

# ArtSci

Governors State University  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SPRING 2024



Rome and Rio de Janeiro reflected in water  
"Journeying for Justice"



# Letter from the Dean



**Jason Zingsheim**  
Dean, College of Arts  
and Sciences

Welcome to the eighth annual issue of the College of Arts and Sciences newsmagazine, *ArtSci*. In the following pages, you will see just a glimpse of recent work being accomplished by our faculty, students, and alumni as they endeavor to shape our world and our shared futures. In the following stories, student contributors invite us to step up, speak out, and join in being part of the solutions to our society's challenges. If you are not already, I welcome you to become an active part of our CAS community. If you are already a member, please continue welcoming others into our ever-growing community. Our incredible diversity serves as both a reflection of, and an invitation to, the shared future of our region and our country. Our College's use of high impact practices – such as this student-written newsmagazine and the multiple examples of collaborative, hands-on experiential projects it highlights – provides our students with the skills that employers desire, and our communities with well-prepared leaders.

We are indebted to *ArtSci's* faculty advisor Prof. Laura White (English) and her team of dedicated students – Nadia Butler (English BA), Jasmine Ferral (English BA), Noah LaFond (English MA), Hannah Leonard (Interdisciplinary Studies BA), and Paul Tucker (English MA) – whose stories illustrate only some of the many examples of impactful, experiential opportunities that the College of Arts and Sciences provides for its students and our community.

GSU's mission is to offer an exceptional and accessible education that prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society. In this issue you'll learn more about how CAS faculty, students, and alumni are engaged in cutting edge research and service across the globe in Hungary and Italy and down the street with United Way's April Food Day. You'll read about how we are working to amplify the stories and voices of our communities with the launch of Radio Jaguar, juried exhibitions of high school and community college student artists, and the development of new courses through digital humanities grants. You'll see our dedication to cultivating art at the center of your life, while seeking to foster scientific innovation with a new student club, and how art how art can open up new perspectives on climate change.

GSU continues to have an incredibly positive impact on the region both through the wide range of academic opportunities that we offer as well as through our community outreach via the **Center for Community Media**; the **Center for Performing Arts**; the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**; the **Art Gallery**; and the Biological Field Station. Whether you are joining us for a community event or returning to continue your education, we hope you feel the same sense of belonging expressed by our graduates. You can also stay connected by volunteering your time and expertise, by donating to student scholarships, or creating internship and job opportunities for our current students and alumni. Please contact me ([CASdean@govst.edu](mailto:CASdean@govst.edu)) and let me know how we can work together. I look forward to hearing from you.

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# New Innovation Club Brings Community to Robotics

By Hannah Leonard



Two weeks prior to the first meeting, Dr. Clare Tang, the new Division Chair of Science, Math, and Technology, asked Professor Oh, Lecturer in Math, if she'd like to be the faculty sponsor for a new robotics club. Fascinated by her son's love of Legos and her own interest in robotics, Professor Oh accepted the offer. Dr. Tang generously donated her collection of robotic pieces and Legos. Thus, the Innovation Club began.

Open to GSU students and community members, Innovation Club is a place where people can learn to build robots. "We have all the equipment, we have a computer that our graduate students can teach [club members] how to do coding and how to build pieces," Professor Oh says. Students use software that gives step-by-step instructions to put the pieces together, add a sensor, then control their robot with a joystick. They can compete with other club members in a motorized robot race.

Students can even invent their own robots. "You can imagine it; you can build it. You start with something small and once you get the hang of it, you can make it more complicated and make it bigger and then make it perfect," says Professor Oh. In a sense, the club is training students to be engineers.

The club also fosters community, relationships, and is open to everyone. Including family. One student brought her two children and husband to the first event. "We try to attract as many students as possible because we want to be more

creative. That's why we call it Innovation Club. It means we want to build something new. And the younger generations are the ones with the brightest minds, they're already creative," says Professor Oh. By opening this up to the community, GSU hopes to attract future students.

