



**GSU Relay For Life**

**Friday, April 29, 2016**

**5 p.m. Survivor Dinner**

RSVP to Dennis Dent at [ddent@govst.edu](mailto:ddent@govst.edu)

**6 p.m.-12 a.m. in the Gym**

[www.relayforlife.org/GSUIL](http://www.relayforlife.org/GSUIL)



GSU Health Brigade in La Concordia in Jinotega, Nicaragua.

## GSU Service Initiatives with Expanded & Global Reach

Civic engagement has long since been an institutional commitment, even before the establishment of the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service in the fall of 2013. However, the establishment of the center has formalized support for faculty and staff include service-learning in their classes, and connects students who express an interest in serving directly to agencies and partners, or to programs the center sponsors annually such as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Relay for Life, and several thematic Service Days. In fact, programming through the Center is cited towards 1,135 service hours, valued at \$80,620.50 during the 2014-2015 academic year.

While most of the initiatives have been focused in the Chicagoland region, for the first time this year, the Center has been involved with two initiatives that expand the reach of our student's service. Alongside institutions such as the University of Wisconsin Madison, in partnership with the Office of International Service, GSU hosted its first Global Brigades trip. Two faculty and staff advisors accompanied thirteen students to Nicaragua from January 5-12, 2016 for GSU's first international service-learning program where they partnered with local trade workers in the El Salto farming community to improve sanitation conditions and reduce infestations of disease-carrying insects.

The work was hard, but the impact was powerful. Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator, was one of two service advisors along with Dr. Phyllis West, said "In the beginning, (the students) were quiet and trying to absorb the culture and the differences, but then they opened up and started building relationships with the families and the other workers." Schoenberg describes daily rides from their lodgings in Esteli—nearly three hours from El Salto—in which the students, many of whom were having their first international experience, watched verdant landscapes and distant volcanoes rising over paved streets that gave way to dirt roads edged with small, clay-walled homes.

However, student participants were impacted by much more than the vistas. Janee Rubio, a senior at GSU in the Community Health degree program, commented "It was such a humbling experience altogether to go to another country and see the spirit of humanity there. It really put things in perspective for me as to how blessed I am, but it also taught me what community means to them. It made a lasting impact on me. I want to bring that spirit wherever I go."

Another participant, Jessica Roberson, a second year graduate student in Social Work, agreed, "The most important lesson I learned in Nicaragua was the power of a good, rich, human spirit and family.

## Spring 2016

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## Welcome from Dean of Students



Welcome back from what I hope was a wonderful spring break. As you can see from this newsletter, 15 students had a wonderful, but not likely restful, experience serving communities in Puerto Rico during our second annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB). While a week long intensive ASB is new, we were also pleased to sponsor our more traditional day long local Spring Break Day of Service at the Greater Chicago Food Depository; I guess you can say these students had the best of both worlds, a restful and

wonderful spring break! A special “Thank You” for these students, and the many others who contribute to serving - and more importantly - uplifting our communities. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously declared “everyone can be great, because everyone can serve” and members of the GSU community routinely exemplify the spirit of that sentiment.

While this newsletter focuses on news and updates from the first half of the Spring semester, I encourage you to make the most of the latter half of the semester. There remains a lot to do and much to celebrate, please permit me to highlight some examples. Among the first things to consider is to take stock of your academic progress and work towards turning that “B” mid-term grade into an “A”! Please review the many student success workshops available, by visiting [www.govst.edu/gsu2u](http://www.govst.edu/gsu2u), the programs listed are directed at both students who need support to achieve good academic standing and students who are working to make (and stay) on the Dean’s list!

