

**GSU Hosts Relay for Life to “Finish the Fight”**



Cancer survivors pose for the camera after completing the survivor lap in the Relay.

Governors State University’s Relay for Life was held on April 5, in the Recreation and Fitness Center boasting 12 teams and 58 participants and raised \$5,076 in its first year. This event was hosted with the purpose of bringing the community together to celebrate life and fight against cancer. The atmosphere was warm, inviting and supportive. The energy was electric in the gymnasium as survivors took their lap and were celebrated for their courage and victory against cancer. There was music, claps and cheers for these men, women, boys and girls that are continuing the fight! As part of the event, the survivor brunch brought about smiles, tears and support for the participants as they shared the stories of their journey through their difficult times. Below are comments from the event participants:

Summer 2014

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Shaniqua Jones, doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Leadership

*“Relay For Life allowed the space for me to openly share my personal journey with cervical cancer. I was able to empathize and receive support from other students and individuals who have battled cancer or have been affected by this troublesome disease. The words, FINISH THE FIGHT spoke volumes about the journey many of us walk on a daily basis. I am encouraged and relieved to know that I no longer have to hide behind the ills of cancer. I am a fighter! My children were able to finally enjoy the aftermath of watching their mother suffer. We laughed, we played and we walked for a great cause. I am forever*

*grateful for this opportunity, which has enhanced my determination to not just fight for myself but to fight for all...Thank you!”*

*“It was exciting and inspiring to be a part of the event. Our group of survivors both long-term and those going through the process right now, were so grateful to be recognized. Nothing trumps the companionship, support and understanding of shared anxiety when it is tempered by shared love and trust. As Ian Malcolm said in the movie, Jurassic Park, ‘Life finds a way.’ I felt our event was a wonderful expression of that LIFE.”*



Tony Labriola, Professor, Communication, Visual and Performing Arts

## From the Dean of Students: We are Jaguars! We Persevere!



Before we welcome our first freshmen, and before we open the doors to our first university residence, we became Jaguar Nation! On Tuesday, May 6, the Hall of Governors was full of energy and excitement in anticipation of our #OperationMascot reveal.

In her interview with the Southtown Star, Paula Franklin, described her rationale for submitting the suggestion for Jaguar, which would become the winning submission; she said the Jaguar “moves with precision. It’s always focused.” These are certainly some of

the characteristics which our students share with the Jaguar. While I agree our students are focused and work tirelessly to accomplish their goals, the characteristic I most associate with the Jaguar and our students is perseverance!

Jaguars are categorized as a near threatened species, and with the help of Wildlife Preservation efforts, they are fighting for survival. And with good reason, they are a beautiful and bold animal! Their perseverance, and their instinct for survival, will be critical to help ensure they survive – and thrive!

As you can see from the testimonials in our Relay for Life cover story, we have students (along with faculty and staff) who have persevered against their fight against cancer. In the profiles of student employees, you can see how they have persevered to thrive while at GSU!

GSU will grow, GSU will change. One constant will be our ability to persevere through our challenges. This I believe, is a defining characteristic of #GSUJaguarNation!

Go Jaguars!

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



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

## Jaguar Nation!

### Mascot Matchup

On April 10, four basketball teams, each representing one of the mascot finalists battled it out for supremacy in front of a large spirit-filled GSU crowd. Even though the pesky chicken tried to ruin the event, he could not dampen the spirit or enthusiasm of the masses. May the chicken rest in peace!



Ref Dean Jennings and the Chicken share a moment.



The crowd cheered for their favorite mascot nominee.

### Mascot Reveal

After more than 400 submissions and 30,000 online votes the Mascot Reveal event was held on May 6 to a crowded Hall of Governors full of excitement and anticipation. The winning nomination was submitted by Paula Franklin, a doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision.



GSU president, Dr. Elaine Maimon and Board of Trustee Chair, Brian Mitchell presented “the big check” to Paul Franklin for her winning mascot suggestion. #GSUjaguarNation Go Jaguars!



