal Kidd, 3rd Place- Felice Kimbrew and Cherish Brown. Congratulations to all the performers who are GSU stars!

The Friday night Step Show and All College Alumni Reception will be rescheduled at a later date.

Fall 2015 Admissions Trivia

Answer Key

1. April – b, May – e, June – a, July – d, August – c
2. d
3. d
4. b

Family & Friends Weekend

Governors State University

SAVE THE DATE!
October 6-8, 2016



Students, Parents, Alumni & Friends — share the GSU experience with your student
Family Events • Alumni Reception • Step Show • President's Brunch • Games • Food

Contact and Registration information www.govst.edu/weekend



Community Partner Highlight: Pacific Garden Mission



Pacific Mission Gardens was founded in 1877.

The Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service continues to create service learning and volunteer opportunities for the GSU community. This year the Center is sponsoring service opportunities that correspond to the cohorts themes to assist students and faculty. The Center has sponsored three service opportunities for students to volunteer in an around the Chicago and the Southland area.

Service projects were established with Restoration Ministries, the Chicago Greater Food Depository, and Pacific Garden Mission; all of which share a common theme addressing both housing and food insecurities of underserved populations. Through these partnerships, the Center has established monthly service projects with two community partners; Restoration Ministries and Pacific Garden Mission. These will be ongoing each semester in addition to other opportunities.

A key contribution to the growth of civic engagement activities has been establishing strong partnerships with community



GSU students serving at the Pacific Garden Mission last spring.

agencies. Over the past year, Pacific Garden Mission has emerged as frequent host of many of our service projects, and as such a highlight for our newsletter.

Since 1877, Pacific Garden Mission has been a place of refuge and transformation. Millions weary of struggling through life's storms, have come to the "Old Lighthouse" seeking food, shelter, clothing, medical, and dental care.

Website: www.pgm.org

September 2015 Statistics

808 daily average of homeless sleeping overnight

1,587 daily meals served

#KnowYourJaguars: Student Athletes Place Compassion Past Competition



Student Athletes volunteer at Pacific Mission Gardens in October. Pictured l to r: Rachel Diston, Jay Yancy, Jordan Fisher, Jomarri Jones, and JV Men's Basketball Coach Duval Richardson.

On Saturday, October 3, a total of 35 scholar-athletes and 3 coaching staff traveled to Chicago South Loop, where the center is located, and gave a helping hand from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Some of the players stayed on the main floor to work in the kitchen.

They set up tableware, wiped tables and served food to the community members. The others went upstairs to help pack and fold beddings for all of the bunks, made up the beds and sorted and filled the soap containers for the facility.

The service project was an insurmountable learning experience for the Jaguars while giving back and making a difference in their community. They met new people from different walks of life with whom they shared and gained a different outlook on life, which is one of the primary goals of the service project. "Volunteering opportunities with my team provides another level of closeness as it is a time to share experiences and reflect on life concepts," said Associate Athletic Director and Head Women's Basketball Coach LaToshia Burrell. "It's always a proud moment for me, watching these young women serve others with so much compassion."

As a member of the NAIA, the Jaguars have been living up to the promise of the Champion of Character promise through integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. Get closer to the game by downloading the GSU Jaguars mobile app and following the Jaguars on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Intercultural Student Programs Sponsors Male Success Initiative

The Male Success Initiative (MSI) pilot was officially launched this semester. MSI is an intergenerational enrichment program designed to help male students, particular men of color, create a game plan for their success at GSU and beyond. It focuses on employing strategies to assist in the retention and graduation of male students and increase their engagement. MSI programming is held weekly on "MANHOOD MONDAYS," a day dedicated to empower participants in unique and innovative ways. MSI is based upon four programming tenets of civic engagement, cultural exploration, curricular enhancement and character enrichment.

Currently we have 35 men enrolled in the pilot program comprised of first year, returning and transfer students. There are also 16 faculty/staff mentors as well as a diverse cadre of students, faculty/staff and administrators serving on the advisory council. Some of the highlights thus far are Historical Tour of Bronzeville, Meyers Briggs Assessment, StrengthsQuest Assessment, University Symposium with Dr. Shaun Harper, Men's Leadership Retreat, Identity Development Workshop, Open Forums, Etiquette Dinner, and Book Club.