Professor Oh is passionate about the possibilities of technology. When AI robots are put together "they can do anything for you. Like Tesla, you don't need people to drive, the car can drive by itself. Then in the future you'll have robots cooking for you like a chef at home," she jokes. In response to the fear of AI robots, she understands that anything new is scary. "As time went on, people became more and more creative. We can think about chores and dishes. Now you use a dishwashing machine...What if they can educate your children, teach them another language?" This is why the club prioritizes learning computer software and code. DSMT is teaching the future generation new skills, and Professor Oh is excited about it.

One goal is to increase funding to expand the program in order to include middle and high school students interested in learning how to build robots and compete in competitions. But for now, the club is focused on having fun learning how to build robots and growing a community.

The club has received support from the Library, which hosts the activities, as well as other faculty who donated some of their own robot domains and material.

To learn more about the club, email Professor Oh at [soh@govst.edu](mailto:soh@govst.edu). Provide your name and ID number, and she will add you to the organization on Blackboard.

***"You can imagine it; you can build it."***



# And We're Live!

By Jasmine Ferral

## Tune into Radio Jaguar for an Unforgettable Radio Experience

In a world brimming with endless streams of information, Radio Jaguar comes to Governors State University to not only entertain but also to educate and empower us all within the GovState and Southland Communities. Originally airing in early November 2023, this student-run internet station provides real-world experiences to those who join under the guidance of Dr. Lara Hrycaj.

The station's launch, coinciding with homecoming, brought an opportunity for students to listen to a continuous playlist of pop hits and premier their different conversational topics of interest, including shows like "Boomin' Sports" hosted by Jason Gonzalez which airs every second Thursday of the month.

With a passion for radio and Media Studies, Dr. Lara Hrycaj, the Faculty Advisor for Phoenix News and Radio Jaguar, started her GovState journey in August 2021 and has taught courses like media studies, audio production, and many others to students with the same passions. Dr. Hrycaj worked for noncommercial education radio for 20 years and has had experience in student-run radio stations,

*"It gives the students a supportive space to share their interests and talents."*

but even with the previous experiences, Dr. Hrycaj has said "building a [radio] station from nothing is difficult and we are still learning things."

With learning curves and bumps in the road, Radio Jaguar continues to grow and learn as students navigate the ins and outs of radio production through an intensive one-day workshop.

Those workshops are open for any who are interested. Seven students are currently involved with Radio Jaguar but with workshops still going on, the number is expected to double by the end of the semester and expand more in the summer.

One big impact for students to join, Dr. Hrycaj says, is to learn "how to be a creative ... and then take their creativity and share it with the community." It gives the students a supportive space to share their interests and talents. Whether it is conceptualizing a show around anime soundscapes or performing and promoting their favorite bands or sports teams, students who want to get involved can contact Radio Jaguar advisor Lara Hrycaj at [lhrycaj@govst.edu](mailto:lhrycaj@govst.edu).

To listen to Radio Jaguar, go to [govst.edu/radio-jaguar/](http://govst.edu/radio-jaguar/)

# Dive Into the Art

## Exploring the Impact of Climate Change and Empowering Change through Knowledge

By Jasmine Ferral



Conducting annual Earth Day walks in the sculpture park and inviting multiple artists to visit and talk about their pieces, the Visual Arts Gallery has had a thematic focus on climate change for several exhibits this year.