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) aimed at ending campus sexual violence, and addressing the reality that 1 in 4 female students report gender based harassment while in college. We are proud that GSU rates as the safest public University in Illinois and we continue to make it clear that the GSU community has no tolerance for any harassment,

particularly those motivated by gender bias and all identity characteristics that shape who we are as individuals. Please support this movement for a safer campus community by participating in our SAAM events coordinated the Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) GSU team. We are proud to highlight the student member of ASAP in this issue, and a direct you to a complete schedule for SAAM activities at: [www.govst.edu/asap/](http://www.govst.edu/asap/)

Lastly, I encourage you to join, or start, a Relay for Life team. GSU will hold its 3rd annual Relay for Life on Friday, April 29 from 6pm – 12midnight in the GSU Gymnasium. In true GSU form, this is a family friendly event, start a team and build it with other students, or with your children, parents or neighbors! Relay for Life is a perfect example where our mission as a “public square” converges with our social justice and civic engagement values. This powerful event builds community and raises fund to support families affected by cancer. Having attended the previous two events, and a proud supporter of Team Purple Reign, I hope to see you there for this year’s Relay for Life. For more information and / or to start or sign-up for a team, please visit the GSU Relay for Life facebook page or the 2016 GSU Relay for Life website at: [www.relayforlife.org/GSUIL](http://www.relayforlife.org/GSUIL).

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 for Student Affairs and Dean of Students



[www.facebook.com/GSUDean](http://www.facebook.com/GSUDean)

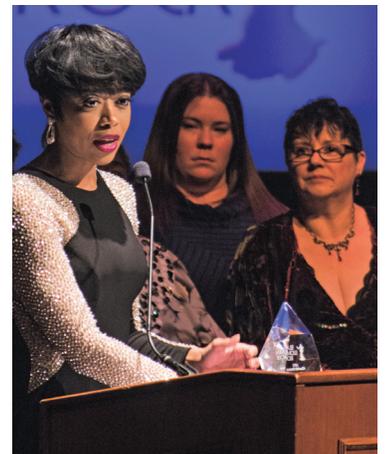


[www.twitter.com/GSUDean](http://www.twitter.com/GSUDean)

## Black Women Rock Winners!



Award	Winner
Advocate - Faculty/Staff	Ricca Louissaint
Advocate - Student	Marie Penny
Scholar - Student	Tenille Bell
Scholar - Faculty/Staff	Dr. Delawnia Comer-Hagans
Phenomenal Change Agent	Dr. Lynette Danely
Female Athlete of the Year	Zaporia Smith
Entrepreneur - Faculty/Staff	Tiesha Walker
Entrepreneur - Student	Sheila Perry
Legend	Dr. Alicia Battle
Rising Star	Tracy Stephen and Hillary Chadare
Arts	Cherish Brown
Coretta Scott King Award	Dr. Rashidah Jaami’ Muhammad



Cherish Brown accepting her Black Women Rock Award.

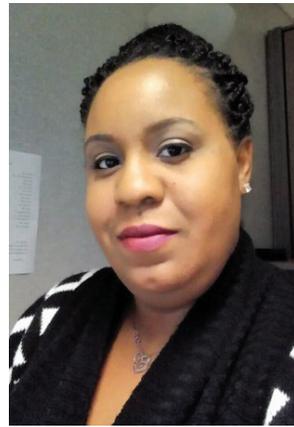
## Student Employment Certificate and Reception



Andre Hughes accepts his recognition award from Dr. Maimon.

### Student Employee Recognition Reception

The Governors State University Office of Career Services has adopted the on-campus student employment experience as another high impact practice that will allow students an opportunity to develop important skills that can be applied to the world of work after graduation. The National Association of Colleges and Employers also recognizes the importance of transitional and soft skill development and includes within their annual Job Outlook Survey a section that ranks the importance of soft skills and qualities that are the most critical from an employer's hiring perspective. To encourage our students to make the most of their student employment experience we incorporated a series of programming this past semester that addressed many of these areas noted as essential by employers in the yearly Job Outlook Survey. As a result, this past December there were 53 student workers and many staff administrators that attended the Student Employee Recognition Reception on December 3, 2015. Of the 53 in attendance, 15 student employees were recognized by President Maimon and were presented with a Certificate of Professional Development. These student workers attended a minimum of three Career Services professional development series offerings in order to qualify for this professional certificate.



**Kimberly Mattison, a senior in the Human Resources Program and Certificate Recipient said:** "As a student worker, working in Career Services has given me the first steps into understanding how a career in Human Resources will be. Whether it is interacting with a student to guide them in how to use Jobs for Jaguars or collaborating with the office staff to promote career fairs, I have the fulfillment of helping someone, who is seeking employment and working within a team setting."

