

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTS

# MAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE BETTER

SUMMER 2022

CHHS MAGAZINE



# PREFACE FROM THE DEAN

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The College of Health and Human Services is pleased to present you with the 2022 issue of Make Someone's Life Better. I invite you to read on to learn more about the recent noteworthy activities and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. Our college has a strong interdisciplinary and collegial environment, which has been critical for effectively responding to the ever-changing challenges facing higher education. That collaborative environment led to successful programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, including important innovations that kept students progressing when field experiences became very limited. Collaboration has been central to everything we do... including the launch of a UI SHIELD COVID-19 test collection site on campus.



The College of Health and Human Services has a strong foundation, excellent faculty and programming, and a bright future. I welcome every opportunity to build on that foundation to maximize our impact and fulfill our mission. I hope you enjoy reading about our vibrant, community-focused academic programs, the work and accomplishments of our diverse and committed faculty, and the experiences and successes of our students and alumni.

**Catherine Balthazar**, Ph.D. CHHS Dean  
Dean College Health & Human Services



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Governors State University provides the personalized attention and comprehensive education that you need as you prepare for a career in health and human services.

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## LEARN ABOUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Professionals in healthcare fields may hold positions such as community coordinator, family support worker, human services program specialist, outreach specialist, managers and clinical social service providers of direct services, managers of healthcare and health services, and more. Healthcare professionals will have the knowledge and skills that distinguish them and empower them to be highly effective professionals and leaders.

The Mission of the College of Health and Human Services is to provide accessible and quality health and human services professions education; foster a commitment to lifelong learning, scholarship, professional ethics, diversity, and social justice; and infuse its programs into community partnerships for the health, well-being and economic development of the region.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Bachelor of Health Science in Communication Disorders
- Bachelor of Health Science in Community Health Program
- Bachelor of Health Administration Program
- Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics
- RN to Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN)
- Bachelor of Social Work

### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Health Science in Communication Disorders
- Master of Health Science in Addictions Studies
- Master of Health Administration
- Master of Science in Health Informatics
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Social Work
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Physical Therapy



# Occupational Therapy Shines

By Sharon L. Filkins



**Dr. Caren Schranz**  
*Chair of Occupational Therapy Dept.*

The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) can certainly claim that they have a “star” in their midst, thanks to Dr. Caren Schranz, Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Schranz was named OT of the Year in October, 2019, by the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA). The ILOTA is the official representative of the occupational therapy profession in the state of Illinois. The organization acknowledges and promotes professional excellence through a proactive organized collaboration with occupational therapy personnel, the health care community, government agencies and consumers.

Schranz, who was nominated for the award by her department, clearly met the criteria of the prestigious recognition, based on: her more than thirty years in the field; academic achievements, experience as an active clinician and pediatric therapist, dedicated support of her students and her prolific publications. Besides this award, Schranz is seen as a proven leader among her peers in academic and clinical settings.

Her Governors State University journey began in 1996 when the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program was formed at GSU. She became a community advisor to the program and an adjunct professor. As she continued her education and earned her doctorate, she became a University Lecturer then an Assistant Professor. She achieved tenure, Associate Professor and is now OT Department Chairperson and MOT Program Director.

Schranz has always focused on community partnerships and views the collaboration as a “win win” for the community as well as the OT students at GSU. The development of partnerships with community members and organizations began with her clinical work as a pediatric occupational therapist but quickly developed into scholarship and service learning opportunities for her OT students. Schranz has centered her research and publications around supporting children and their families. “Parents need to know how to support their child’s ability to participate in daily activities and occupations. Coaching caregivers provides them with the strategies they can use to help their children.” Schranz said that service learning and caregiver coaching led into research opportunities for students, who complete research studies during their coursework. Wanting to support families who had a need for additional services led Schranz to develop service learning opportunities for the OT students to work with families within the community. She stressed that serving communities around GSU is very important to the college and the OT department.

Schranz said that the need of a support group for parents and parent educational workshops of children with special needs is an example of how outreach to the community begins. Schranz explained that community program development is a required assignment in the MOT curriculum, and students have to research to find needs of a community or group. Once they determine a particular need, they develop a program to meet the need and then they conduct the program. During the year, the students engage in 5-10 different community-based activities.

“Our students found the need for a parent support group program in Bourbonnais. They formed educational sessions to teach parents about important health topics such as the sensory needs of their children and the ramifications and impact of health conditions such as childhood obesity on children’s lives.”

Schranz’s pride in her OT department is very apparent. “Our department has a great reputation with dedicated, expe-

rienced and passionate faculty who are invested in students from diverse backgrounds. Our students come from all over the state of Illinois, as well as many other states. Some come to GSU directly from undergraduate programs; some may be the first in their family to go to college; some are single parents raising children and working to have money for college.”