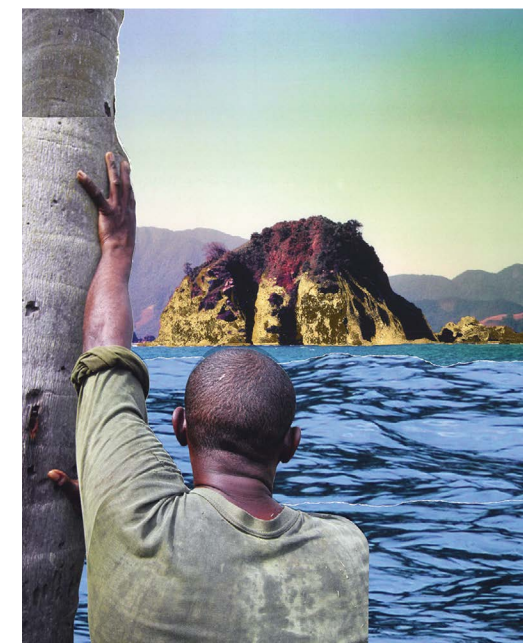
Denise Milan

Sherri Denault, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Visual Arts Gallery and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, has helped curate some of these exhibits by selecting artwork that flows well together or choosing a theme to represent the pressing ecological issues of our day, stating, "It is a process of looking and researching what types of artwork the artists are making."

Specifically, the "Hydrological Shift" exhibit explores the

important conversation of climate change. Two artists—Jennifer Cronin and Alison Ruttan—have created paintings and ceramic sculptures that invite the viewers to observe the power of water and its effect on the planet while also recognizing the changes caused by human existence. The pieces are showcased in the Skylight Gallery in the Library with the artists visiting in mid-April to continue their conversations.

The Visual Arts Gallery also encourages a global perspective on climate change. Students experienced what the climate crisis looks like in South America when GovState welcomed Brazilian artist Denise Milan to present her "Mist of the Earth" exhibit from April 8–May 3, 2024. Two of her sculptures were on display in the sculpture park along with a gallery exhibit. Those interested were not only able to view her work but also to meet Denise Milan in an artist talk in April where she talked more in-depth about her art.







# Teaching, Traveling, and Changing the World

Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Ermasova Travels to Hungary to Teach

By Hannah Leonard

“I encourage aspiring Fulbright applicants to seize the opportunity. It’s a transformative experience that broadens horizons and deepens understanding.”

Who is Dr. Natalia Ermasova? She is a Russian immigrant who is passionate about teaching, traveling, and changing the world. She is an excitable, ambitious, and positive force who seems to not be slowing down. Her love for life is palpable, especially her appreciation for the opportunities beyond her homeland’s borders.



Dr. Natalia Ermasova

In the fall of 2023, Dr. Ermasova won a Fulbright scholarship to teach Strategic Management and Project Management in Hungary. This marked her second Fulbright experience, building upon her tenure as a visiting Professor from Russia at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) in 2006. When reflecting on this time, she talks about how it paved the way for her journey to the United States, where she pursued a PhD, embracing a new life with her family.

The Fulbright program is an exchange program where the main goal is to promote understanding and collaboration between the US and other countries. There are 8,000

participants per year making the selection process merit based and highly selective.

This time, she became a cultural ambassador for the US. She answered questions regarding US culture, public administration, public finance, democracy, and regulations. Dr. Ermasova chose Hungary because of “prior research and teaching experiences in Hungary, established research collaboration, future plans for institutional collaboration, and love of the unique history and culture of Hungary.”

Dr. Ermasova mostly taught in English, but students were able to choose what language they wanted to be taught in—English or Hungarian or both. She decided that she wanted her classes to be more hands-on. “Here [at GSU], my Master of Public Administration (MPA) students are super engaged. We have discussions and case studies.” At first, in Hungary, she would do a lecture, but the students would not ask questions, so that is when she decided to teach the class differently. She would give a lecture then afterwards the students would do practical projects. Determined to foster engagement, she revised her teaching approach.

“I used my experience in teaching Practical Capstone in the MPA Program at GSU to revise Strategic Management

and Project Management courses in National University,” she explains. The addition of social and economic projects from “left-behind” Hungarian villages sparked curiosity and critical thinking among her students. “It was one of the most captivating and beneficial classes of the Fall semester.”

Although she had much success abroad, Dr. Ermasova’s heart remained with her students at GSU. “What I miss most about Governors State during my time away are my MPA students and the dynamic discussions during our classes,” she reflects. She appreciates the personal connections she has with her students. “At another school, the students are just a number, but here, I know every student, I know everything about them.” She loves GSU, the students, and prefers to be here full time.