### GSU Service Initiatives with Expanded & Global Reach *Continued from page 1*

Although I was well aware of the work we were going to do, I was impacted by the family unit and how they worked together. The families in the villages worked alongside us. Mothers and daughters, grandparents and children, all pitched in to help each other. It was a reminder of how important the family unit is and to always value it."

The "Alternative Winter Break" program in Nicaragua was followed by GSU's second "Alternative Spring Break" program which took two advisors and fifteen students to Puerto Rico during Spring Break, when most GSU students were taking a rest from their studies. This time, the Center partnered with Community Collaborations International and included both environmental and human services activities. The first two days were spent on a nature reserve planting and cleaning while the last two days were spent at the Boys and Girls Club of San Juan, painting and cleaning in the morning, then playing games and tutoring in the afternoon when the children arrived. For students unable to travel, but were interested in serving locally during Spring Break, the Center also offered a local option on March 13 at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The faculty lead for ASB Local was Carolyn Rodgers, PhD, MPH, MHS, MCHES, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health College of Health and Human Services.

If you are interested in making an impact, locally or globally, visit the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service, located in A-2130, visit their website at [www.govst.edu/service](http://www.govst.edu/service), or email the Center at [civicengagement@govst.edu](mailto:civicengagement@govst.edu).

*NOTE: A portion of this article was provided by the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, and used with permission.*



Alternative Spring Break 2016 at the Reserva Natural de las Cabezas de San Juan.

**SPRING 2016 CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR AT GSU**  
**MEET WITH EMPLOYERS — GET A JOB**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 14**  
 2 to 5 p.m. • Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts Lobby

Dress professionally. Bring plenty of resumés. Students, alumni and community members are welcome.  
 Focusing on — Communications, Technology, Business, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, Addictions Studies, Community Health, and Education

Sponsored by the Office of Career Services  
 708.235.3974 • [career@govst.edu](mailto:career@govst.edu) • [www.govst.edu/careerservices](http://www.govst.edu/careerservices)

**Governors State UNIVERSITY**  
 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

## Dual Degree Program Spotlight: Chicago City Colleges of Chicago



Jason Vignone, DDP Transfer Specialist for CCC, and Roshanda Ross, DDP Director, ready to welcome Chicago STAR Scholars into DDP.



GSU Senior Yadira Bustamante speaking during the Chicago STAR Scholars University Signing Day at Malcolm X College.

Chicago STAR Scholars who join DDP will receive a number of benefits including:

- Opportunity to compete for (4) exclusive Chicago STAR Scholarships that cover \$2,000 for books/campus dining
- Opportunity to compete for an exclusive Chicago STAR Scholarship that covers \$7,200 for campus housing
- Opportunity to compete for (50) GSU Promise Scholarships that cover full tuition/fees/books
- Opportunity to compete for (13) DDP Honors Scholarships that cover full tuition/fees
- Guaranteed admission to GSU and tuition lock-in rates
- Personalized academic advising from a DDP Transfer Specialist on their CCC campus
- Access to GSU campus resources (i.e. fitness center, computers, library, etc.)

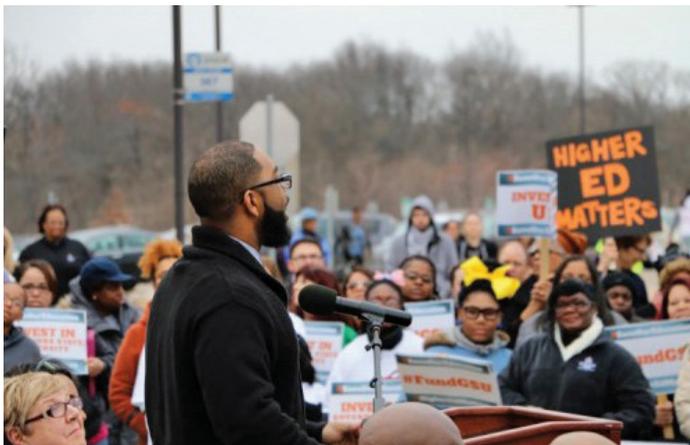
On January 28, 2016, the City Colleges hosted the inaugural STAR Scholars University Signing Day. STAR Scholars were introduced to many university partnerships, including DDP. The highlight of the signing event was a keynote address by Yadira Bustamante, a GSU DDP student who graduated from Richard Daley College. Yadira shared her personal story of overcoming language barriers and financial difficulties in order to pursue her education. She stressed the importance of utilizing resources like DDP in order to succeed. Yadira made DDP and GSU proud!

