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GSU View

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GSU View, April 3, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
Governors State University

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News

Jaguar Championship Banners Unveiled



Jaguar Nation turned out to show support for the 2017 - 18 Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) men's basketball championship team and witness the unveiling of dual championship banners in the Hall of Governors on Monday.

Read about the team's February conference championship – a first in university history – and the players' individual accomplishments in [this GSU Newsroom story](#).

Research Day 2018



Research Day 2018

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

GSU's annual [Research Day](#) recognizes and celebrates the research activities of students and faculty throughout the past academic year. Research Day 2018 will take place this **Friday, April 6**, beginning with an Opening Welcome by Interim Provost Beth Cada in Engbretson Hall at 9 a.m.

Breakout sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and the first of three poster sessions begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Hall of Governors. Lunch, provided by several student organizations, will be available for purchase in the Hall of Governors, beginning at noon.

[View complete details for all sessions.](#)

GSU Featured in Equity Webinar



GSU, one of thirteen institutions that participated in a three-year effort to craft campus-based strategies to advance equity in higher education, has been selected to contribute to a web-based panel discussion, [A Vision for Equity: Campus-Based Strategies for Committing to Equity and Inclusive Excellence](#), on **April 19**.

The national webinar is timed with a recent release of a 60-page report by the same name, said Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students, who led the GSU project and will present the university's findings during the webinar hosted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). The report can be downloaded for free by [clicking here](#).

[Learn more about the Vision for Equity Project.](#)

2018 Commencement Speakers: Call for Student Nominations!

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony, **Saturday, May 19**. This year, both a commencement speaker from the

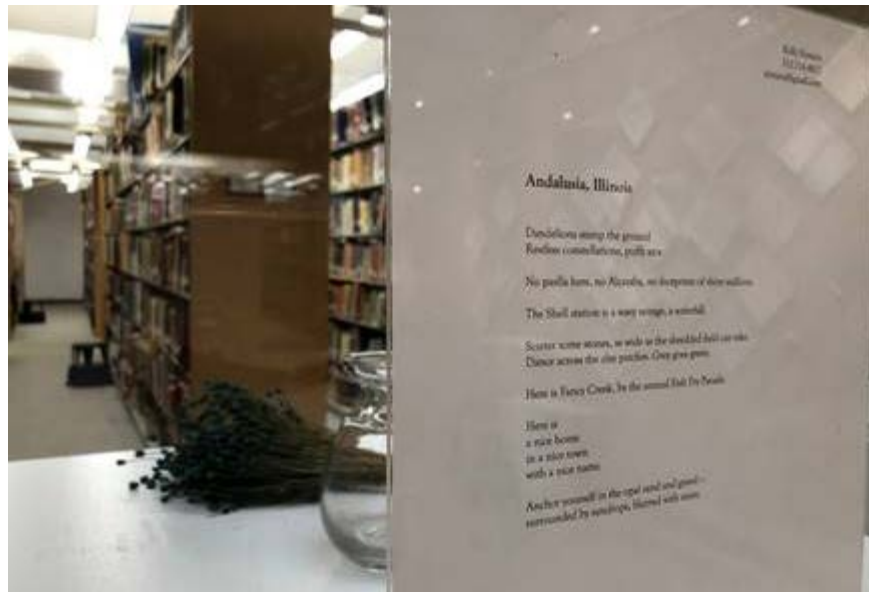
freshman class of 2014 and a commencement speaker who represents the student population will be selected.

As a result, there will be two commencement speakers at each ceremony, and we are seeking nominations for candidates who represent all colleges. Students may self-nominate, but they must have a faculty member complete the recommendation form.

Submit the [Student Commencement Speaker nomination form](#) (and faculty recommendation form if needed) no later than **April 13**.

Nominees must be available to attend the mandatory interview on **Friday, April 20** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

National Poetry Month at GSU



April is National Poetry Month, and all at GSU are invited to stop into the Library Skylight Gallery and share a line from your favorite poem, or share some of your own poetry.

“We are pleased to have an Object Poetry exhibit in the library through the month of April,” offered [Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library](#). “As part of the exhibit, we have also devoted space where students, faculty, and staff can write a line from their favorite poem or their own poetry on paper and put it into the clear sleeves hanging from the wall,” she said.

The *Share Your Favorite Poem* exhibit will be up through April, and all are encouraged to participate. If you have questions, please contact [the GSU Library](#).