“Our mission is to produce professional students with a strong foundation of knowledge and skills who will be the next generation of Occupational Therapists,” she said.

In 2019, Schranz applied for a U.S. Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) – Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students grant and was awarded 2.66 million dollars over five years to support the tuition of occupational therapy students who come from economically or environmentally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Looking forward, Schranz said she believes GSU is a diamond in the south suburbs. “We want to continue to expand and evolve as a premier OT program for students. We want to continue to develop our partnerships with community-based centers and area medical centers. Community Partnerships such as these are good for supporting both partners. Our students are “in-training” at the facilities, they graduate and become occupational therapists where they trained and then they eventually “give back” by taking on students in need of clinical training from the GSU OT program.”

Additional future plans include a revised vision for the OT post professional doctoral program (DrOT) which will offer two separate educational tracks; one for academic goals and one for leadership in health care.

Also underway is preparation for a Driver Rehabilitation program. The program will offer services to people in the region surrounding GSU who wish to continue to drive. According to Schranz, GSU would be the only academic institute in Illinois to have this program.

# Key Strengths for Communication Disorders Program

By Sharon L. Filkins



**Dr. Jessica Bonner**  
*Department Chair*  
*Communication Disorders*

The College of Health and Human Services at GSU is a dedicated and nationally recognized source of accessible, high quality education for students seeking professional careers in health and human services. To meet these needs, CHHS is comprised of seven departments focused on providing and expanding opportunities for these students.

Among the seven departments is Communication Disorders (CDIS), chaired by Dr. Jessica Bonner. Under her direction and the hard work of her faculty and staff, the department works non-stop to meet the student's needs.

"I am very proud of our CDIS Graduate students. They take their studies very seriously from admission to graduation. They are smart, creative, dedicated and many have had to persevere through challenging circumstances, even before the pandemic occurred," she said.

Dr. Bonner stated that she was also extremely proud of her outstanding faculty and her Clinic Director, Judy Platt for the tremendous work they did during COVID-19 so that students could graduate from the program. "Revising courses

mid-semester to teach remotely during COVID-19 was no small task. However, our faculty were able to work through (and help each other through) the challenges of technology and course reconstruction in order to support students who were anxious about the future. It was through the hard work and finesse of our Clinic Director, Ms. Platt, that the department managed to maintain, revise, or secure clinical placements in the midst of COVID-19, so graduation became a reality for our students."

In regard to the CHHS Mission statement calling for community outreach, CDIS has long-standing ties with the community, in part due to its clinical practicum model. "Because there is not an on-campus clinic, our students complete all of their clinical coursework in the community," said Dr. Bonner.

She explained that each semester, Ms. Platt places approximately 45 students across both the Chicagoland area and also in Indiana, in a myriad of clinical settings that include schools, medical facilities, and other agencies that provide speech-language and hearing services. "She also develops new clinical sites each year and maintains sites through the relationships she builds with individuals in the community. In addition, we have strong support in the community through our alums who welcome our students into their professional setting," she said.

Other community connections include a strong partnership with Glenwood Academy in Glenwood, IL., where CDIS graduate students are able to engage in a pre-practicum experience that allows them to serve children in the community. Dr. Bonner stated that the students are supervised by CDIS faculty which makes the experience invaluable as it helps the students bridge classroom learning with

real-world experience."We have a similar arrangement at Iroquois Memorial Hospital Resident Home, in Watseka, IL. "The partnerships are ongoing and we aim to maintain and strengthen the relationships and build new ones."

According to Dr. Bonner, there are exciting future plans for the department. "We aim to ignite a sense of global social responsibility through programs such as Global Brigades. Over the past two years, two faculty members, Dr. Nicole Koonce (CDIS) and Dr. Phyllis West (Director of Social Justice Initiative) have taken students to Panama, Nicaragua, and Ghana to empower them to help communities resolve global and economic disparities through collaborative work."

Thanks to recent grants received by CDIS, the department was able to engage GSU graduate students in interdisciplinary education activities including disciplines within the CHHS as well as across the university.

Dr. Osmelak is the recipient of the 2022 Parkinson Voice Project Grant. With the grant, all graduate students will receive training in Speak Out & Loud Crowd treatment for Parkinsons.

The CDIS Department is in partnership with the GSU's Family Development Center. (FDC). Recently, Elaine Reyna and Angela Ricceli provided an inservice on language developmental milestones and ways to facilitate communication in young children, during Professional Development Day for FDC teachers.

Ongoing future plans for the department includes offering a support group for patients who have suffered a stroke. Dr. Bonner said, "We sometimes get requests to provide clinical services or other services. We currently host a Fluency Support group and we hope to add a group for individuals who have suffered a stroke."