Students and staff celebrate **Jaguar Nation!**

## GSU Holds Restorative Justice Drive-In Conference



Dr. David Karp keynotes Restorative Justice Day Conference.

On Wednesday, April 16, GSU hosted a Restorative Justice Drive-in Conference. More than 25 local community agencies, middle schools and other higher education institutions, representing over 80 participants, came together to gain insight into how Restorative Justice (RJ) practices contribute to accountability and safety in our culture. Along with many firsts for GSU, this was one of the first drive-in conferences of its kind. The conference

featured student poster presentations from Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School in Harvey, Illinois.

The conference began with keynote speaker Dr. David Karp, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Professor of Sociology at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY and nationally known author for his work in Restorative Justice. Dr. Karp provided participants an overview of RJ

and how RJ has been applied across the world in various settings. Dr. Karp's presentation was followed by break sessions that allowed participants to learn more about implementing RJ practices more specifically in the community, primary education, and higher education settings.

Participants were asked what they liked most about the conference, one participant replied, "I liked that I learned how to conduct a talking circle through actively participating in one." Another participant replied, "I liked the reinforcement that a lot of the questions I ask in judicial conferences are already along the lines of restorative justice."

In addition, when asked how they planned to apply RJ principles, one participant replied, "We currently offer mediation, now we're talking about expanding our conflict resolution programs." Another participant replied, "... I hope that we can apply talking circles as a sanction when appropriate." Given participant enthusiasm and responses, RJ will definitely continue to advance in future conversations beyond the conference.

Many thanks to the conference committee and our partners throughout the university and community, your commitment and support are the reasons why this conference was such a success.

## New Student Programs Welcomes Two Student Affairs Summer Interns.

In preparation for FC14, GSU is hosting two Student Affairs graduate students through participation in the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Internship program. This highly competitive program matches orientation, transition and retention professionals and host institutions with energetic, dedicated students looking to expand their orientation experience and connections. NODA Internships take place during the summer months. This summer, GSU is thrilled welcome Brittany Czech and Maria D'Apolito as our NODA Interns.

Brittany Czech is a graduate of Northern Illinois University, and a resident of Lisle, IL. She will be starting her master's program in College Student Personnel this fall at Illinois State University. Brittany is most excited about working with Governors State's new students, and shaping the orientation program.



NODA Interns Maria D'Apolito and Brittany Czech

Maria D'Apolito is a graduate of Kent State University in Northeastern Ohio. She will complete her master's degree next May from Ohio University. Maria is

most excited about being a part of the expansion of Governors State University and learning from its faculty, staff and students.

## Graduating Students Recall How the Academic Resource Center (ARC) Enhanced Their GSU Experience!

To truly appreciate the comprehensive experience that college has to offer, one has to go beyond simply attending classes, and become part of something greater. By immersing oneself in the campus community, it is then that a student can truly appreciate the unique ecology of their academic environment, and understand how the whole of Governors State University is truly greater than all its parts. On-campus employment is an ideal way for students to integrate into the campus community.

The ARC assists students by providing a variety of services such as counseling, tutoring and new student programs to help students transition into upper level academia. Aside from supporting student success, the ARC also provides a great environment in which to learn and grow for the students who work in it. Examples of the impact on student workers from Nicole Moore, April Sebenste and Matt Sepiol follows:

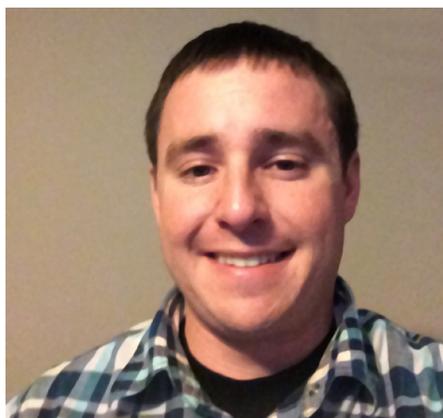


**Nicole Moore**

While there are many aspects of the ARC that are indispensable for making this university all that it can be, one in particular is the Writing Center. Nicole Moore, who worked in the Writing Center is a 2014 graduate. Nicole states, "Working in the Writing Center has been a life changing experience. This job has allowed me to connect with my peers, and see firsthand how students can grow." Nicole plans on pursuing her master's at Southern Illinois University in the fall, and looks forward to the opportunity to continue working with students.