2018 Student Senate Elections: Cast Your Ballot

Voting for the Student Senate candidates and Board of Trustee Student Representative will begin **Monday, April 2** and will remain open until **Friday, April 6** at 11:59 p.m.

[Log in to Jaguar Connection](#) to cast your ballot.

The following students are running for a seat on the Student Senate:

College of Arts & Sciences
Derrick O. Brown

German Cutz
Isaiah Moore
Cariesha C. Singleton

College of Business
Lester V. Moody III

College of Education
Natasha Dillard

Board of Trustee Student Representative
Linda A. Coleman

For additional information contact [Student Life](#) or call 708.235.7362.

Conversations with Leaders: Anthony “Tony” Bates



Bates holds up five fingers to represent the 5P rule: “Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.”

GSU Athletic Director [Anthony “Tony” Bates](#), fresh off a historic men's basketball championship season, insists his work on the court is not about sports.

“My vision is for student-athletes to come here and have a great experience, but ultimately I want to see them graduate,” said Bates, also the university's Head Coach for its first men's basketball team.

A former insurance agency owner who earned a business degree from Trinity Christian College, Bates arrived at GSU in 2013 with a literal plan—a 16-page proposal that envisioned a four-year school that offered athletics.

Bates had stumbled across GSU in 2011 looking for tennis courts, and he spent the next two years proposing an athletics department at GSU, which at the time was still an upper division school with no such program.

[Read more . . .](#)

Two Jaguars Earn CCAC All-Academic Team Honors



Sophomore forward [Amber Brooks](#) and senior center [Tiana Mericle](#) of the Governors State women's basketball team have been named to the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

The CCAC All-Academic Team recognizes student-athletes with cumulative grade-point averages above 3.25 (entering the Spring 2018 term) who have been enrolled for one academic year and have completed at least 30 semester hours.

[Read more . . .](#)

Children of GSU Employees Eligible for Scholarship

As a member of the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce, Governors State University employees' children are eligible to [apply](#) for its annual merit scholarship competition. The Chamber offers this [scholarship](#) annually to graduating high school seniors.

For more information, click [here](#).

Student Short Film Submissions Now Being Accepted for Chicago Southland International Film Festival



[GSU](#) is launching a film festival with two events to take place over six weeks in August and September. The inaugural [Chicago Southland International Film Festival](#) (CSIFF) will showcase emerging talent as it serves its mission to support the visual and performing arts in Chicago's Southland.

A feature film showcase will kick off the CSIFF on **August 4**. The showcase is a community-wide film

screening and discussion event to provide filmmakers with a public performance and the opportunity to participate in facilitated post screening Q&A sessions with a diverse audience. The CSIFF planning committee will announce its film selections in the coming months.

The CSIFF is now accepting film submissions for its second event, an international student short film competition to be held **September 15 – 16**. Short film submissions are being accepted in the narrative and documentary categories from high school, college, and graduate students. Visit [CSIFF](#) to review categories and entry guidelines.

Find out [how to submit](#).

Illinois Governor's Mansion Association Accepting Logo Design Submissions



Student artists can now [submit a new logo design](#) to the Illinois Governor's Mansion Association for a chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize and recognition at a ceremony with the Governor and First Lady.

For information on entry guidelines, click [here](#) or contact [Lana Rogachevskaya](#).

Apply Now for a 2018 GSU Foundation Scholarship

[Governors State University Foundation and Alumni Association scholarship funding](#) recognizes academic excellence with scholarships awarded to deserving students in pursuit of a GSU degree. More than 185 scholarships totaling more than \$200,000 are being offered for the fall 2018 semester to GSU students via this in-house program. Apply by **Friday, April 13**, for consideration.

View a full list of scholarships, as well as application guidelines, [here](#).

Reserve Your University Sustainable Garden Plots



Begin preparing your gardening tools to use at the University Sustainable Garden! Beginning April 16, GSU will once again offer garden plots for the 2018 growing season. The University Sustainable Garden gives faculty, staff, students, and community members an opportunity to grow organic vegetables of their choice. Facilities Development & Management has expanded the size and number of plots based on demand. Make 2018 a healthier year for you and your family! Stay tuned for more announcements in the upcoming weeks.

For more information, click [here](#).

Announcements and Events

Urbanization Posters on Display

More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion. This urbanization will bring huge social, economic, and environmental transformations.

