

## DDP Director's Corner – "Last Call!"

As you know, the Dual Degree Program provides an accessible and affordable pathway for students to complete their bachelor's degree. To aid in the affordability, DDP students can compete for scholarships that cover their *full* tuition and fees if they choose to attend GSU! These are only available to DDP students, and the scholarship application deadline for those transferring in **Fall 2020** is **February 28, 2020**. See page two of this newsletter for descriptions of available DDP scholarships, or for more information, visit [www.govst.edu/ddp](http://www.govst.edu/ddp).

**DDP students:** APPLY TODAY! The selection committee reads through every application thoroughly and takes many factors into consideration. Even if you have never received a scholarship, have never held a leadership position, don't let that stop you. Contact your DDP Transfer Specialist and/or a DDP Student Transition Assistant for help applying.

**DDP liaisons and supporters:** Please help us SPREAD THE WORD and RECOMMEND students! Our newly revised forms are available on our [scholarship website](#). Please encourage your DDP students to apply, and reinforce that they are scholars and deserving of this opportunity.

If you ever have any questions about the DDP scholarships, please feel free to contact me at 708.534.4494 or [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu).

Best wishes,  
Jessica Specht, Director of DDP

## Save the Dates! Spring 2020 Events

### Friday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – DDP Scholarship Deadline for Fall 2020

See the [GSU Scholarship](#) site for details about the *GSU Promise*, *DDP Honors*, and *DDP Chicago STAR Scholar* scholarship awards.

### Friday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – DDP Career Symposium

Join us for this year's Career Symposium and gather important tools to make sure that your career path is well planned and executed!

### Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – DDP Induction (GSU Main Campus)

For DDP students who are still pursuing an associate degree at their community college, and have not yet attended a DDP Induction. Invites will be emailed in early March. DDP Liaisons are welcome!

### Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony (GSU Main Campus)

DDP students graduating from GSU during the 2019-2020 academic year will be honored with a DDP cord acknowledging the completion of their DUAL degrees. Invitations will be mailed to students homes and emailed in April. DDP Liaisons are welcome to attend.



Check your email for monthly **DDP Community Service** announcements, or [contact us](#) for more info on any of the events above!

## DDP's Shining Star

**Name:**

Alana Koster

**Community College:**

South Suburban College

**Major:**

Film Studies

**In what way has the Dual Degree Program influenced your success?**

The Dual Degree Program gave me what I needed to finish my associate degree in two years. The Dual Degree Program also helped me by giving me the push I needed to talk to different departments to figure the correct major for my goals.

**What are your future plans at GSU?**

My plans at GSU involves obtaining my bachelor's degree as soon as possible to jump-start on my career. I also plan on finding clubs to get great mentors for me. I am excited about having teachers that focus on film and not just general studies. I am also excited about being in a competitive group of people which will push me to work my hardest and do my best.

**What are you most excited about in regards to transferring to GSU?**

I am most excited about transferring to GSU so that I can focus more on the field that I plan to go into. I cannot wait to learn more about how to become an exceptional teacher so that I can help students learn. Transferring to GSU after completing my associate degree at Joliet Junior College brings me that much closer to becoming a certified early childhood teacher!

**What tip(s) would you offer students for success?**

One tip that I would give to students is that going into college is not a time to party, it is a stepping stone to your future and you need to remember that. Also when going into college, planning is your best bet to not only learning about a career, but also to ensure that you will not be taking any classes that you would not need for your major.



## DDP Campus Connections

Here we will feature one of our fabulous DDP Liaisons from our 17 partnering community colleges, so that you know who is a master at DDP when we are not around! It is also a way for DDP students to see the many different paths that can lead to a rewarding career in higher education.



### Anthony Todd, Counselor @ South Suburban College

#### Universities previously attended:

I received my Bachelor of Science in Marketing from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. I received my Master of Arts in Community Counseling from Chicago State University.

#### What is your most memorable moment of college?

It would take me a long time to think of my most memorable. However, one of my memorable moments is deciding to major in Marketing after changing my major twice (Computer Science, and Finance).

#### What is something (personal belonging, food, etc.) you couldn't live without in college?

Something that I could not live without was PIZZA!

#### If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

I would have minored in Spanish. I also would have studied abroad for at least one semester.

#### Your most valuable "words of wisdom" for transfer students:

It's hard to be what you can't see, so explore the multitude of careers that exist.

## Important Updates

### This is your last chance to apply for Fall 2020! DDP Scholarship Applications due THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>

**DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE?** If you are transferring to GSU in fall 2020, make sure to apply for the [GSU Promise Scholarship](#), [DDP Honors Scholarship](#), and/or the [DDP Chicago STAR Scholars Scholarships](#). These scholarships are only available to DDP students. Students who qualify for both are encouraged to apply for both, although students may only be awarded one out of those eligible.