GSU and Prairie State Male Success Initiative participants visit DuSable Museum as part of the Tour of Bronzeville-Chicago

The Male Success Initiative is also extending its efforts to create pathways of success for men of color at high schools and community colleges. MSI currently has established a partnership with Prairie State College through the Dual Degree Program to increase men of color enrollment and retention of transfer students. There are also efforts in the works to do the same for regional high schools as well. For more information about the Male Success Initiative call 708.534.4551 or email msi@govst.edu.



Juan Gutierrez and Addison Jackson serve as panelists for the Male Success Initiative Symposium featuring Dr. Shaun Harper



University-wide Campus Programs are in Full Swing!

The GSU Program Council has had a successful semester of programming. The council has made great strides in having successful late night programs, targeting full-time and resident students. The semester kicked off with a highly engaging Welcome Week including a Welcome Back Dance hosted by the Black Student Union with hundreds in attendance! October programming included the Fall Family Carnival and the 2nd annual Halloween Bash. Throughout the semester Program Council has also held monthly Open Mic Nights, and the semester will close with the Late Night Breakfast to get students ready for finals on Mon., Nov. 30!

The upcoming Spring semester will feature monthly movies, collaborative programs with the Hall Council, and much more! Be sure to keep updated on how to enjoy



these campus wide programs on twitter at [@thingstodo](https://twitter.com/thingstodo) or contact the Program Council Advisor, Dennis Dent at ddent@govst.edu.

Be sure to visit www.govst.edu/studentaffairs to see photos from many of these events!



Above Left: Lara Eiler conquers the rock wall at the Fall Family Welcome Back Carnival

Above Right: Dancing the night away to the Glow Party!

Cultural Heritage Months, She Speaks, First Matters and URL Round Out Fall Intercultural Programming



Black Student Union Executive Board celebrating Pre-Kwanza (l to r) Michael Vanarsdale, Steven Smith, Denea Tate-Shareef, Keynote Speaker Dr. Lasana Kazembe, and Lester Van Moody.

Intercultural Student Affairs serves a great resource to members of this respective communities to ensure they see themselves reflected in all things at GSU. In addition to traditionally sponsored Hispanic Heritage Month and LGBT History Month, cultural heritage programming has been expanded to include other diverse populations including Native American Heritage Month, Disability Awareness Week, Hip Hop Week, Non-Traditional Students Week, and Restorative Justice Day.

First Matters is a multifaceted comprehensive program serving first generation students who are those that are first in their families to attend college as well as other underrepresented populations that focuses on their holistic development. This program is dedicated to providing first generation students with support and resources that will help them successfully acclimate to the campus environment and matriculate to graduation.

First generation college students include those from other underserved student populations such students of color, those who come from low socioeconomic backgrounds or who are academically underprepared for college.

Thus far Intercultural Student Affairs has hosted two workshops for First Matters. Topics included “You’re First, You Matter” and “Learning When to Say No.” Upcoming workshops topics include “There’s Nothing Minor about Your Major” and “It’s Not the End, It’s Just the Beginning.” Intercultural Student Affairs is still being developing First Matters to establish programming that will reflect its goals and objectives such as Jump Start, pre matriculation transition program; Generation Now Leadership Retreat, leadership exploration experience; and Mastering College.

She Speaks provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and student women to share their stories of victory to empower the community. Their story can be one that highlights overcoming challenges and achieving successes throughout their personal and/or professional journey(s). After sharing their story, participants will serve on a panel to provide attendees an opportunity to gain greater insight on who they are and how women are interconnected through various dimensions of diversity. A committee from this programming series will be created to increase the number of women centered programming on campus such as Women’s History Month, Black Women Rock and the Female Success Initiative.

Unlearn, Relearn, and Learn (URL) is a program series that will provide an opportunity for the GSU community to unlearn myths, stereotypes and fallacies about various subject matters, relearn the truth, and learn ways to shape their understanding that will aid in bridging cultural divides in the campus community. Participants will be exposed to current cultural issues as well as challenge the GSU community to realize the benefits of living in a multicultural world. The topics for this Unlearn, Relearn, Learn is Immigration and Censorship.

For more information go to: www.govst.edu/diversity or call 708.534.4551.

Prairie Place – 100% Occupancy in Year 2

Prairie Place, our first on campus residential facility reported 100% occupancy in the 2015 fall semester. This represented a 77 bed increase (38%) over fall 2014 numbers.