CDIS has a student organization, the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSHHA). The association is very active and engages in various events from book drives to panel discussions to community initiatives such as the Walk to End Alzheimer's held in Chicago.

## I AM VERY PROUD

of our CDIS Graduate students. They take their studies very seriously from admission to graduation. They are smart, creative, dedicated and many have had to persevere through challenging circumstances, even before the pandemic occurred.



**Terri Chairse**  
*Nursing Department  
Director of Clinical Education*

The Nursing Department at GSU is a busy place but one particular corner is a bustling bee-hive of activity, thanks to Terri Chairse, Director of Clinical Education. The driving force behind her non-stop work is her dedication to the CHHS Mission.

Her work highlights the three goals of the College Mission; providing accessible, quality education for health and human services professions; encouraging lifelong learning, professional ethics and infusing CHHS programs into community partnerships for the health, well-being and economic development of the region.

Chairse says, "Community starts here at GSU. We have our students, faculty, and staff who benefit from the educa-

tional and health events developed by our students and faculty in nursing."

"Additionally, we are involved in community work outside of GSU. We participate in food and clothing drives twice a year for South Suburban PADS; we also work with South Suburban Closet, which distributes items to the needy in Orland Park, Tinley Park, Richton Park and other various areas in the South Suburbs," she said.

"Our outreach programs include students working in a Health Center in Kankakee. They were also invited to serve as volunteers at the Hippocrates Medical Center in Joliet. The Center provides free medical care and the students were involved in performing preventive health lab work and screenings."

An additional outreach effort in 2019 was participation in the 11th Annual First Ladies Health Initiative, held in Burnham Park in Chicago. The event traditionally attracts thousands of visitors. It is hosted by First Ladies (Pastor's wives), a national organization working to address troubling minority health disparities. The program is designed to encourage minority communities to get tested, know their health status and actively participate in wellness programs. Free screenings such as HIV, Hep C, Glucose and den-

tal, were offered. "I was thrilled that GSU was one of many health partners involved and I am looking forward to the event in years to come."

On another level, Chairse explains GSU's involvement with local community colleges. "We want to work with the colleges to have them encourage students who obtain an ASN (Associate Science in Nursing) to move on to obtain a BSN. Magnet hospitals require a BSN.

We want those students to come to GSU where they can earn a BSN and then move on to obtain an MSN. With a BSN degree, they would qualify to enroll in one of our Master of Nursing Programs a Family Nurse Practitioner or Nursing Executive Innovative Leadership or Clinical Nurse Specialist. Once they obtain their MSN they can then move into our Doctoral of Nursing Program. It could open a lot of opportunities for them."

"We love anything we can do to infuse our community with our knowledge, our resources and our access to higher education. Our resources can show them the pathway." Her next venture is already in the works. Chairse is collaborating with faculty from other departments in the college to put together an Epic Health Fair in the Fall of 2022.

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# Talking about Nursing Careers Pathways

By Sharon L. Filkins



**Dr. Nancy MacMullen**  
*Chair of Nursing Department*

For those considering a career in nursing, or looking to advance their nursing skills while continuing in their current healthcare position, the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) and its Department of Nursing at Governors State University has the answers and opportunities to explore an exciting path to success.

Dr. Nancy MacMullen, chair of the Nursing Department, offers a personal invitation for prospective students “I would like to personally invite you to consider joining this diverse community of GSU nurses as we help you build your career,” she said.

In conjunction with the CHHS Mission which includes providing accessible and quality education to health and human

services, MacMullen said, “Our nursing faculty is comprised of local, national and International leaders, advanced practice nurses, seasoned educators and doctoral prepared researchers. This outstanding faculty provides our students with exceptional educational experiences.”

Additionally, she added that the class format is unique, with non-traditional students. “They are all post Baccalaureate Nurses and they are all currently working in their field. We are aware of the constriction of their time and we are dedicated to being easily available for assistance and keeping the class work manageable time-wise, because our RN BSN students work on-line . We also have faculty staff advisors who are available by e-mail and/or office hours. They often conduct virtual town hall meetings with the students. And, my door is always open to them,” said MacMullen.

“One of our most successful programs is Family Practitioner training and what makes it so special is our diverse faculty. They all have clinical educational expertise and they teach in addition to continuing their practice. Becoming a Family Practitioner requires an advanced license and we encourage our students to work towards that.

We also address social justice by providing access to health services for the underprivileged. We offer the opportunity for them to learn about options which are available to them. We are currently working in Kankakee with the Hippocrates Clinic which serves the Hispanic community and conducts a health fair providing free testing and health instruction.”