**April Sebenste**

April Sebenste is another tutor who is moving on to graduate studies at GSU in the highly competitive Communication Disorders program, and much like all the employees in the ARC, she understands how important her work can be. April says, "I have been personally enriched by serving this diverse community of students. I take pride in my work and the students I serve. I will carry the skills and experiences I have gained while working at the Writing Center will carry throughout my career."



**Matt Sepiol**

Matt Sepiol was the accounting tutor during this past academic year. We say year in a singular tense since Matt completed his MS degree in accounting in only 12 months. In addition to this feat, Matt was also a very popular tutor in the ARC. This was especially true during the fall semester when a large number of students were struggling with both Financial Accounting (ACCT 2110) and Cost Accounting 1 (ACCT 3111). Matt also assisted students with statistics and MIS. Matt's impressive work ethic did not go unnoticed and he graduated with high honors. We all wish Matt the best as he prepares to pass the CPA exam in July.



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## Career Services Launches Four Year Career Compass



The Office of Career Services recognizes that today's college students are graduating into one of the most competitive job markets that we have seen in recent decades. It used to be that graduates had less difficulty competing right out of college with just their degree in hand. However, today with more young people attending college than ever before, the fact is that the degree alone is no longer enough to set yourself apart from the crowd.

Students need to do more during their college years to prepare for the competitiveness they will experience in the job market after graduation. The importance of career planning in college can be a bit much for some students, but in the end you'll benefit from the extra effort you put in to define your career goals and get the job you want. In order to better prepare and assist students with their career endeavors, the Office of Career Services has developed a comprehensive 4-Year Career Compass that will provide each student with the direction they need to decide upon the right major, choose the best career and land the job of their dreams.

**Freshmen year will serve as a year of exploration.** A career counselor will assist in this process and walk students through a series of steps to identify interests, skills, work values and personality preferences – all which are key factors in the career decision making process.

**Sophomore year will serve as a year of discovery,** with opportunities to see connections between an academic major and the world of work. Students will continue their work with a career counselor to begin to develop their resumes. They will be encour-

aged to volunteer, work on-campus or become involved in student organizations. Additionally, students will be encouraged to join professional associations related to their intended career field, begin conducting informational interviews, and consider attending internship fairs to begin networking with employers and exploring potential internship options.

**Junior year will serve as a year of experience,** with lots of opportunity to gain professional experience through on-campus employment, part-time jobs and internships. Students will continue to volunteer and get involved in community service activities and student organizations that will contribute to their hands-on experience. Additionally, students should attend an internship fair to network with employers and explore potential internship options. If students are considering graduate school, this is the time to begin to identify and write to graduate schools for applications, program details and fellowship/assistantship information.

**Senior year will serve as a year of presentation.** Students will continue their work with career counselors to develop a job search strategy and tailor their resume and cover letter to each position for which they apply. They will attend career fairs and use their personal network to identify opportunities. Mock interviews will be conducted to further assist students with their overall presentation, and they will be encouraged to build a strong online presence by developing a LinkedIn profile. To better prepare for the interview and job offer, students will research market trends and salary expectations for their industry and career of interest. They will identify at least three people (employers and professors) who are willing to serve as references and write letters of recommendation. Those students interested in graduate school, will select a program of interest and will send applications in early for first consideration. All of these things will prepare a student for greater success upon graduation.