### DDP looks to the STARS!

The GSU Dual Degree Program (DDP) has partnered with the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) to offer high achieving students an opportunity to access GSU resources while still enrolled at CCC and compete for exclusive scholarships to GSU. These students, called the Chicago STAR Scholars, earned scholarships to attend the City Colleges for free because of excellent grades and demonstrated ability in college-level math and English courses.

They can join DDP as early as the beginning of their first semester at the City Colleges of Chicago instead of waiting until they complete the 12 college credit hours typically needed to join the program. Joining DDP early will aid their transition to a baccalaureate program after completing their associate degrees because their DDP Transfer Specialist will help them construct a cohesive academic plan. This new partnership has already helped to increase DDP enrollment at the City Colleges by 20 percent.

## Spring 2016 Snapshots



Student Senate President Michael Varnesdale spoke at the March 7 GSU #HigherEdMatters Rally.



Alternative Spring Breakers (l to r) Jeremy Frierson, Trauvel Crawford and Boad of Trustee Student representative Yolanda A. Pitts at the Reserva Natural de las Cabezas de San Juan.

## Sophomore Spotlight: Choosing Careers

Less than 2 years ago, the GSU community welcomed our first ever freshman class. The addition of these 242 students made an already diverse community even more so in terms of age, academic preparedness, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, study habits, life goals, campus involvement and energy. I, LaTonya Holmes, had the pleasure of advising, guiding and mentoring the entire freshman class.



As we guide those FC14 students towards joining the ranks of the upperclassmen, the goal of persistence and graduation remain at the forefront. As we edge closer to the junior year for those students, we've taken a moment to discuss, with a handful of them, the journey they've taken so far and the impact their selected major has on their life goals.

As freshman students are admitted and prepared for the first semester, they're asked a couple of very important questions. What is your intended major? What cohort do you prefer? Academic Advisors use the response to both questions to determine the courses that a student will take over the first three semesters. Registration for the fourth semester includes transitioning students to their new major and introducing them to the academic advisor who will guide them through the final two years towards degree completion.

The students interviewed for this article are sophomores, Ju'Juan Day, Dionna Gordon, and Jeremy Williams.

**Ju'Juan Day** not only graduated from Hyde Park Academy, he did so in style, as salutatorian. So far, he's shown that he can be academically successful at the college level as well. Ju'Juan started his course work at GSU with the intention of declaring Elementary Education as his major. However, after taking two education courses, he decided maybe that wasn't the major for him. Once he made that

decision, it was time for some interesting and purposeful conversations with him to select a new academic focus. Before selecting the major he is in, he considered focusing on Information Technology. However, if you know Ju'Juan Day, you know Information Technology was not going to hold his attention. His long term goal is to be a professional singer. After really considering his dream and discussing

how that can be coupled with his interest in technology, he settled on Media Studies as a major. So far, he's really enjoying the major. He's developed a great rapport with his academic advisor and is successful at networking with his classmates and others around campus. In addition to being a valuable member of the New Student Programs staff, he also sings with the Trans4mation Gospel Choir, is VP of Hall Council, VP of Real Estate Club and a Student Leadership Institute participant. If you talk to Ju'Juan you will quickly learn two things. He's clearly one of the most focused and resourceful sophomore students at the university and he's perhaps the biggest Mariah Carey fan in the world. Ju'Juan has accomplished many things in his short time at GSU. Please join me in encouraging him to sing for us at Open Mic Night.

**Dionna Gordon** is one of the nicest young ladies you'll ever meet. Also a graduate of the local Crete Monee High School, Dionna entered GSU in the Civic Engagement Cohort. Currently working as a Peer Mentor, Dionna started her trek into the world of student leadership as a 2015 Transfer Transition Leader. This upcoming summer, she will advance to the position of 2016 ROAR Leader. She's also part of the Community Service Council and has participated in the Emerging Leaders program designed specifically for lower division student.