Dr. [Xiaoyong Chen](#), Professor of Biology, and Nadine Kahl, an undergraduate student in GSU's [B.S. in Biology program](#), have completed a project that addresses urbanization issues. The project provides the updated information on the issues leading to the urbanization, the effects of urbanization on human health and environments, and the stratagems for sustainable management of our cities.

A total of six posters derived from this project are on display along the walkway on the first floor in the F Building. The exhibition will be on display through **April 13**.

Student IEA Conference

The Student Education Association (SEA) is part of the Illinois Education Association (IEA), which supports and promotes networking among individuals from the education community. The IEA hosts a conference each semester, and [this semester's conference](#) is at the Hilton in Lisle, IL (Chicago suburbs) from **Friday, April 6**, through **Saturday, April 7**.

On Friday, the IEA has planned a Legacy Project, which will begin in the early afternoon. Saturday, members will take part in a variety of professional development workshops led by current teachers, professors, district administrators, and professionals in the field. Pre-service teachers have the opportunity to attend numerous high quality information sessions on a variety of subjects pertaining to the teaching profession. Along with the sessions, SEA members will have opportunities to meet and socialize with fellow SEA members from universities across Illinois. Pre-service teachers may also walk away with materials and prizes.

This professional development opportunity is only open to members of SEA. The conference costs a

small amount in comparison to the meals, knowledge, and materials that comes with it. Registration deadline is **April 2**. For more information, contact the SEA Student Vice-President, [Jessica Dunahoo](#).

[View the agenda and register here.](#)

Run, Walk, or Roll For Rehab

Come join the Physical Therapy Student Association at Governors State University, as we host our annual "Run, Walk, or Roll For Rehab" to benefit the Illinois Brain Injury Association. This 5k event will take place on campus at 9 a.m. on **Sunday, April 8**. Running through Governors State University's 750 acre campus, you will enjoy the openness of our campus while winding through unique sculptures and artwork. Come join us for racing, running, or recreation as we work to benefit this important organization.

Financial Literacy 101

Join [Brian McKenna](#), Associate Professor of Accounting and Tax, for a workshop on Budgeting, Borrowing, Investing, and Insurance.

There are two opportunities to attend: **Monday, April 9**, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Honors, or **Monday, April 23**, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

[Registration](#) is free but required. The event is open to all GSU students and community members, and is brought to you by the [GSU College of Business](#) with support from a PNC Foundation Grant.

Nursing Student Town Hall

Those interested in learning more about nursing can ask questions about the field, as well as meet professors and members of the department, at the Nursing Open House **Tuesday, April 10**, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

This gathering also will allow current students from all nursing programs (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) the opportunity to meet the director, clinical coordinators, and instructors.

Multicultural Fashion Show on April 12



The [Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) and student club [International Cultural Organization \(ICO\)](#) are teaming up once again for their annual Multicultural Fashion Show. The event will take place in the CPA Lobby on **Thursday, April 12** from 3 – 4:30 p.m. We invite all community members to join in celebrating our cultural diversity at GSU through fashion, song, dance, and friendship!

Affection Section – Meet Exotic Animals!

Meet and greet up to 10 exotic animals on campus on **Thursday, April 12** from 1 – 4 p.m. on the Library Balcony. This hands-on experience exposes you to the wilder side of the animal kingdom.

Sponsored by [Student Life](#) and the [GSU Library](#).

Register for Safe Use of Social Media for Educators (and Others)



Mark your calendars for a workshop **Wednesday, April 18**, from 3 – 4:15 p.m. in D2401A in the library to attend a workshop conducted by lecturer Steve Hzyny, Cisco CCNA, CCAI, Microsoft MCSE, Novell MCNE, CNI Comptia A+, Network+ CTT+, Server+, Security+, Project+, Certified Advanced Security Practitioner CISSP.

The workshop will focus on the dangers of connecting; outcomes that can impact tenure; and a review of best practices for using social media to connect safely with parents and students. A Q&A will follow.

This workshop is open to all in the GSU community and is presented by the GSU Library, Student Education Association, and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society. Please RSVP by **April 16**, to [Hannah Gruben](#). For information, please contact [Alexis H. Sarkisian](#).

Spring Open Market

GSU's Civil Service Senate is sponsoring the Annual Spring Open Market on **Wednesday, April 18 – Thursday, April 19** from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Please join us as we welcome different vendors, crafters, and artisans to campus that will offer a variety of products for sale to the GSU community.