MacMullen is most proud of one segment of the department and that is its community outreach efforts. She attributed much of the success to the work of Terri Chairse, Director of Clinical Education. “She works in the community to find clinical sites where our students can gain real-life experience in a medical environment and is always exploring opportunities for our students to participate in health fairs and screenings throughout the year. We are excited to see what the future holds as our relationships with the surrounding communities continue to grow.”

The Department of Nursing provides a vibrant, energetic atmosphere for its students and staff. MacMullen said, “No one has retired from the department. We have a passion for teaching, we enjoy what we have been able to accomplish in helping our students and we have a special understanding of the communities and their needs.”

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## ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

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# Engaging Students in Community Involvement

By Sharon L. Filkins



**Dr. Gerri Outlaw**  
*Department Chair  
Social Work*

As the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) reviews its early history and current growth it becomes clear that it continues to follow its Mission with great dedication and glowing results.

Just ask Dr. Gerri Outlaw, Department Chair in the CHHS Social Work Department, how she feels about the CHHS Mission and you will get a very clear picture of how her department fulfills each point of the Mission including: the provision of accessible and quality Health and Human Services Professions and Education; exhibiting a commitment to professional ethics, diversity and social justice and bringing its Programs into community partnerships for health, well-being and economic development of the region.

Dr. Outlaw said, "I am most proud of our Mission. We believe that it is our mission that distinguishes our Social Work Programs from all others. We believe, that with our students' active engaged participation in this vibrant learning community we have created, that it will be transformed into a community of 'justice driven social work professionals, exemplifying the attributes of an exceedingly competent social work practitioner grounded in a social justice ethic.'"

Engaging students in community involvement brings many opportunities to them, including international travel to serve global communities. Dr. Outlaw stated that the Global Health Brigade, under the Faculty Leadership of Dr. Phyllis

West (now GSU's Director of the Social Justice Initiative), has made an amazing impact on our students. "This program takes first generation college students, who are from underserved communities in the Chicagoland area to do Public Health Service in Central America (Nicaragua and Panama) and Ghana West Africa."

She added that African American students make up less than 2% of students in the United States. "For the last four service trips, GSU has awarded one student with the Global Scholarship per trip. This Scholarship is awarded to a first-generation student who has never traveled overseas. When students return from serving abroad, they 'see with different eyes.' They now believe even more that they are a part of the solution of making their communities a better place."

Dr. Outlaw praised Dr. West for her tireless efforts last year in building the Scholarship Fund. "Due to her dedicated work, a donation of \$50,000 was anonymously donated to the Scholarship fund."

Student organizations play a large part in the Department, according to Dr. Outlaw. "We have one of the most active, organized and engaged Social Work Student Organizations in the State. For many years, our students have been present at the IL-NASW Advocacy Day in Springfield, IL. They are prepared and engage our State Legislators in acting on social justice initiatives in the state house and in the communities.

In 2013, another student organization, Generating Hope, was formed by students and supported by the surrounding communities served by GSU. Its purpose is to provide support and advocacy for individuals who have been impacted by mass incarceration.

It evolved out of the experience of an undergraduate social work student who was denied malpractice insurance due to having been incarcerated. This insurance coverage is necessary for students to begin their senior year internship. Generating Hope has thrived and engaged the

University and the surrounding communities every year, bringing in national local leaders and experts on Post-Incarceration and Criminal Justice Reform.

Dr. Outlaw praised Faculty Liaison, Dr. Lorri Glass, for her hard work in building and sustaining the organizational structure. Generating Hope has led many campaigns to bring about structural change in the lives of formerly incarcerated men and women.

An additional student organization is Phi Alpha-Omicron Beta Chapter, which is the Social Work National Honor Society. While the organization is run by and implemented under student leadership, Dr. Lydia Falconnier serves as Faculty Liaison. An induction ceremony is held each year with an Alum as the Keynote speaker.

Another vital aspect of the Social Work Department is its community outreach to area communities. Sustained involvement currently includes Roseland, Ford Heights, Robbins, and Harvey. Two communities actively working with the University are Roseland, where Roseland Community Hospital participates in volunteer initiative-Service learning; and Ford Heights which has a community partnership in Service learning.

Future plans are underway for the Department. A new partnership was created with the Department of Children and Family Services to offer the Child Welfare Licensing Preparation, now successfully integrated in the BSW and MSW Curriculum.

Dr. Outlaw added that soon, a new Specialization in Mental Health Practice will be unveiled. She said the new specialization augments the Integrated Practice Concentration which includes Child and Family Practice and School Social Work Practice.