- ★ The **GSU Promise Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship for DDP students who receive the Federal Pell Grant and have at least a 2.75 GPA. It covers full tuition and fees and a book stipend for up to four semesters at GSU (excluding summers). *Illinois undocumented students are also encouraged to apply for the GSU Promise Scholarship for the chance to earn a \$600 book stipend for up to four semesters at GSU!*
- ★ The **DDP Honors Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship for DDP students who are current members of their community college Honors Program or chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and have at least a 3.5 GPA. It covers full tuition and fees at GSU for up to four semesters (excluding summers).
- ★ DDP students at the City Colleges of Chicago may also be eligible for the **DDP Chicago STAR Scholars Scholarship**. It is open to DDP students who are enrolled in the Chicago STAR Scholars program, are active members of CCC's Honors Program or chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and have a 3.25 GPA or above. There are two (2) scholarship categories; see the DDP Chicago STAR Scholar app for more details!

Applications, recommendation forms, and FAQs can be found on the [GSU Scholarship](#) site.

**All application materials are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb 28, 2020!**

## Important Updates (continued)

### Spring 2020 Community College Graduation Petition Deadlines

CCC: See Advisor	KCC: May 1	SSC: February 1
COD: March 15	Morton: April 1	Triton: February 11
HC: One week after Midterms	MVCC: February 1	WCC: February 15
JJC: March 29	PSC: March 1	

To read more about your college's graduation and Commencement procedures, click on the school's logo below.



### Student Transition Assistants (STAs) Spring 2020 Office Hours

DDP Student Transition Assistants are DDP students and graduates of the program who have been trained and are familiar with the various offices and services at GSU. They have the resources and information to help make your transition to GSU as smooth and comfortable as possible! STAs also serve as a thoughtful guide for DDP students who are new to Governors State University, and a reliable and energetic role model and advocate for student success. Stop by their office in **A2122**, or give them a call at **(708) 235-7173**.

- 🚩 **Mondays:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 🚩 **Tuesdays:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 🚩 **Wednesdays:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 🚩 **Thursdays:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 🚩 **Fridays:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### DDP Student Transition Assistant (STA) Staff:

- Peter Brassea – **PSC graduate**
- Roldolfo Garcia – **Moraine Valley Community College**
- Jerrica Jarrett – **Kankakee Community College**
- Morgan Langer – **Kankakee Community College**
- Omar Martinez – **Prairie State College**
- Daj'za Mitchell – **Prairie State College**
- Bennett Talaber – **Joliet Junior College**



(Left to right: Bennett, Omar, Daj'za, Peter, Jerrica, and previous STA, Isabel Cervantes)



Don't forget to "Like" and follow the DDP's Facebook page to view our event photo albums and be notified of future events!



## Meet Our New Student Transition Assistants (STAs)!

This semester, DDP welcomed two new STAs to our team. Let's meet them!



### Morgan Danielle Langer

**What's your major?** Social Work

**What community college did you previously attend?** Kankakee Community College

**What inspired you to join DDP?**

I joined DDP because getting an education has always been important to me. I did not have much family support when I started college. However, after meeting Sharita and Jessica, I realized how being part of DDP would mean that I would always have someone to encourage me to continue my education and support me. DDP is my educational family.

**So far, what's your favorite part of being an STA?**

My favorite part about being an STA is getting to help other students even if it just walking them to a location on campus, explaining the program to them, or just getting to know the other members.

**What tip(s) would you offer students for success?**

The tips I have for success is always keep a planner and your assignments organized. Always bring a sweater to class (especially during the fall semester). Always, and I mean *always*, be prepared for some type of fun celebrations. GSU does not shy away from a reason to get the jaguar spirit!



### Rudy Garcia

**What's your major?** Communications

**What community college did you previously attend?** Moraine Valley Community College

**What inspired you to join DDP?**

I wanted to continue my education and seeing what kind of community and what the DDP program represented inspired me to want to be a part of it.

**So far, what's your favorite part of being an STA?**

My favorite part is being able to have the opportunity to help and working with other students that are part of the DDP program.

**What tip(s) would you offer students for success?**

Some tips I would give other students would be to always have a plan, to work on time management, and to take advantage of all the resources that GSU has to offer.

## Event Highlights

### DDP Welcome Back Social

On January 29, 2020, DDP hosted its Welcome Back Social on the GSU campus to kick-off the Spring Semester. DDP students and staff gathered for fun, games and laughter in the Jaguar Den. Congratulations to all of our raffle winners, and thanks to everyone that joined us at this event!