For more information or to become a vendor, email civilservice@govst.edu. This event is open to all GSU faculty, staff, and students, as well as the greater community.

College of Business Information Session

Join the [College of Business](#) for its information session on **Saturday April 21**, at 10 a.m. in the F1622 lecture hall. During this session, you will have the opportunity to meet faculty members, current students in graduate programs, and staff and program coordinators.

This is a great opportunity to learn about business program and how business impacts your life. The AACSB-accredited College of Business programs are offered in online, on-campus, and hybrid formats to fit your academic needs.

[Registration](#) is required.

Bringing People Together with Music, Celebrating the Language of Our Times

Join us for a one-night only concert exploring the rich blues legacy of our region and its parallels to hip hop. [The Blues Hip Hop Experience](#) on **Saturday April 21** at 8 p.m. combines poetry, performance, and perspective for a multigenerational audience.

Music has long served as a vehicle to give voice to the plight of the people and to their triumphs.

“These African-American oral traditions bridge generational and cultural divides, uniting people from all backgrounds for a shared experience that brings the rich musical legacy of Chicago and our production from Millennium Park to life in the southland,” comments co-host and producer Sylvia Ewing. “This is our chance to show that the Blues is a relevant vibrant art form and hip hop is more than controversial music videos and questionable rap lyrics,” Ewing adds.

[Tickets](#) are \$28, \$10 for students and \$25 for GSU staff and faculty.

Joliet Slammers Fundraiser



The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) are hosting a May 30 social and fundraiser at the 7 p.m. [Joliet Slammers](#) game on the Silver Cross Field in Joliet. The Slammers, a professional baseball team, will be battling the Washington Wild Things in one of the first games of the season.

There was a great turnout at this event last year; SEA leaders, faculty, and staff from GSU brought their family and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tickets are \$10 per person; portions of proceeds of ticket purchases will go to both organizations. Contact any leader of the SEA to purchase tickets (tickets must be purchased for cash from a student leader). For more information, contact [Hannah Gruben](#).

Content Marketing Fellowship Opportunity in Vienna

GSU students pursuing a career in marketing can now apply for a [two-month content marketing fellowship](#) in Vienna, Austria. The successful applicant will hone their skills under the leadership of marketing specialists, obtaining an invaluable international work experience that will set them apart from

competitors in their field.

The applicant will be individually mentored by content writers, performance marketing analysts, and social media marketers. Housing for the duration of the fellowship and a stipend of \$1,200 (USD) per month is provided.

Apply [here](#) by May 25.

Highlights

Jeffrey Alfano



Jeffrey Alfano, a university lecturer in the [College of Business](#), began his journey with [Governors State University](#) in 2004 as a graduate student.

After ten years in the workforce, including three as vice president of operations for Skipper Marine Electronics, he decided it was time to return to school to complete a [Master of Science in Management Information Systems](#).

“GSU had the location and degree I wanted and the security of knowing that I would have my degree paid for through the graduate assistantship program,” said [Alfano](#).

Not long after finishing his master’s degree, Alfano joined the faculty as adjunct instructor and served as the IT manager for the College of Business.

[Read more . . .](#)

CAS Professor Takes Restorative Justice to Brazil



GSU [Professor Joao Salm](#) and professor Susan Sharpe from Notre Dame University, were in Brazil this March. They were invited by the Supreme Courts of the States of Santa Catarina and Sao Paulo, The Canadian Embassy, and the Catholic University of Sao Paulo (PUCSP), to lecture on restorative justice at the University of Brasilia (UnB). Professors Salm and Sharpe spoke to more than 800 people from all over Brazil and South America, among them Judge Alexandre Takashima, the assistant to Brazil's Chief Justice, Carmen Lucia.

View photos of Dr. Salm's trip [here](#).

GSU and Golf: A Family Affair for Reilly Clan



Among the patrons that frequent Lincoln Oaks Golf Course in Crete was a gentleman known for his green golf shoes. Those spikes belonged to a left-handed hitter named Mike Reilly, now 85 years old, who just a few years ago was still playing the sport he loved three times a week. The passion makes sense: as he is from Scotland, after all.

That passion was passed on to his son, Jim, CEO at Cavan Capital LLC who also serves as a partner at

Lincoln Oaks. Jim's association with the course has been beneficial to the Governors State men's and women's golf programs, who practice at the Lincoln Oaks range and use the facility as a home course. It's Jim Reilly's way of giving back to GSU, a place he remembers from his youth.