GSU's 4-year Career Compass takes you step-by-step to graduation and employment. Jump on at the beginning and follow the steps each year of your education. If you are a Transfer student, you can also enter the process at any time. For more detailed information on the 4-Year Career Compass, visit [www.govst.edu/careerservices](http://www.govst.edu/careerservices) and let the Office of Career Services point you in the right direction to achieve your goals!

### Spring Career Fair

On April 14th, Career Services held the Spring Career Fair. Over 50 different vendors attended and almost 300 students, alumni and community members came looking for employment and internships.



## Profiles of Student Leadership Award Recipients

The Student Leadership Awards was held on Tuesday, April 29th in E-Lounge. This awards ceremony is designed to highlight the achievements of Student Life recognized Clubs and Organizations, as well as the staff, faculty and administrators who support them. The event, hosted by Dr. Rupert Evans, drew an audience of over 125 people who walked the red carpet into the lavishly decorated plated dinner. Remarks from GSU President, Elaine P. Maimon and Provost, Deborah Bordelon celebrated the students' many accomplishments, and reminded them of the impact that their clubs make on the university. Nearly 100 nominations were received in the 11 categories offered.



International Culture Organization members, Avalon Marciniak, Tania Urbina, Mirabel Wiryen, Anna Zapolska, Bianca Manhabhai, Manar "MiMi" Jaber, Club Advisor Katherine Haan and Kayla Randolph-Clark.

The **International Culture Organization (ICO)** was awarded **Outstanding Student Organization of the Year**. ICO is a student organization that welcomes international and domestic students at GSU to interact and connect with students from a variety of backgrounds, learn more about cultures around the world, provide with opportunities to promote global awareness and get involved with the GSU community. The club was founded in 2012, and has already hosted a number of cultural events on and off campus. Katherine Haan is the Advisor for ICO.



The **Rising Star Award** was presented to **Manar Jaber**. She is the program assistant for the Student Enrichment Program as well as a member of the International Culture Organization.



The Outstanding Support Staff category was awarded to Latonia Richmond, Advisor to the Criminal Justice Student Society. A nominee said "she is an amazing organizer, a motivator for the students and an inspiration to do more. She single-handedly put together our first induction ceremony...forged ahead and made it an amazing success!"

The **Program of the Year** recognized the **"It Can Wait Campaign"** sponsored by the **Student Healthcare Management Association**. The program was led by students Archana Liggins and Yvette McWhoter, in conjunction with AT&T. Over 300 students took the pledge to stop texting while driving. This wonderful event brought key public officials: State Senators and Representatives, local mayors, chiefs of police and fire, together along with GSU President Maimon and Provost Bordelon. Students learned about the perils of texting while driving through a table top simulator and other devices to demonstrate the dangers.

The **Club Sport of the Year** is a recognized club sport that has shown outstanding effort in competition, team management, sportsmanship and in academics. The **GSU Volleyball Club** took home this award.

The **Male Athlete of the Year** is a skillful athlete and dedicated player of a recognized club sport at GSU. This year **Penn Lin**, from the Table Tennis team, was the recipient.



Dr. Elaine Maimon, Sarah Wicklin, and Dr. Deborah Bordelon

The **Female Athlete of the Year** is a skillful athlete and dedicated player of a recognized club sport at GSU. This award went to **Sarah Wicklin**, GSU Volleyball player.

The **New Student Organization of the Year** is **The Masters of Public Administration Club (MPAC)**. Their mission is to prepare students to serve as public managers in both the public and private sectors. This objective is accomplished by providing students with an opportunity to meet high profile public servants through a lecture series, networking with MPA graduates and local elected and appointed officials. Fundraising and research opportunities are also on the club's schema. Susan Gaffney is the Advisor for MPAC.



## Profiles of Student Leadership Award Recipients (cont.)



Dr. Elaine Maimon, Stephen Hyzny, and Dr. Deborah Bordelon

The **Outstanding Student Club/Organization Advisor** is an administrative staff or faculty member currently serving as an advisor or co-advisor for the 2013-2014 academic year. The recipient has displayed exceptional service and dedication to the club or organization and student development at GSU. **Stephen Hyzny**, Advisor of the Computer Science Club was given this award.