Dr. Ermasova enjoys teaching, but she also loves that she gets to use her skills and knowledge to make an impact. Her research on local government budgeting strategies, particularly in response to fiscal disturbances like the Covid-19 pandemic, emphasizes her commitment to promoting economic growth and fiscal responsibility. Dr. Ermasova became interested in economic policy and public finance through her own experience growing up in Russia and through her

research. In 2023, she co-authored and published the book *Municipal Fiscal Stress, Bankruptcies, and other Financial Emergencies*. The book gives guidelines on how to help towns that are knocked with economic stress to improve their financial situation.

Ever since her first experience with Fulbright, her life has changed for the better. This opportunity allowed her to travel. “I encourage aspiring Fulbright applicants to seize the opportunity,” she urges. “It’s a transformative experience that broadens horizons and deepens understanding.” She encourages students to apply for the Fulbright program. “Do not be afraid to apply.” Anyone can apply regardless of their major.

Dr. Ermasova is inspiring to both students and colleagues alike. Her story is a reminder that there are endless opportunities for growth and collaboration across borders. One classroom at a time, she is shaping the future with her unwavering optimism and drive.

To learn more about the Fulbright Program contact **Dr. Ermasova** at [nermasova@govst.edu](mailto:nermasova@govst.edu) or visit [us.fulbrightonline.org](https://us.fulbrightonline.org)





# Journeying for Justice

## Restorative Justice Work Brings International Opportunities for GSU Students

By Noah LaFond

While GSU students are always hard at work in classes, they also need to gain experiences beyond the classroom. This is particularly essential for students interested in restorative justice, where real world application helps students apply the concepts to the world around them, both within their communities and internationally. In 2023, several GSU students, along with Dr. Joao Salm, contributed to international restorative justice activities in Brazil and Italy. “Having my students’ work be recognized internationally is something that will start opening doors,” Salm reflects. “It’s huge, it’s impactful, it’s transformative, [and] it allows our students to see a lot of worth in not only the work they’re doing but in the knowledge they’re gaining at GSU.”

Restorative justice aims to address both individual and collective responsibility for a problem, moving beyond the typical punitive approach to justice that focuses on just punishing an individual for a crime. As Salm recognizes, “Once we acknowledge that we are responsible for each other and what’s happening in the world, then it becomes transformative, because we go from behaving in the world to acting with the world.”



Dr. Joao Salm

*“Once you’re passionate and you’re doing it with love and care and meaning—especially meaning—opportunities will appear.”*

### BRAZIL: AUGUST 20–27, 2023

When the Brazilian Supreme Court’s National Justice Council (CNJ) asked Salm to suggest speakers for their first National Brazilian Seminar on Restorative Justice in Education, he tagged Eboni Rucker, a GSU student (IDSS BA, Multicategorical Special Education MA) to speak about the program she designed over the past several years to apply restorative justice in Chicago Southland schools. “[Seeing] one of our students in the process of becoming a leader in the field of restorative justice and education warms my heart,” Salm expressed. “As an educator, that’s all I need to continue doing my work.” Rucker’s presentation received a standing ovation from over 300 attendees, and she has been invited to attend other conferences including the International Restorative Justice Conference in the United States as a keynote speaker.

### ITALY: NOVEMBER 16–23, 2023

Traveling to the University of Insubria, Salm and five GSU students led collaborative workshops with Italian students and faculty, discussing the differences between how Italy and the US use restorative justice in their judicial systems. Each student presented on restorative justice programs and legal cases in a region of their country. By comparing the different uses of restorative justice, students considered new ways to implement the concepts in both countries. “In that sense it was very unique,” Salm recognized. “With the support of GSU, I believe our students had an opportunity to share their knowledge [of restorative justice] and what they’ve learned through the courses with our Italian counterparts.” GSU plans to host a similar event in 2025, inviting Italian students to our campus to discuss restorative justice and the latest developments in the field.