"My brother Michael and I would play basketball in the gymnasium when dad was at work. It had a rubberized floor then." If the boys weren't tagging along at work, they would spend their days playing 36 holes of golf, remembers Jim.

The elder Reilly worked at Governors State from 1973-1997, a member of IUOE Local 399. When his boss Mike Foley retired, Reilly was promoted to Chief of Engineers, Maintenance, and Electricians. In this role, he oversaw general maintenance, working closely with electricians, carpenters, painters and janitors to make sure all the facilities ran smoothly. And when things didn't, he answered the call.

[Read more . . .](#)

Career Development Presentation by Parrish Ivy, Deloitte Tax Partner



On Wednesday, **March 28**, the [College of Business](#), [GSU Institutional Advancement](#), and [GSU Career Services](#) co-sponsored a career development event for GSU students who are interested in learning more about career opportunities at top accounting and professional service firms. Mr. Parrish Ivy, Partner at Deloitte LLP, presented to an audience of approximately 50 COB students and shared his insights on career planning and success in public accounting and other industries. Ms. Stephanie Carr, Tax Manager at Deloitte LLP, and adjunct faculty in the College of Business, also participated in the presentation.

Sandy says, "Thank You to the GSU Library for my Wonderful Birthday Party!"



What a surprise to walk onto the balcony today and see all of the beautiful decorations in honor of my birthday. It is fun to be 5 years old—in dog years that’s about 35 years old!

Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten of the library brought in wonderful decorations and had fun presents for me. I particularly liked the ball, which is great for tricks and chewing. (You can see it in my picture.) The very best present is my new Frisbee. Dean Lydia even brought in Rice Crispy treats for everyone who came to visit me.

A special thanks for all of you who came to celebrate my birthday today. I appreciate you coming to see me so much!

Yours with great Jaguar Pride,
Sandy, your Library Therapy Dog

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including the next Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag, Writing Center workshops, and Library workshops can be found [here](#).

Faculty: If you have not already done so, it’s time to have a new headshot photograph taken. Please refer to the [schedule](#) to find a convenient time.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



Governors State University
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University Park, IL, April 01, 2018

Conversations with Leaders: Anthony "Tony" Bates

Governors State University (<http://www.govst.edu/>) (GSU) Athletic Director [Anthony "Tony" Bates](http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/GSU_Athletics_and_Recreation/Meet_Tony_Bates/) (http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/GSU_Athletics_and_Recreation/Meet_Tony_Bates/), fresh off a historic men's basketball championship season, insists his work on the court is not about sports.

"My vision is for student-athletes to come here and have a great experience, but ultimately I want to see them graduate," said Bates, also the university's Head Coach for its first men's basketball team.

A former insurance agency owner who earned a business degree from Trinity Christian College, Bates arrived at GSU in 2013 with a literal plan—a 16-page proposal that envisioned a four-year school that offered athletics.

Bates had stumbled across GSU in 2011 looking for tennis courts, and he spent the next two years proposing an athletics department at GSU, which at the time was still an upper division school with no such program.

At the time Bates was associate men's basketball coach at St. Xavier University, and before that he had spent 15 years coaching high school boys. Both were part-time positions. Now, Bates saw a full-scale opportunity at GSU.

His bound proposal, its pages now tinged yellow, called out the "sleeping giant" at the university, already well known as an upper division institution with a great existing location and facilities, and relationships with other junior colleges in the area. Converting the university to a four year school with sports just made sense.

Ironically, when Bates presented his ideas to GSU's Aurelio Valente, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and Gebe Ejigu, then executive vice president and chief of staff, he had no way of knowing leaders two weeks prior had submitted a white paper to the Board of Trustees on the same topic.

Luckily, Bates's vision aligned with that of the transformation architects, he said. "About 80 percent of what you see today is in my plan, too," he said.

Today, Bates leads seven teams at GSU—men's and women's basketball, cross country, golf, and women's volleyball—and is planning to add men's and women's soccer. More importantly, he counts 17 graduates since the Jaguars were born in 2014.

Some would say persistence met opportunity to create space for Bates to hold court at GSU, but he sees it differently. "Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance: the 5P Rule. That's what we live by. In this case, I was prepared."

GSU's would be the second program Bates molded from nothing.