Also, there will be a third curriculum augmentation serving alums and the larger Social Work Practice Community. LSW and LCSW Licensing Preparation Courses will be offered twice a year.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

# WHO WE ARE



The College of Health and Human Services is dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities in the field of health and human services professions. As you can see on the next page we are comprised of several programs and it takes many to succeed:

861



NUMBER OF STUDENTS

18



NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

12



ACCREDITED PROGRAMS



NUMBER OF ALUMNI 10544

# CDIS STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES FROM GSU

## ETHICS AWARD:

This year we worked together to create a video submission for the ISHA Ethics in Action contest regarding equity and equality as it pertains to the 2016 ASHA Code of Ethics. In our video, we included pertinent examples of how ethics is vital and foundational across our professional and clinical landscapes. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity. Our chapter enjoyed coming up with ideas and in the end, our efforts paid off as GSU took first place this year!

To view our winning submission go to:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=uFYOLZtrlic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFYOLZtrlic)

## PREVIOUS DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:

Our NSSLHA chapter has created and participated in many volunteer activities allowing us to give back to our community. In Fall of 2020, the chapter donated to Manteno Veterans' Home, collecting essential items for the veterans who reside there via an Amazon "wishlist". Similarly, in spring of 2021, the chapter came together to collect personal care and hygiene items for Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC), as well as blankets hand made by NSSLHA members for the St. Sympharosa Catholic Church blanket drive. Later in the Fall of 2021, NSSLHA members collected donations for Social Works, a youth empowerment charity in conjunction with our university.

## CURRENT DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:

Our NSSLHA chapter is currently working toward promoting literacy and language development by collecting children's books to donate to the Family Development Center (FDC) at GSU. This book drive will be running now through the end of Summer 22 semester. Given that our Communication Disorders Department works closely with the FDC (primarily with graduate students in our 8250 course) we wanted to give back to the FDC and help grow their pediatric library with books to assist in language intervention.

## PROJECTS:

NSSLHA is currently working toward highlighting and promoting events, service projects and our fellow members by creating social media pages for the organization. The chapter also aims to use Instagram and TikTok platforms to provide informative posts regarding the role of speech-language pathologists as well as insight into the life of Communication Disorders students. We are so excited to expand our organization into the media sphere and look forward to connecting with the student body outside of the classroom.

## MEMBERSHIP:

NSSLHA provides CDIS students the opportunity to interact and network with peers while embarking on philanthropic endeavors to spread awareness about speech and language impairment in our immediate community. We pride ourselves on community, diversity, and advocacy.

# HLAD HIGHLIGHTS:

## FACULTY – DR. KAI-WEI CHENG



Dr. Cheng is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Administration at the Governors State University. Her expertise and training are in health economics and policy analysis specifically in the tobacco control field. Her earlier research focused on analyzing the impacts of various tobacco control policies, including taxations/prices and clean indoor air laws on cigarette smoking and its related outcomes among various populations, including adults, adolescents, children, and pregnant women. Recently, she has been investigating the impacts of state and local level indoor vaping restrictions, sale restrictions on vaping products, as well as other potential FDA regulatory actions on the use of newly emerging tobacco products (e.g., electronic cigarettes and heating tobacco products). Dr. Cheng serves as a Principle Investigator and collaborates with scholars of other universities on several grants sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Canadian Institute of Health Research. She has published articles in leading economics, public health, and tobacco control journals, e.g., Health Economics, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Addiction, Tobacco Control, etc. Dr. Cheng has been continuing her research in the economics of health behaviors for over 10 years and tobacco regulatory science research for over 3 years. Dr. Cheng actively participated and presented her research in scientific associations and conferences at the national level, including the American Society of Health Economists, Society of Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, and Tobacco Online Policy Seminar. She brings her research expertise to her classroom and has trained several students as early careerists in health services research.

## ALUMNI – MS. NEHA UPASANA



Ms. Upasana graduated with two degrees of Master of Health Administration in December 2020 and a Master of Science in Health Informatics the following May 2022. During her degree studies at GSU, Ms. Upasana demonstrated her passion and commitment to excellence in her study and work. She grew up in India and started her healthcare career as a Registered Nurse (RN), which inspired her to pursue a career in health administration to make a significant contribution to the healthcare management profession. Soon after her graduation in 2021, Neha was hired by Riverside Healthcare as an Epic Ambulatory Analyst. She applied the knowledge and skills to her job. She coordinates with other Epic applications, IT departments, and vendors, analyzes workflows and regulations to document the issues, and collaborates closely with operations and customers to troubleshoot and provide solutions. Neha is hardworking to take on various projects such as Epic's population health programs, quality improvement, and coordinated care management implementation.

Ms. Upasana said that she was grateful to her family and GSU for their continued support and guidance. Her career goal is to serve the community by improving the efficiency in health care facilities and the quality of care to make a difference in the healthcare system.