Freshmen	126 (45%)
Sophomores	67 (24%)
Transfer & DDP	66 (24%)
Graduate	18 (7%)

Current students living in prairie place will be able to re-contract for 2016/2017 housing when they return to the campus in January. New applications will begin to be accepted
FEBRUARY 8, 2016



Students relaxing at Prairie Place.

IT'S ALL ABOUT
IT'S ALL ABOUT
IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE DEGREES
The Dual Degree Program

It's All About the Degrees: DDP Celebrates 5 Years of Success!

In 2010, Governors State University, led by GSU President Maimon and GSU Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu, embarked on a mission to solidify partnerships with area community colleges and show a true commitment to degree completion. Through these partnerships, GSU would also illustrate the multiple pathways for students to obtain higher education.



DDP Induction in Fall 2015.

The result was the creation of the Governors State University Dual Degree Program (DDP). With the support of former GSU Provost Terry Allison and current GSU Assistant to the President for Community College Partnerships, Dr. Linda Uzureau, the first DDP agreement was signed on September 14, 2010 with Kankakee Community College (KCC). Four other colleges quickly followed with similar DDP agreements to “ensure the completion of the associate’s degree and seamless transfer of students” to complete their bachelor degrees:

- Joliet Junior College (JJC) -September 17, 2010
- Prairie State College (PSC) -September 20, 2010
- Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) - September 22, 2010
- South Suburban College (SSC) -October 28, 2010

These first five partners became known as the DDP “Big Five” and have the largest DDP enrollment of all DDP college partners. Those five campuses currently account for 89% of total DDP student enrollment.

The Dual Degree Program has continued to grow after those initial agreements were made. A total of seventeen partner institutions that have joined over the years, including the remaining twelve partners:

- Triton College-December 2, 2010
- College of DuPage-November 14, 2011
- Morton College-November 17, 2011
- City Colleges of Chicago (all seven campuses) -April 11, 2012
- Harper College-January 18, 2013
- Waubensee Community College-February 3, 2014



First DDP community service project at Daybreak Center in September, 2012, coordinated by DDP Peer Mentors from Joliet Junior College.

DDP is celebrating its five-year anniversary, and it continues to fulfill the initial mission. Since DDP’s first cohort transferred to GSU in 2012, over 360 DDP students have transferred to GSU or other universities after completing their associate’s degrees. Over 103 of those DDP transfer students have graduated with their bachelor degrees, many of which are already pursuing graduate degrees. The DDP model has been recognized and awarded by national higher education organizations including The American Association of State Colleges and Universities and The National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition.

With the recent creation and ongoing implementation of a 5-year strategic plan, the Dual Degree Program will continue to strengthen and initiate community partnerships. And DDP will support student success and degree completion by continuing to provide intentional transfer advisement, academic resources, transition programs, recognition ceremonies, and leadership opportunities.

Veterans Resource Center

GSU Named as a Top Veteran-Friendly School – September 8, 2015

GSU has been named to *U.S. Veterans Magazine's Best of the Best* List for 2015, as one of the publication's Top Veteran-Friendly Schools. The magazine's annual review is an evaluation of the nation's employers, initiatives, government agencies, and educational institutions.

This national recognition underscores the efforts the Veterans Resource Center has made to make veteran students feel at home at GSU. "Only three Illinois Schools were honored with Best of the Best – Western Illinois, Southern Illinois and Governors State University. I believe GSU Veterans are on the map," said VRC Coordinator Kevin Smith.



GSU Remembers September 11

Despite the cool, drizzly conditions, the GSU community came out to pay its respects during the university's National Day of Service and Remembrance on Friday September 11. Sponsored by

the Veterans Resource Center and the Office of Civic Engagement, the day began with a 30-minute Remembrance Ceremony outside the main entrance. VRC Director Kevin Smith presided over the ceremony, which included the raising of the American Flag, playing of the National Anthem, and as "Taps" was played, a moment of silence

for the victims of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Members of the University Park Fire Department, who came with a fire truck and ambulance, were called away as the ceremony began, as if to remind those in attendance of the dangers first responders face on a daily basis.

After the outdoor ceremony, the Day of Service continued in the Hall of Governors as students, staff, faculty, and community members made paracord bracelets for members of the U.S. Military and First Responders. Several Americorps Vistas and student veterans volunteered.



GSU "Day of Remembrance" Ceremony.