At just 19 years of age, Bates helped create a team at the tiny Tabernacle Christian Academy on the South Side of Chicago. At its most populous the school had about 125 high school students. Still, in 15 seasons Bates led the Mighty Eagles to a 385-93 record—despite having no home gymnasium or athletic budget—and won five straight championships. The school closed for lack of enrollment in the late '90s.

"Of the kids I have for four years, 90 percent go on to a college or university," Bates told the [Chicago Tribune](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1995-02-17/sports/9502170376_1_basketball-shoes-high-school-grades-tabernacle-christian), (http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1995-02-17/sports/9502170376_1_basketball-shoes-high-school-grades-tabernacle-christian) which profiled Tabernacle's unlikely victors in 1995. "That's the thing I'm most proud of—not winning or losing basketball games."



At GSU, he moved quickly from concept to execution, scouring the world—one athlete came from Ethiopia—to hand pick a team. Successful players would be those who wanted to be pioneers. “So many people want to follow,” Bates said. “We didn’t have anything to follow. I was looking for leaders. I was looking for someone to put down their footprint.”

Four players who made deep impressions in 2018 were Jalen Miller, a 2017 GSU graduate now studying business, and juniors [Shane Maple](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/413.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/413.php>), [Robbie Brooks](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/409.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/409.php>), and [Nathan Skrobot](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/449.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/449.php>).

During the 2017-18 regular season, the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) named Miller Player of the Year. Following the regular season, [Miller earned All-CCAC First Team and NAIA All-America Second Team honors](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/577.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/577.php>), [Maple](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/413.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/413.php>), [All-CCAC Second Team, Brooks](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/409.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/409.php>), [All-CCAC Honorable Mention, and Skrobot](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/roster/4/1/449.php) was honored as GSU’s recipient of the NAIA Champions of Character Individual Student Award.



In that [same ceremony](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/565.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/565.php>), Bates was named Co-Coach of the year. Ever the consummate coach, Bates praised his team. “These young men have helped change the culture at GSU, and we’re so proud of them.”

Launching the Athletic Department to change the GSU culture, infusing more excitement in and around the school, was part of the plan he presented back in 2013.

In 2016, [Stephanie Clarkson](https://gsunews.govst.edu/jaguar-aims-to-lead-the-pack/) (<https://gsunews.govst.edu/jaguar-aims-to-lead-the-pack/>) was the first GSU student to compete in a national championship, competing against 300 of the best runners in the NAIA Cross Country competition.

2017 saw the women’s golf team recognized as an [Academic National Champion](http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/411.php) (<http://www.gsu-jaguars.com/article/411.php>), by the Golf Coaches Association of America for a team GPA of 3.73.

And in 2018, the men’s basketball team competing in the 27th Annual NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball National Championship was a slam dunk for the plan, Bates said.

“The run the team made this year really puts GSU on the map from an athletics standpoint ... Now *my* phone is ringing,” he said. “And, my other teams are inspired.”

However, these high points had been preceded by some very dark ones. By the end of the Jaguars’ first season, two recruits and a former player had been lost to gun violence. [Saieed Ivey](https://gsunews.govst.edu/los-angeles-gun-violence-jolts-gsu-community/) (<https://gsunews.govst.edu/los-angeles-gun-violence-jolts-gsu-community/>) was part of GSU’s Club Team in 2014. After his first year, Ivey went to California to play when he met an untimely death.

Bates said he was “devastated” by the loss, an eerie reminder of his days growing up in a gang-infested area now known as Bucktown.

The area was tough, but Bates’s parents were tougher. They instilled high discipline and academic achievement in him and his six siblings. Though his own basketball skills took him overseas to play, he took classes during the off season to finish his undergraduate degree—a promise he made to his parents. He also holds a master’s degree in athletics administration from Northcentral University (Arizona).

Bates thinks about his parents’ push now as he engages his players to excel both on the court and in the classroom.

“The ultimate goal, the ultimate championship, is graduation day. When Jalen walks across the stage with my other four seniors—that’s a championship for me.”

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

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and Sciences (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/)

College of Business (<http://www.govst.edu/COB/>)

BROOKS, MERICLE NAMED TO CCAC ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Women's Basketball - Fri, Mar. 30, 2018



Photo credit: Charles Beard Photography

UNIVERSITY PARK, IL — Sophomore forward Amber Brooks and senior center Tiana Mericle of the Governors State women's basketball team have been named to the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

The CCAC All-Academic Team recognizes student-athletes with cumulative grade-point averages above 3.25 (entering the Spring 2018 term) who have been enrolled for one academic year and have completed at least 30 semester hours.