## STUDENT – MR. COLIN HARLING



Mr. Colin Harling is a current MHA student, an MHA student who presented the GSU MHA program and served as the captain in the NAHSE case competition. He demonstrated his great leadership skill in this competition. In addition, Collin is an excellent student currently working in healthcare management. He is Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certified in healthcare and a recipient of the AUPHA Foster G. McGaw Scholarship recipient of 2021. Colin is a loving father of three boys.

## STUDENT EVENT HIGHLIGHT

A team of three students supervised by Dr. Kai-Wen Cheng, Colin Harling, Esha Patel, and Takiessa McKinney, participated in the NAHSE Case Competition on behalf of our MHA Program at the GSU against the big-name universities in November 2021. They represented our program, department, and GSU successfully, demonstrating their hard work, professionalism, and dedication to the healthcare management profession.

The Student Healthcare Management Association (SHCMA) held a webinar on a career path in healthcare management in April 2022. The guest speaker, Georgia Casciato, who is the ACHE Metro Chicago Regent, Crain's Notable Woman in Healthcare, and CHEF's past President, shared her insights on career advancement and strategies to navigate the employer marketplace with students and participants.



## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

#### SOTA

Student Occupational Therapy Association

#### SOTA – Student Occupational Therapy Association (est 1998)

SOTA is a service-oriented organization that strives to promote comradery among graduate occupational therapy students while promoting awareness of the occupational therapy profession at GSU and the surrounding communities.

For more information Contact:

Patti Kalvelage – SOTA - email [pkalvelage@govst.edu](mailto:pkalvelage@govst.edu)



#### Coalition for Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (est 2020)

COTAD is designed to support occupational therapy students to work together to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within occupational therapy education programs and in the profession. The COTAD Chapter's aim is to create opportunities and resources that foster open conversation and increased awareness of different lived experiences, in order to increase cultural humility.

For more information Contact:

Dr. Luther King – COTAD - email [lking3@govst.edu](mailto:lking3@govst.edu)

#### Pre-Health Club

The Pre-Health Club is a student organization that aims to encourage and support students who are interested in Pre-Health Professions such as Medical School, Dental School, Occupation Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Physician's Assistant, etc. Pre-Health Club creates opportunities for its members to hear from speakers in fields of interest, arranges service activities for students, and fosters an supportive environment of like-minded students. If you are interested in joining, send an email to the contact person listed below to get started!

### PHYSICAL THERAPY

#### PTSA – Physical Therapy Student Association

The PTSA brings together current and prospective physical therapy students—as well as just about anyone else with an interest in the physical therapy/healthcare field. The club focuses on providing a forum for discussion on current topics relevant to PT, plans and works to provide opportunities for community engagement, and overall works to promote the vision of the American Physical Therapy Association: “Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience.”

### COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

#### American Sign Language Club

A place where we can have fun, learn sign and also, learn how about the deaf community and how we communicate!

#### National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association

The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is the only national student organization for pre-professionals studying communication sciences and disorders (CSD) recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

### HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

#### Student Healthcare Management Association

Student Healthcare Management Association (SHCMA) is a non-profit, non-religious and non-political organization for Undergraduate and Graduate students in the Department of Healthcare Administration. It is comprised of students from both graduate and undergraduate programs of Health Administration and Health Informatics.



#### Health Administration Honor Society – Upsilon Phi Delta, GSU Chapter

Upsilon Phi Delta is a national academic honor society for students in health administration. It is a member benefit of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. Upsilon, Phi and Delta are Greek words for health, care, and leadership, respectively.



The Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society - Governors State University Chapter (UPD-GSU Chapter) is an active member of the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society and is comprised of qualified students from both graduate and undergraduate programs of Health Administration and Health Informatics.

#### Wellness Club

The Wellness Club seeks to enhance the educational experience of all Governors State University students by increasing and improving health and wellness on our campus through student focused programming and services. By educating the campus and community about health issues affecting Governors State University, our state, our nation and our world we hope to impress upon our campus and community the importance of wellness pertaining to the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, cultural and environmental well-being of the individual.

## SELECT LEADERSHIP HONORS & AWARDS

#### DR. VICKII COFFEY

2022 recipient of an early career investigator, conference scholarship from The Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health. The scholarship award includes a one-year ACCJH membership and the costs of her attendance at the academic & health policy conference on criminal justice health where she will present her research and scholarship on health care disparities among formerly incarcerated persons.

#### DR. DANIELLE OSMELAK

Elected as a 2022 Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Speech-Language Pathology. Founded in 1981, NAPis an interprofessional nonprofit organization with membership representing 14 healthcare professions. The 14 academies include: Audiology, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Podiatric Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, Speech-Language Pathology, and Veterinary Medicine.