Beyond this event, Salm is currently part of the team planning the upcoming International Seminar on Restorative Justice and the Environment in Brazil, where he hopes a GSU student will lead a panel of international students on the topic. This year’s event will take place May 2024 in Pantanal, the world’s second largest wetland, and will be the first time that the event is held in person since the first seminar had to be held over Zoom in 2020. “If you’re really passionate about what you do and what you study and the educational/pedagogical process, things will happen, opportunities will present itself,” Salm emphasizes. “Once you’re passionate and you’re doing it with love and care and meaning—especially meaning—opportunities will appear.”

To learn more about restorative justice, contact Dr. Salm at [jsalm@govst.edu](mailto:jsalm@govst.edu). For information on GSU’s Graduate Certificate in Restorative Justice, visit [govst.edu/resj](https://govst.edu/resj)

*“Once we acknowledge that we are responsible for each other and what’s happening in the world, then it becomes transformative, because we go from behaving in the world to acting with the world.”*





# CAS Alumna Brings Everyone to the Table

By Nadia Butler

Governors State has always fostered health in our community and our alumni dedicate time to give back. One such alumna, Maya Hardy (BA Liberal Arts '00, MA Comm '02), the current Regional Director of Development for the United Way, works with Stacy Amedeo (Promotions and External Relations Coordinator in CAS) to create service opportunities for our alumni and provide for the GovState food pantry during United Way's April Food Days. The event takes place at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Around 125-150 volunteers work in three shifts to sort food prior to distribution. The sorting and distribution runs from 10 am to 2 pm on April 25th. United Way's April Food Day focuses on the systemic education, health, and wealth inequalities in the Chicagoland areas.

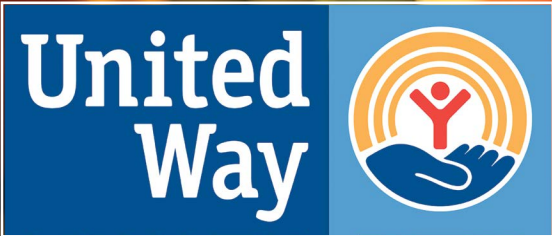


Maya Hardy

According to Amedeo, food donations are checked for good quality. One major aspect of preventing food scarcity is providing residents with nourishing, high-quality food to food pantries; GovState is one of the ten recipient food pantries. With assistance from Amedeo, Hardy is able to not only fulfill the necessary duties for April Food Day but also gets a second opinion on the work they do and how it's perceived. Ms. Amedeo explains that she feels "good about the impact of April Food Day and the community that has spread across the area." She comments that with the variety of food items, like spaghetti, canned goods, and cereal, there's something for everyone. Students that have lined up to wait at the GSU Food Pantry. This highlights the collaborative efforts to make everyone facing hard times feel included.

Hardy has deep connections to the University. She worked in the Purchasing Department from 1997–2002. She's also deeply connected to her community, serving as a Trustee in the Village of Park Forest, a Chicago Heights/Park Forest Rotary Member, and Secretary and Liaison to the Southland Human Services Leadership Council, among other positions. Her son, Julian Hardy received his bachelor's in Mathematics from GovState in 2019. He currently holds the position of Assistant Coach for the JV Men's Basketball team. Clearly, the Hardy legacy is thriving, showing the importance of giving back, and honoring our community as they do so.

For more information about the United Way April Food Day, visit [liveunitedchicago.org/events/april-food-day-2024/](https://liveunitedchicago.org/events/april-food-day-2024/)



# A Welcoming Environment

## CAS Welcomes Eleven New Faculty

By Nadia Butler

In 2023-2024, the College of Arts and Sciences hired eleven new faculty members in ten different disciplines, including Secondary Education, Math, Dance, History, English, and Computer Science. According to Dean Jason Zingsheim, hiring good faculty is important as their impact is routinely felt at the university. In addition to a comfortable and easygoing environment that the faculty provide for the students, they also bring versatility and diverse experiences. In hiring new faculty, CAS looks for faculty who demonstrate not only scholarly excellence but also dedication to students, particularly first-generation students. Faculty can break down the barriers and the fears that students may experience as they adapt to college. They help to create a welcoming environment for our students.