Brooks earned All-CCAC Honorable Mention honors after leading GSU in scoring (13.7 ppg) and rebounding (9.5 rpg). She finished with 411 points and 284 rebounds — both school records. The Lyons, Illinois native ranked second in NAIA Division II in offensive rebounds (4.7) and 15th in total rebounds. She led the team in scoring eight times and was the team's leading rebounder in 21 games. A computer science major, Brooks also recorded 13 double-doubles.

Mericle completed her second season at GSU as the school's record-holder for blocks in a game (7), season (53) and career (84). She finished 14th nationally in blocks and posted the sixth-best field goal percentage (.545) in conference play. A native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, Mericle tallied a career-high 18 points against Bethel and Judson and scored in double-figures 10 times. She also collected 14 rebounds against Olivet Nazarene on Jan. 31. The junior college transfer is majoring in social work.

GSU finished 11-19 overall and 6-14 in the CCAC.

GSU AND GOLF A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR REILLY CLAN

Golf - Thu, Mar. 1, 2018



(L-R): Mike and Jim Reilly

NAPERVILLE, IL — Among the patrons that frequent Lincoln Oaks Golf Course in Crete was a gentleman known for his green golf shoes. Those spikes belonged to a left-handed hitter named Mike Reilly, now 85 years old, who just a few years ago was still playing the sport he loved three times a week. The passion for golf makes sense, he is from Ireland after all.

That passion was passed on to his son, Jim, CEO at Cavan Capital LLC who also serves as a partner at Lincoln Oaks. Jim's association with the course has been beneficial to the Governors State men's and women's golf programs, who practice at the Lincoln Oaks range and use the facility as a home course. It's Jim Reilly's way of giving back to GSU, a place he remembers from his youth.

"My brother Michael and I would play basketball in the gymnasium when dad was at work. It had a rubberized floor then." If the boys weren't tagging along at work, they would spend their days playing 36 holes of golf, remembers Jim.

The elder Reilly worked at Governors State from 1973-1997, a member of IUOE Local 399. When his boss Mike Foley retired, Mike Reilly was promoted to Chief of Engineers, Maintenance and Electricians. In this role, he oversaw general maintenance, working closely with electricians, carpenters, painters and janitors to make sure all the facilities ran smoothly. And when things didn't, he answered the call.

Like the time a water main burst and Mike spent the entire weekend on campus taking care of the crisis. When the opportunity afforded, he took his sons to work with him — hence the basketball games at the gymnasium. It was a family affair no doubt. His son, Michael, even spent a few summers working for his father.

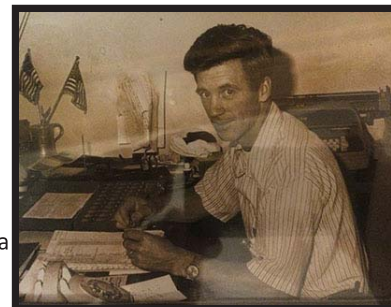
"My dad had keys to everything," says Jim. "You could tell he really enjoyed his time working at GSU."

When asked about his favorite memories of working at GSU, Mike Reilly doesn't hesitate: "the people," he said. And he feeling was mutual. GSU employees still remember Mike's days on campus.

"Mike was really committed to doing a good job, to providing great customer service," said Ila Gallagher, who worked in building and plant operations. "He was very fair and a good listener when dealing with people. Just a great guy."

"It was fun working with Mike, we had a good team back then," said Louis Schultz, Jr., who serves as a University architectural draftsman.

Mike Reilly found his way to GSU after working at McCormick Place and serving as a medic in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He came to the U.S. at the age of 23 and later met his wife of 58 years, Teresa, who incidentally was born just one day apart from his husband. You can say it was meant to be.



In retirement Mike can marvel at the growth of GSU, which includes the addition of seven varsity sports that compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC).

"Governors State was good to my dad, he has nothing but great memories of the University and the people he dealt with," says Jim.

GSU Head Golf Coach Mark Haines is appreciative of the Reilly's contributions to GSU through the years.

"I'm grateful to have a place that our student-athletes can practice and hit range balls anytime during the season," said Haines. "Jim's generosity makes it possible for us to have a home course so close to campus."