Christina Bilyk (center, in uniform) teaching how to make a paracord bracelet.

Serving You! 2015-16 Financial Aid by the Numbers



The Office of Financial Aid processed nearly 6,500 student files for the 2014-15 academic year. The financial aid process can be daunting even for the returning student but is especially concerning to new students. Because of this, we process files within two weeks and inform students of eligible financial aid in order to assist them with options for paying for college. We also offer walk-in appointments with our financial

aid advisors as well as prompt responses to phone calls and emails. Stop by our office and discuss your financial aid with a professional today!

GSU's Office Financial Aid processed nearly \$60 million in funds for 2014-2015 from federal, state, institutional, and external sources. The Office has also begun disbursement of financial aid for the fall 2015 semester. Below are the total amounts for a few of the types of aid received by students to assist with college expenses.

2014-2015

Federal Pell Grant	\$7,669,647
State of IL MAP Grant	\$3,000,939
Institutional Waivers/Scholarships	\$2,153,371
Veterans Grants	\$1,292,872
Federal Perkins Loans	\$320,469
Alternative Loans	\$538,367
Federal Direct Loans	\$43,508,434

2015-2016 (To Date)

Federal Pell Grant	\$3,591,850
State of IL MAP Grant	\$1,396,700
Institutional Waivers/Scholarships	\$912,300
Veterans Grants	\$330,863
Federal Perkins Loans	\$13,000
Alternative Loans	\$183,251
Federal Direct Loans	\$17,370,059

Last year many GSU students lost thousands of dollars in free money for college because they didn't fill out their FAFSA. Don't wait! Fill out the FAFSA in January!

#SaveOurEducation Campaign Makes Its 2nd Trip to Springfield



Hundreds of other students from 9 state universities gathered in Springfield to lobby their respective legislators to support their request not to cut Illinois MAP Grants from the budget.

In response to the Governor's threat to eliminate higher education from the budget, 22 student representatives from Student Senate, Media Society, Black Student Union, TWAG, Community Service Council, Lambda Pi Eta, the Phoenix, Student Life, and the Freshmen Leadership Seminar traveled by bus to the Illinois State Capital to have their voices heard.

They joined hundreds of other students from nine state universities to lobby their respective legislators to support their request not to cut Illinois MAP Grants from the budget.

Representatives Toi Hutchinson, Michael Hasting, and Will Davis were among the elected officials that met with GSU students. President Maimon was also in Springfield on behalf of GSU and met with students between meetings.



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The Votes Are In! Welcome 2015-16 Student Senate



Mychael Vanarsdale, President



David Gethers, Vice President



Darren Heldt, Treasurer



Marie Penny, Secretary

Mychael Vanarsdale
David Gethers
Darren Heldt
Marie Penny
Yolanda Pitts
Lisa Wallace
Evan Nave
Jessica Love-Jordan
Hillary Chadare
Timothy Hinton
Moriah Hampton

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Board of Trustees Student Rep.
IBHE SAC Student Rep.
Senator
Senator
Senator
Senator
Member-at-Large



The Certified Executive Officer (CEO) Leadership Certificate Program participants: Front row-Keena Garner, Jessica Love-Jordan, Laura Hirsch, Sarah Lopez de Nava, Estellita Sides, Back row-Wanda Fernandez, David Gethers, Mychael Vanarsdale, CEO-Robert Currie, Evan Nave, Jeremy Frierson.



Some members of the Service Leadership Seminar pose with University Park Mayor Covington (l to r) Grace Eldridge, Nicole Ames, Hillary Chadare, Mayor Vivian Covington, Katelyn Mattes, Heather Orlick and Carolina Serrato.



Our 2015 Jaguar Cheer Squad! (l to r)Kiera Anderson, Makaiah Hill, Ronnesha Shorter, Jessica Clay, Alicia Collins, Jessica Smith, and Kennedy Parker. Not pictured: Courtney Tobouch and Cierra Smith.



Peer Mentors and Orientation Leaders with Jax at Convocation (l to r) Nekia Driver, Jax, Brittany Smith, Derrick Brown, Delia Cherrington, Jeremy Williams, Ju'Juan Day and Kevin Green.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 25 – MLK Celebration, Center for Performing Arts, 10 a.m.

February 27 – Black Women Rock, Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month – For more information go to: www.govst.edu/ASAP



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