Upon entering as a freshman, Dionna was certain she wanted to major in social work. Since transitioning to her major and taking her first social work course, her interest in the major has increased. She also credits the courses Principles of Peer Leadership and Foundations of American Democracy as effectively preparing her for her major, by preparing a basic foundation of knowledge that helped once she entered her major. Dionna wasn't able to give me just one professor who has made a lasting impact on her, she named three. Dr. Ellen Silver Horrell, Dr. Lynette Danley and Dr. Khalil Marrar have all have been influential. In addition to becoming a Social Worker, Dionna is preparing to become a Life Coach who can impact the lives of others. She'll know she's made the impact she wants when she's being interviewed by Oprah or one of her colleagues on the OWN Network. If you don't know Dionna well, you may not know that she has an adventurous side. Hopefully, her current and future friends will want to join her as she visits various amusement parks, goes zip lining or even hang gliding.

**Jeremy Williams**, a graduate of Crete Monee High School, is one of the original Global Citizenship cohort students. You'll often find him within the halls of Prairie Place, sharing his energy and unique personality in the New Student Programs Lounge or entertaining audiences monthly at the GSU Open Mic Night.

Jeremy is currently a sophomore, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. Because of his dream to become a Grammy Award winning rapper, Jeremy was seriously considering majoring in Media Studies with an interest in learning and more about all areas of the music industry. However, as he continued to consider his future, he decided it would be best to major in Business Administration with an entrepreneurship concentration. While his favorite course since coming to GSU is Music of the World, which is required for all Global Citizenship students, his most influential professor is the cool English professor, Duane Davis.

If you get the opportunity to meet Jeremy, here are some talking points:

Offer him Jolly Ranchers (favorite candy) and ask him about DayDreams to Reality. His favorite movies are "Good Burger" and "Space Jam". His dream is to have a sellout concert at Madison Square Garden and surpass Kanye West's impressive feat of earning 21 Grammys. Please wish him the best, offer words of encouragement, and check him out once a month at Open Mic Night.

## Academic Support at Prairie Place

The Department of Auxiliary Services & University Housing partnered with other key departments to increase academic support and academic interventions at Prairie Place this spring. To assist with this initiative, the department recruited a Graduate Assistant for Residential Academic Support who facilitated workshops for residents on study skills, building on personal strengths, and stress management.

The department also implemented a Residential Academic Success Leadership Team comprised of faculty (Faculty-in-Residence) and staff (University Housing and Academic Resource Center) who met weekly and brainstormed different ideas that would enhance the academic experience of Prairie Place residents. Members of this team served as Academic Coaches and provided one-on-one mentorship to residents at Prairie Place.

This spring residents of Prairie Place experienced an increase in programming that focused on academic support and success. The Academic Resource Center provided weekly walk-in math tutoring. The Writing Center provided walk-in writing tutoring four times a week, which consisted of two trained sophomore peer writing tutors available for assistance. Also, each RA was required to convene study tables once a week on their floors. The goal of these study tables is to provide ongoing support for residents' academic endeavors. Residents were able to participate in five to six study tables per week within Prairie Place.



### Auxiliary Services & University Housing Welcomes New Face

Mujahid "Mushtaq" Choudhary is the new Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services & University Housing. Mushtaq joined GSU on October 16, 2015.

Mushtaq received his Master's degree from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL where he worked for thirteen years in a variety of positions including: Student Conduct Officer, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, Director of Residence Life, and Conference & Events Staff Director.



### Prairie Place Residence Hall Association Attends State Conference

On Friday, February 19, 2016, Prairie Place's Residence Hall Association made their inaugural trip to the Illinois Residence Hall Association (IRHA) state conference to engage in leadership development, programming roundtables and brainstorming, as well as finding new and innovative ideas to bring back to campus.

IRHA 2016 was held at St. Francis University in Joliet, Illinois and Prairie Place delegates brought their Jaguar enthusiasm and creativity with them. Each delegation created a two minute roll call to introduce the delegates, as well as the university and a digital banner to show off their Jaguar spirit. The GSU delegation was made up of the four executive board members: Keena Garner (President), Ju'Juan Day (Vice President), Dwaylon Bledsoe (Treasurer), and Josh Janiec (Marketing and social Media Coordinator). They embarked on a three day journey with delegates from around the state and shared their experience of being part of GSU's grand transformation.