University Park, IL, March 30, 2018

Jeffrey Alfano

Jeffrey Alfano, a university lecturer in the [College of Business \(http://www.govst.edu/cob/\)](http://www.govst.edu/cob/), began his journey with [Governors State University \(http://www.govst.edu/\)](http://www.govst.edu/) in 2004 as a graduate student.

After ten years in the workforce, including three as vice president of operations for Skipper Marine Electronics, he decided it was time to return to school to complete a [Master of Science in Management Information Systems \(http://www.govst.edu/MSMIS/\)](http://www.govst.edu/MSMIS/).

"GSU had the location and degree I wanted and the security of knowing that I would have my degree paid for through the graduate assistantship program," said [Alfano \(http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/jalfano/\)](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/jalfano/).

Not long after finishing his master's degree, Alfano joined the faculty as adjunct instructor and served as the IT manager for the College of Business.



As a faculty member, he now teaches courses in information technology, information systems and networking. "I really like teaching, and I joke with my students that once GSU got me as a student, they couldn't get rid of me. "I've been working here in various forms ever since I started my master's degree."

GSU Newsroom: What do you tell students about technology and its role in business?

Alfano: One of the things I try to tell my students is adopting technology for the sake of adopting technology

isn't appropriate. When you adopt technology, it has to match your strategy, whether you are starting your own business or working for a larger company.

GSU Newsroom: What do you hope your students get out of your class?

Alfano: For my undergraduate students, mine is a required course. For those wondering why they are in it, I try to teach them that they are a part of a larger system, and when operating in that system, there's going to be some kind of technology. They're part of a system and at some point they will be touching information processes for the business.

GSU Newsroom: What is the key tool you give your students?

Alfano: Excel and pivot tables.

Many job positions require you to analyze data, and in my Microsoft Office course I teach them in Excel how to do a pivot table. In my Management Information Systems course with juniors and seniors, I do a business simulation with [SAP \(https://www.sap.com/index.html\)](https://www.sap.com/index.html). In that project, they are placed in teams competing against each other selling six products. They have to identify the hot sellers, and I show them how a simple pivot table can analyze sales and give them the exact answer.

It's one of those tools that, depending on what you are going into, can be very valuable.

GSU Newsroom: Although students are more tech savvy now, what are some of the challenges they face?

Alfano: Many of my students are digital natives. They always had a smart phone. With this generation of students, they know how to entertain themselves with electronics. I ask my students what their typical tech consumption is. Many say they do Facebook, take pictures, or use it to communicate or stream videos. But they don't necessarily know how it can be used as a tool for other things.

Just because it's technology doesn't mean it's good. I think we've lost many of our interpersonal skills because of technology. Businesses need to look at these things, how they can use technology, and if it fits with their mission or helps achieve their goals.

Is it going to improve efficiency? Does it help reach more customers? If any of those answers are no, then maybe they shouldn't adopt the new technology. Sometimes tried and true is best. Use the KISS principle -- keep it simple.

GSU Newsroom: How do you connect with your students?

Alfano: In many ways, I am a first generation college student, so my real-world experiences are useful to share.

The textbook is important, but I also share some things I experienced that I found valuable.



GSU Newsroom: What was your first computer?

Alfano: The Commodore Vic 20. I wanted to know how to program video games.

I watched the TV ads with William Shatner promoting the Commodore Vic 20 and I took my birthday money, rode my bike to Toys 'R Us, and bought my first computer. It was a couple hundred dollars.

Later, I loaded up with nickels, dimes, and quarters and rode my bike to the Frankfort Library to photocopy the games printed in Compute! Magazine and typed those into my computer at home.

GSU Newsroom: What is a motto or mission statement you live by?

Alfano: I have a few. Trust no one—from a security standpoint. Save early. Save often. Always have a backup. Plan ahead, get ahead, stay ahead. You know what's coming up. You have to plan for it and deal with it accordingly.

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"If you are starting out on your career, and just getting going, this is a good way to move from the college attire to the professional attire —affordably."

Bates agreed. "How great do they look? They are all going to be professional. Maybe not professional basketball players, but professional lawyers and doctors, that's what I see."



President Maimon praised the leadership skills and dedication of the men's team. "Our young men played hard in every game, even after they won the regular season," she told supporters, adding that their work ethic reinforces a point of pride for the university's athletes and students. "It's a matter of character. Our athletes are fully present – in the classroom as much as they are on the playing field."

Monday's ceremony ended with the men's team proceeding down a receiving line of high-fiving well-wishers towards the Hall of Honors for a lunch fit for champions.

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