#### DR. NATALIA REKHTER

Was elected to serve on a board of directors for the Indiana chapter of the Fulbright Association.

#### DR. LINDA SAMSON

Appointed to the State of Illinois Expert Panel on Nursing Education.

#### DR. SHIRLEY SPENCER

Awarded the Army Meritorious Service medal for outstanding leadership, professionalism, initiative, dedication and selfless service as the Hospital Battalion Commander for the 801st Combat Support Hospital Distinguished and Exemplary performance contributing to the success of each reporting unit.

#### LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL NURSING HONOR SOCIETY

Received a Chapter Key Award for the members' work with local homeless shelters.

## GRANTS NEWS

#### ADDICTIONS STUDIES

received an award from the State of Illinois Division of Mental Health CRSS Success Program (12/15/2021-6/30/2022) Total Amount \$296,513 (C. Mejta, N. Burley, P. Palanca, M. McClure, C. Kibble, J. Golding, C. Openshaw)

#### SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT FACULTY

are completing research funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Title: The Importance of Arts Participation for Sense of Belonging and Academic Outcomes of University Students of Color -- \$69,483 PI: Dr. Campos-Moreira / Co-PIs: Drs. Grumbach, Zell, Cummings, & Bernadska



COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

RECOGNITION NIGHT BANQUET PHOTOS

On March 9th, 2022, CHHS presented Outstanding Student awards to students representing all of our programs for individual excellence. The achievements of all of these students, both Undergraduate and Graduate, were put on display as we highlighted their hard work and dedication towards the respective fields. While highlighting their achievements, we also had a chance to delve into their backgrounds to show their vast experiences that prepared them for their professional undertakings and how it lead them to the College of Health & Human Services department at Governors State University. We are proud of all of our students and we celebrate their accomplishments, as we do we look forward to seeing their futures as they move forward in life and become alumni that inspires others in our programs. The following were our awardees:

**Addictions Studies & Behavioral Health**

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student – Brave Fung
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Derek Potts
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Michelle Jones

**Communication Disorders**

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student – Alyssa Morales
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Kaylee Neylon

**Health Administration**

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student – Amber Wrobel
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Priscilla Wegrzyn

**Health Informatics**

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student – Quintin Jones
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Nigam Bopanna Palachanda Uthaiah

**Nursing**

- Outstanding Graduate Student – Millicent Baidoo & Raquel Talusan
- Outstanding Doctoral Student – Evelyn Kammin

**Occupational Therapy**

- Outstanding Graduate Student – Dustin Hogan

**Physical Therapy**

- Outstanding Graduate Student – Lauren Fleming

**Social Work**

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student – Sedona Smith
- Outstanding Graduate Student – Peter Brassea



The College celebrated its outstanding students. Back Row: Peter Brassea, Derek Potts, Nigam Bopanna Palachanda Uthaiah, Quintin Jones and Dustin Hogan Front Row: Sedona Smith, Amber Wrobel, Millicent Baidoo, Kaylee Neylon, and Alyssa Morales



Communication Disorders faculty and outstanding students. Ravi Nigam, Angela Ricelli, Jessica Bonner, Kaylee Neylon, Alyssa Morales, Danielle Osmelak, Nicole Bing, Elaine Reyna, Leslie Guca, Judy Platt



Dean Balthazar and President Cheryl Green congratulated the Social Work faculty on their outstanding students. Catherine Balthazar, Lorri Glass, Sedona Smith, Peter Brassea, Cheryl Green, Anjali Buehler, Vickii Coffey

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (ALPHABETICAL BY AUTHOR)

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**COFFEY, V., PAYNE, C., SPENCE, S., SHAH, Z., LEUNG A., JENKINS, E., & MORSE, D. (2022, APRIL 6-8).**

Barrier and facilitators to healthcare for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated African Americans [Conference Presentation Abstract Accepted]. Academic & Health Policy Conference on Criminal Justice Health, Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health.

**GRUMBACH, G., JOHNSON, A., ENGEL, E., & CAMPOS-MOREIRA, L. D. (2021).**

Virtual termination amidst COVID-19: Strategies for school social work interns and field instructors. *Children and Schools*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdab008>

**JOHNSON, A., GRUMBACH, G., & VAN DER WATER, M. (2021).**

Understanding federal law and state regulations. In T. Cox., T. D. Fitzgerald, M. Alvarez (Eds.), pp. 85-93. *The art of being indispensable: What school social workers need to know in their first three years*. Oxford University Press.