Dr. Elaine Maimon, Arriahn Tucker, and Dr. Deborah Bordelon

Arriahn Tucker was recognized as Outstanding Graduate Student. She was selected for her displayed leadership qualities and dedication to co-curricular activities throughout her academic career. Arriahn has gone “above and beyond the call of duty” in improving campus life at GSU and being a role model for her fellow students.



Ricca Louissaint

Ricca Louissaint was recognized as Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Ricca is a demonstrated leader and focused individual. She is involved with Student Senate, the psychology Club and undergraduate research. Ricca was also selected as GSU’s 2014 Lincoln Laureate.

The Student Leadership Awards is an annual program coordinated by the Student Life office. The event is held each Spring. Award recipients are selected by committee based on nominations submitted. For more information on this and other student centered programs visit your Student Life website: [http://www.govst.edu/Campus\\_Life/Student\\_Life/](http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Student_Life/)

## VRC Hosts SALUTE Induction Ceremony



(l to r) VRC Coordinator James Flagg, Dr. Rupert Evans, Dion L. Walker, Gwendolyn Williams, James Tucker, Kimberly Spivey, Justin Purvis, Joshua Morris, Addison Jackson and Greg Dole.



To cap off the end of a busy, but successful Spring 2014 semester, the SALUTE (Service – Academics – Leadership – Unity – Tribute – Excellence) Veterans National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on May 2. The 25 veterans who were inducted in the Spring ceremony have achieved academic success by maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0. The students who were inducted received a certificate, challenge coin and honor cord to wear with their cap and gown during graduation. Congratulations to all of our new inductees!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Veterans Resource Center and how our office supports you as a student here at GSU, be sure to visit our website at [www.govst.edu/veterans](http://www.govst.edu/veterans), or better yet, visit us in person in Room A2109!

## Student Affairs Spring 2014 Snapshots



### Leadership Institute

Art Gallery Director, Jeff Stevenson and his mentee, Amanda Ziaja, Art Student, reflect on the Student Leadership Institute experience at the closing ceremony held on March 4.



### GSU Goes Blue!

GSU Goes Blue event was held on April 15 for Autism awareness. Pictured (l to r): Student Ricca Louissaint, and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Randi Schneider.



### Tau Sigma E-Board

(l to r) Candice Robbins, Lisa Barnes, Ricca Louissaint, Kristi Hendershott and Cynthia Pruitt attended the Tau Sigma National Honor Society Induction Ceremony that was held on April 22.



### Summer Orientation Leaders

(back row l to r): Rakesh Margam, Joe Klis, Jeremy Joyce, Derrick Brown, and Doug Nanfeldt; (front row l to r): Critisha Asley, Kimberly Mattison, Rachel Shaw, Paula Franklin, Ricca Louissaint and Doria Scott. Monique Mobley not pictured.

Family  
& Friends  
weekend  
Governors State University

October  
9-12

## Save the Dates!

### Basketball Exhibition Season kicks off Family and Friend Weekend!

Starting October 9, 2014 the Governors State Jaguars will begin their collegiate exhibition basketball season versus the Trinity International Trojans. The full season schedule will be announced shortly including our Lady Jaguars. We encourage the entire GSU community to come out and support GSU athletics and cheer your Jaguars on to victory.

**GSU's inaugural Family and Friends Weekend is scheduled for October 9-12, 2014.** Parents, families and alumni are invited to campus to join students, faculty and staff in an exciting three-day event celebrating our shared community and this transformative moment in our history. For event information and full schedule, visit [www.govst.edu/weekend](http://www.govst.edu/weekend).

For updates and a complete calendar of events, visit: [www.govst.edu/campus\\_life/](http://www.govst.edu/campus_life/).