Outside of the classroom, the faculty work together with the students if some students are struggling academically. Dean Zingsheim explained that some students might struggle if they have a professor who has a heavy accent. In that situation, faculty members are willing to step in and break down what's being said, emphasizing our faculty's strong level of communication. While it can sometimes be nerve wracking for students to interact with faculty, Dean Zingsheim has advice for students who may struggle to build that relationship. He suggests, "talk to the faculty, build a relationship with them, and make it a goal to know them as a human being."

### The Divisions of Arts and Letters welcomes:

- Morenikeji Asaju**, Assistant Professor, History
- Quenna Barrett**, Assistant Professor, Theater and Performance Studies
- Erika Ceka**, Assistant Professor, Public and Nonprofit Budgeting & Financial Management
- Kelly Gawel**, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Megan Lindsay**, University Lecturer, Dance
- Taylor Rogers**, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Cynthia Rousseau**, Assistant Professor, English Secondary Education

### The Division of Science, Mathematics, and Technology welcomes:

- Natalie Coleman**, University Lecturer, Biology and Secondary Education
- Daniel Grigoletti**, University Lecturer, Computer Science
- Mark Las**, Assistant Professor, Information Technology
- Jessica Nicoletti**, University Lecturer, Math





# Reaching and Recruiting GSU Hosts Annual Juried Art Exhibition

By Paul Tucker

For more than twenty years, GSU has hosted the Illinois Community College Juried Exhibition in our Art department. As a way to provide opportunities, recruit students and hopefully gain new artists in our community, the competition is open to all individuals currently enrolled in an Illinois community college or junior college. Students submit diverse pieces that range in media like photography, digital art, drawing, sculpting, painting, and more.

This year specifically, we received more than 60 entries from twelve of Illinois' community and junior colleges around the state. In response, judges Professor Gretchen Jankowski and Dr. Rebecca Siefert narrowed the display number down to 44. These were then displayed for the community to view in our Visual Art Gallery until the event's award ceremony on February 24th.

At the reception, the artists, their friends, family, and GSU community members gathered to celebrate the time that went into their awe-inspiring art. The pieces on display ranged from a graffiti-styled teapot and teacups, a film featuring the artist's pieces, to hyper realistic oil paintings and stunning digital photography. The judges clearly had their hands and minds full when it came to choosing their winners, and they expressed this in their message to the audience. As a result, there were six awards given, including honorable mentions, and the top three artists won prizes of either \$125, \$400, or \$600.

Winning best in show was artist Gabriela Hernandez who created a large, earthen materials-inspired sculpture which featured tree bark and bird feathers, encapsulating the diversity of the showcase.



## Exploring Ethnic Studies through the Digital Humanities

### Two GSU Professors Receive Grants to Develop New Courses

By Noah LaFond

*“Our students are creating knowledge and creating a space for that to be visible to others, to contribute, to get their voices out there.”*

In 2023, Dr. Vida Owusu-Boateng (English) and Dr. Novia Pagone (Humanities) each received a Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium (DEFCon) Teaching Fellowship grant. The grant provided each recipient with \$2500 and a teaching mentor to help develop a course that examines



Novia Pagone

an aspect of ethnic studies through digital humanities—a way of analyzing a humanistic work through digital tools and methods such as mapping, annotation, and even coding that help scholars gain a new perspective on a work. “It broadens the scope of engagement,” Owusu-Boateng expresses. “By doing this kind of digital humanistic exploration... you are likely to think about your focus in a much deeper sense, taking into consideration things you wouldn’t necessarily consider if you weren’t using digital humanities as a research method.”

GSU was the only institution to have two professors receive a DEFCon grant this year, and the grants coincide with new GSU programs like the recently opened Latinx Resource Center and the Black Studies minor currently in development. “GSU as a minority-serving institution is the kind of institution DEFCon wants to bring into digital humanities work,” Pagone recognizes. “Part of that is to make the digital public record more inclusive, more diverse, and to make sure that voices are being heard that otherwise might not be.” Pagone’s course Latinx Media (LACL 3200)/Global Literacy (MST 3100) focuses on Latinx representations in media, culminating in a final project that requires students to create

a virtual walking tour of a Latinx community that will be posted online. It first ran in Spring 2024, and Pagone plans to offer it every other year.

Owusu-Boateng’s course, Black Women’s Writing in the African Diaspora, uses literature to explore cross-cultural conversations about racial identity. Digital humanities tools like annotations, visualizations, and mapping emphasize new ways of interacting with the assigned texts. As the DEFCon grant aims to increase collaboration between universities, the course is currently being taught by a professor at Western Salem University. The course is not currently being offered at GSU, though it may be included as part of the upcoming Black Studies minor.

Through engaging with these courses, Pagone recognizes, “Our students are creating knowledge and creating a space for that to be visible to others, to contribute, to get their voices out there.” Digital humanities work also allows students to gain experience with multimodal tools that are rapidly becoming more prevalent in society. “Humanities students are usually the last group of students that people think about as having digital skills that allow them to engage data in different ways,” Owusu-Boateng reflects. “That will make them much more competitive because they already have the background and training to do critical work.”



*“GSU as a minority-serving institution is the kind of institution DEFCon wants to bring into digital humanities work. Part of that is to make the digital public record more inclusive, more diverse, and to make sure that voices are being heard that otherwise might not be.”*





# Hit the Lights and Cue the Music

## The CPA Welcomes All

By Paul Tucker



With its entrance visible from the cafeteria and the Hall of Governors, the CPA is a part of campus most of us walk by daily. We see the buses from surrounding K-12 schools parked out front, dropping children off by the dozens to enjoy a performance. We spot their flyers, announcements, and showtimes plastered on the bulletin boards found in buildings A-G. Its presence is evident everywhere we look, and by attending its shows, we can peek behind the curtain and enjoy the incredible art that comes to life within our very own walls.

As the newest Executive Director of the Center for Performing Arts, Scott Sowinski tries to always shine a spotlight on the teamwork that goes into running the CPA. With about twelve full-time salaried employees, a graduate assistant, an intern, around ten student employees, five to ten front of staff workers, and about 40-60 volunteer ushers, Sowinski commends the staff for their hard work and dedication. He states that he does “very little,” and in order for everything to run smoothly, he surrounds himself “with really smart, capable people who elevate our imprint at Governors State and the arts in general,” both in Illinois and the nation.

Besides giving the CPA staff the glory, Sowinski’s other main goal is to make the Center for Performing Arts essential to the GSU community, and he says that this can be done through self-production. While some shows come from outside companies, such as when various groups pay to be here and provide everything they need, self-production results in the CPA fulfilling the required needs themselves. Sowinski reflects on this by listing their many duties, such as casting performers, making

and ordering costumes, lighting the stage, building the props and stage design, setting it up and taking it down, learning the parts, ushering people to their seats, taking their tickets, and ensuring everything goes according to plan. “It’s a little bit more work on our end,” he notes, but “it elevates people from within.” These responsibilities give everyone a chance to be involved, even the non-theater major. Cast and crew have taken part in this this past year when they performed *It’s A Wonderful Life* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and the shows and opportunities will only continue to grow.

Even if these stories, or theater in general, do not pique your immediate interest, Sowinski invites every GSU community member to come attend a show in the CPA. From the theater major to the business management major, the advisor to the accountant, and everything in between, Sowinski believes that art is intrinsic to all of our lives, and it comes in many different forms. “Everything you do is an art,” he claims. “You go to school to curate and understand art.” The lab test one has to perform for their nursing class? That’s art! The research conducted and paper written for a Communications course? That’s art as well.

So, no matter what your major, interests, or mindset may be, the CPA encourages you to come and witness one of their many performances. Who knows, you may even fall in love with the theater (or the person seated next to you).

Check out the 2024-2025 season at:  
[govst.edu/cpa-events](https://govst.edu/cpa-events)



## LAURA WHITE, M.F.A

FACULTY ADVISOR FOR *ArtSci* MAGAZINE

As a writing teacher, I am too often the lone reader of excellent student writing. Sometimes, when I'm reading my students' essays, reflections, poetry, I think: I wish everyone could read this! *ArtSci* gives us an opportunity to make that happen. It allows our community to experience the talent and tenacity of some of our ambitious, homegrown writers. In this student-written newsmagazine, you can see their learning and leadership at work.

Some of the writers you meet here on the page are new to promotional writing; as English majors and creative writers they are practiced in literary and rhetorical analysis, they write poetry and short fiction and personal essays, but shaping the raw material of an interview into a public-facing article represents a new challenge. Getting these pieces into their final form required collaboration, and this team met the challenge in supportive and creative ways. In particular, Noah LaFond, now in his fourth year of writing for *ArtSci*, was key in leading this group, sharing years of experience in information gathering, storytelling, and copy editing. Thank you to the whole team—Paul, Hannah, Nadia, Jasmine, and Noah—for showing up, reaching out, brainstorming, rewriting, following up, proofreading, and treating each other's work with both scrutiny and delicacy. Working with you all has been a joy.

We thank Dean Zingsheim for his continued commitment to providing this pre-professional experience for our students. We know that these kinds of experiences shape students' confidence in what they can do, and this in turn impacts the way they think about potential career paths. Working with the talented graphic designer Michael Scalzo has been its own learning experience. We marvel at how his first-class design not only elevates these stories but helps us to tell these stories. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the professionals in MarComm. Supporting our students is work that all of us at the University do, whether we are in classrooms or not. The support for our students shows up everywhere.



# Our Student Writers



## HANNAH LEONARD

I am an Haitian-American Interdisciplinary Studies student who plans to graduate very soon. I work as a barista at a small coffee shop, Clancy Bros. Coffee Roastery (now

hiring, please apply), where I enjoy making pour overs and connecting with regulars. What I love about *ArtSci* is that I get to meet new people, learn their passions, and also grow as a writer. Another is that it's okay to write something bad because there will be people to help you fix it and become a better journalist.



## JASMINE FERRAL

I am an English major who loves to be artistic in many aspects. This is my first year writing for *ArtSci* and I have had the most fun writing my stories as it fulfills my passion for

writing. Some of my hobbies include a good craft like journaling or gardening or I enjoy watching a good movie to take me to another world for a few hours. But writing has always been my passion since I was young. I also love connecting and being open to the world to learn new things and experiencing the world around me.



## NADIA BUTLER

I am an English major (with a Psychology minor) who loves any and every time of writing (ex. creative writing, academic essays, freewriting, etc.) I also like to watch movies,

like romcoms or horror, listen to music, read, indulge in self-care, and go shopping. I graduate in May 2024, and will be back in the Fall to pursue my master's in Communication. Although I'm new to that field, I'm excited to see what's in store as I pursue another GSU degree.



## NOAH LAFOND

I am a graduate student in the English MA program and I tutor in the GSU Writing Center. I love engaging with stories in all forms and I'm always trying to

learn how to do new things. Outside of GSU, you could find me at my local bookshop, comic store, or craft store, but I'm more likely to be at home working on assignments and tackling my list of books I want to read.



## PAUL TUCKER

I am an English graduate student who is in the first year of my master's program. When I'm not reading or writing for my classes, I am spending time doing

both as hobbies, especially when it comes to writing poetry. This is my second year writing for *ArtSci*, and I love the opportunities it gives me to collaborate with others and expand my experiences with writing.





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