**KIBBLE, C.J. (2021).**

Understanding substance abuse: The hole in clinical education. *Contact: An Illinois Counseling Association Publication*. ICA (*Peer-Reviewed*).

**KIBBLE, C.J. & MCCLURE, M. (OCTOBER 2021).**

On Becoming Trauma-Informed: How to Incorporate Trauma-Oriented Care in Daily Practice. Oral Presentation at the annual meeting of the Illinois Counseling Association in Lisle, IL (*Peer-Reviewed*).

**KIBBLE, C.J. & MCCLURE, M. (SEPTEMBER 2021).**

Mindfulness Practices – Self Care Solutions. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health in Lisle, IL (*Peer-Reviewed*)

**MCCOY, H. AND DAY, J. (OCTOBER 2021).**

The racial caste system and its impact on patient outcomes. University of Illinois Department of Medicine Inclusion Council.

**MCKAY-JACKSON, C., GRUMBACH, G., & CAMPOS-MOREIRA, L. D. (2021).**

The Wakanda effect: A protective factor to navigate racialized environments. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2021.1949776>

**MCKAY-JACKSON, GRUMBACH, G., & CAMPOS-MOREIRA, L. D. (NOVEMBER 2021).**

The Wakanda Effect: Contesting Master Narratives in Social Work Education. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Orlando, FL.

**NAGARAJ, S, AND THOMAS, G. (2021)**

Challenges in the Nursing Workforce: Graduate nursing education and the future of nursing. *Nursing Voice*, a publication of The Illinois Nurses' Association.

**MOHSIN SHAIKH, ARSHAD H.M. VAYANI, SABINA AKRAM, NAFEES QAMAR**

"Open-source EHRs: a systematic review of most recent advances", *Health Informatics Journal*, to appear in 2022. Impact factor: 2.681 <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jhi>

**OPENSHAW, C. (NOVEMBER, 2021).**

Mental Wellness Amidst the Pandemic-A Global Perspective. Governors State University: International Department; Online

**OPENSHAW, C. (OCTOBER, 2021).**

Substance Use Within the Context of Human Trafficking. NAADAC 2021 Annual Conference; Online

**OPENSHAW, C. (SEPTEMBER, 2021).**

Substance Use in the Context of Human Trafficking. International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference; Online

**YILONG YANG, NAFEES QAMAR, PENG LIU, KATARINA GROLINGER, WEIRU WANG, ZHI LI, AND ZHIFANG LIAO**

ServeNet: A Deep Neural Network for Web Services Classification, 2020 IEEE International Conference on Web Services (ICWS), 2020, pp. 168-175, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICWS49710.2020.00029>

**GRUMBACH, G (2021).**

Social Workers as Education Collaborators with Dr. Giesela Grumbach Podcast <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/social-workers-as-education-collaborators-dr-giesela/id1538507161?i=1000513690147>. <https://player.captivate.fm/episode/7776aacd-4098-468f-8a9b-fcc0285e3f59>.

# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

FALL 2021

## \$28,500

32 STUDENTS WERE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS  
35 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED

- Academic Advisors Scholarship (11)
- Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Honoring Rosemary Hulett (1)
- Dr. Katherine L. Gavin Scholarship (1)
- Francisco Montalvo Jr. Endowed Scholarship (1)
- Great Lakes Bank Endowed Scholarship (4)
- Gregory J. Hand Addiction Recovery Scholarship (2)
- Herbert H. and Monica B. Allen Stem Scholarship (7)
- James and Helen Hassett and Mary Ann Faitz Endowed Scholarship for Nursing (3)
- Kimberly Edwards Endowed Scholarship (1)
- Manilow Scholarship for Students who Achieve Intellectual Excellence (1)
- Melissa Kay Solomon Scholarship (1)
- Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott Endowed Scholarship (2)
- Ralph R. and Delores Turner Endowed Scholarship in Liberal Arts and Elementary (1)
- Ronald Bean Scholarship in Community Service (1)
- Virginia M. Pizza Endowed Scholarship in Geriatric Care (4)

SPRING 2022

## \$16,750

52 STUDENTS WERE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS  
53 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED

- Addiction Studies Alumni Club Scholarship (1)
- Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Honoring Rosemary Hulett (43)
- David and Barbara Barr Endowed Scholarship (1)
- Great Lakes Bank Endowed Scholarship (2)
- Herbert H. and Monica B. Allen Stem Scholarship (4)
- Lowe, Hildebrand, Lubinsky Scholarship in Communication Disorders (2)



“Governors State University has provided a culture that promotes curiosity in the pursuit of skills and knowledge that will make ourselves and the world around me better. As an aspiring Occupational Therapist, I will bring that curiosity into the workplace”.

- DUSTIN HOGAN,  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE