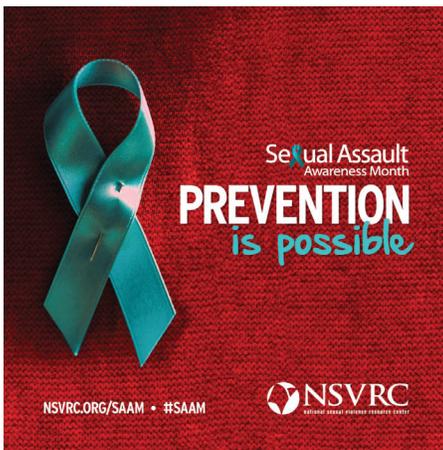


Rocking some fashionable sunglasses at IRHA are: (l to r) Keena Garner (President), Dwaylon Bledsoe (Treasurer), Ju'Juan Day (Vice President), and Josh Janiec (Marketing and social Media Coordinator)

The conference theme was Disney and Pixar "You Got a Leader in Me!" mimicking the popular Disney Pixar film *Toy Story*. Keena Garner represented Governors State University in the IRHA boardroom, voting on awards, legislation, as well as the future IRHA host site, which will be Eastern Illinois University for IRHA 2017. After programs on Saturday, the conference concluded with a formal awards banquet, followed by a dance where all delegations networked and were able to connect with one another before departing on Sunday. On Sunday evening, February 28 the Prairie Place RHA members made a presentation to Prairie Place residents on all they learned at the conference.

## Meet Sydney Jones: ASAP Student Representative

Sydney Jones is a Resident Assistant (RA) in Prairie Place and the student representative on the *Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP)* Team at Governors State University. This team is charged with education, training and programming regarding prevention of sexual violence on campus. Ms. Jones comes to GSU from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and South Suburban College and is a student in the Dual-Degree Program. She is a psychology major and plans on earning a graduate degree in family and marriage counseling with the goal of becoming a sex therapist. Ms. Jones fervently believes in sexual violence prevention work and will be the speaker at the kick-off event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) on Thursday, March 31 at 3:30 in F1622. At that event she will detail the "Chalking for Change" activity that will occur throughout the month of April. Please come and meet Ms. Jones on March 31st.



# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## Prevention is Possible

[www.nsvrc.org/SAAM](http://www.nsvrc.org/SAAM)  
#SAAM

**Thursday, March 31**  
**KICKOFF PROGRAM**  
3:30 p.m., F1622

Come receive your teal ribbon as a sign of solidarity for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Watch GSU students discuss the prevention of sexual violence via a video from the Respond to Violence project. Help us celebrate the one year anniversary of the collaboration between GSU and the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. Sydney Jones, the student representative on the Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) team will introduce "Chalking for Change" that will occur throughout the month of April.

**Month of April**  
**CHALKING FOR CHANGE**  
**Sydney Jones, Student ASAP representative**

GSU students will create various sidewalk displays on the topic of prevention of sexual violence on the path to Prairie Place.

**Tuesday, April 5**  
**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Academic Resource Center, B1215  
The SAAM Day of Action is nationally recognized to focus awareness on sexual violence prevention. Come to the Academic Resource Center, B1215 to take the pledge against sexual violence: It's On Us.

**Wednesday, April 13**  
**ASK ME ABOUT MY SHOES**  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Academic Resource Center, B1215

Ask Me About My Shoes is a campaign to provide awareness about sexual violence against men and women. Join us in this effort by wearing masculine attire with feminine shoes if you identify as male or feminine attire with masculine shoes if you identify as female. Your participation will encourage conversations that demonstrate how our community is willing to partner with survivors of sexual violence in making the world a safer place. **Receive a free t-shirt for participation.**

**Thursday, April 14**  
**Film review: "The Invisible War"**  
6 p.m., A2110

There is no established system in the U.S. military to process cases involving sexual assault as there is in the civilian world. Many sexual assaults go unreported because of concerns on how the report will be handled. The documentary, "The Invisible War" sheds light on this issue.

**Tuesday, April 19**  
**CONSENT IS SEXY**  
7 to 8 p.m., Prairie Place

What is consent? Does no mean yes? Does yes mean no? Come learn about the importance of consent in preventing sexual violence through educational resources and roleplaying.

**Monday, April 25**  
**GSU CLOTHESLINE PROJECT**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Hall of Governors

The Clothesline Project started on Cape Cod, MA in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. The GSU Project is a vehicle for women and children affected by sexual violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. The shirts are hung on a clothesline as testimony to the problem of sexual violence. Join us for GSU's 4th annual Clothesline Project.

**Wednesday, April 27**  
**DENIM DAY**

Help raise awareness concerning the prevalence of sexual violence and victim blaming in our society. **WEAR JEANS TO SCHOOL/WORK.** Denim Day was sparked by a 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction on the grounds that the victim was wearing tight jeans. Jeans are now worn worldwide in solidarity with Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in protest against injustice and rape culture.

### Co-sponsors:

**YWCA Metropolitan Chicago**  
[www.ywcachicago.org](http://www.ywcachicago.org)

**Governors State University's Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) Team**  
[www.govst.edu/ASAP](http://www.govst.edu/ASAP)

**GSU Graduate Professional Network**  
**YWCA Metropolitan RAPE CRISIS HOTLINES:**

South Suburbs: 708.748.5672  
Chicago: 888.293.2020

## Veterans Helping Veterans at GSU

Kevin Smith (Veterans Coordinator) and Shaniqua Jones (NCPace Coordinator) attended the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) in San Antonio in February 2016. Team GSU promoted the NCPace program, IDSS degree program, and MPA to over 900 attendees from DOD, branches of the military, and public and private colleges and universities.



Governors State University's Veterans Coordinator, Kevin Smith, Represented GSU at the 2016 Annual Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Professional Development Symposium.

GSU Veteran Student Leaders and their Coordinator, Kevin Smith traveled to Springfield, IL on April 5, 2016 for Student Veterans Leadership Day. This event was sponsored by the Student Veteran Association (SVA) of Illinois. GSU veteran students were joined by other veteran students from Prairie State College, Saint Xavier University, Moraine Valley CC, and Lewis University. Students attended workshops in the morning and toured the State Capital, meeting with elected officials in the house chambers.

The Veterans Resource Center has a few new faces running around to help serve the veteran community. Allow us to introduce you to...



**Sheila Vuckovich**, a student from the Community Health Department, will be graduating in May with a BHS in Community Health with a concentration in Health Promotion. Sheila is tasked with developing a new Veteran Student Handbook, coordinating with the Office of Institutional Research to track the veteran and military student growth at GSU.



**Barbara Grgurich** is an Army veteran with six years of prior active duty service as a 31E (Corrections Specialist). She's currently in her first year at GSU with hopes of working towards a BS in psychology.



**Scott Olijar**, a first year IDSS student, is also a Sergeant with the Army Reserve's 318th Press Camp Headquarters based in Forest Park, Illinois. After completion of his B.A., he intends to apply for the M.F.A. in Independent Film and Digital Imaging (IFDI) at GSU.

### Upcoming Events

#### Veterans Bridges to Employment

March 22  
Lewis University (Romeoville Campus)  
6 to 9 p.m.

#### Veterans Bridges to Employment

March 30  
Northeastern Illinois University  
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

#### Student Veterans of America Leadership Day

April 5  
Springfield, IL  
All day

#### Health and Wellness Fair

April 7  
GSU Main Campus  
1 to 4 p.m.

#### SALUTE Induction Ceremony

April 29  
GSU Main Campus  
5 to 7:30 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**April 19** – Rip the Runway Fashion Show, E-Lounge, 6 p.m.

**April 20** – Higher Education Springfield Rally

**April 21** – Tau Sigma Honor Society Induction, CPA, 6 p.m.

**April 22** – Student Leadership Awards, E-Lounge, Noon

**April 25** – GSU Clothesline Project, HOG, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**April 29** – Relay For Life, Gym, 6 p.m.-12 a.m.

**April 29** – SALUTE Induction Ceremony, CPA Stage, 5-7:30 p.m.