## DDP Monthly Community Service

Each month the DDP coordinates a community service event. Participating in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service gives students the opportunity to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most.

### January

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, DDP students met at GSU's Lakeside Lounge for its monthly community service project. For January, DDP students helped to prepare care bags for the homeless. On any given night, there are approximately 643,067 people experiencing homelessness in America. Through our work, DDP helped provide toiletries for over a hundred individuals and families experiencing homelessness.



### February

On February 20, 2020, DDP students met at Prairie State College's Barnes and Noble Auditorium for its monthly community service project. For February, students helped Prairie State College host its 32nd Annual Jazz Fest by setting up the event and checking guests in. Jazz Fest welcomes young students from local junior high and high schools to attend. Students who attended are given the wonderful opportunity to receive instruction in from jazz masters.





## DDP Student Recognition – Public Health Brigade

While DDP students have the opportunity to participate in monthly community service events, one of our veteran Student Transition Assistants likes to take things a bit further over winter breaks. DDP's STA, Peter Brassea, took a study abroad trip to Panama this January, and here's what he had to say about the experience:

### What inspired you to participate in the service learning opportunity in Panama?

Last May, I was able to participate in my first Public Health Brigade to Ghana, West Africa, with other students and two GSU faculty leaders, Dr. Phyllis West, and Dr. Nicole Koonce. The experience changed my life forever. In Ghana, we built bio digesters for six families to help improve the overall long-term health of the community. Helping to empower a community while also learning was totally rewarding, and something I never would've imagined I could be a part of. As a Social Work major, it was huge opportunity to be part of community empowerment and to be part of something bigger than myself! The family and artisans that we worked with were the ones that truly motivated me to go on another brigade (January 2020). I knew then that I had to continue serving and go on another Public Health Brigade in the future. Being a first-generation college student, I never thought I would have the opportunity to leave the country and serve broad for the first time in college. Now I feel inspired to do more service work and compelled to inspire others to get involved in service learning.

### What was the biggest "learning moment" that you took away from the experience?

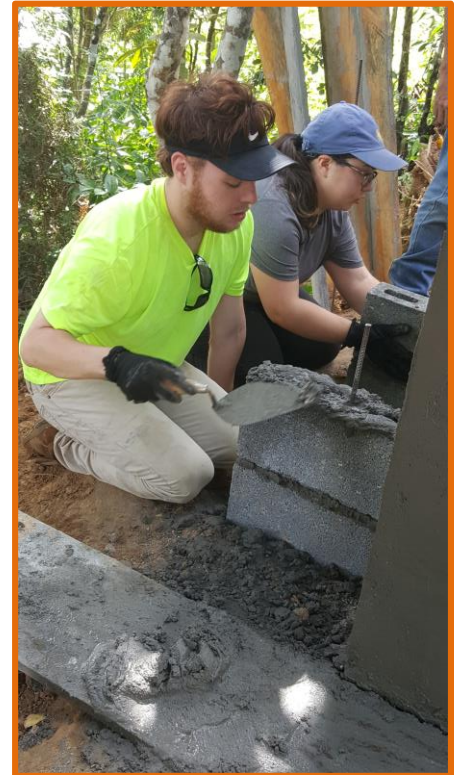
I think that the biggest learning moment was about the importance of teamwork. In Panama, we built a shower and two latrines for a family. On this brigade, we worked in unison instead of being separated into mini teams. Working together helped us bond and learn more about each other. We collaborated in difficult tasks, we looked out for each other, and we took care of one another when one member wasn't feeling well. All of this played a part in the overall work that we were able to complete.

The other biggest learning moment for me was that language barriers do not stand in the way of forming relationships and connections with others. In Panama, the primary language spoken among the family and artisans we worked alongside with was Spanish. Many of us had concerns beforehand that this may hold us back from forming a relationship, but, it did not hinder anything. In all reality, we had little to no difficulties communicating with our group. Being able to connect with individuals globally is tremendously important. This has motivated me more to learn another language, particularly Spanish. This is a goal I am setting for myself so I can return to Panama one day and form even closer relationships, without a language barrier.

### Do you have any advice for students who may also want to participate in a study abroad/service learning project?

If studying abroad or service learning is something that you truly want to do, do not hesitate to do it! It truly is one of the best experiences a college student can have! You learn so much about history, and you also learn things about yourself along the way. If you are interested in embracing new cultures, languages, and empowering others, service learning is a great opportunity for you. To fund the trip, we hold fundraisers, and there are also scholarship and grant opportunities available to students for study abroad and service learning.

For more information about studying abroad and service learning opportunities at GSU, visit [www.govst.edu/studyabroad/](http://www.govst.edu/studyabroad/).



**Thank you, we're looking forward to another great semester!**