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GSU View

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News and Events

Consciousness Raising at NMSP

Blue skies and a perfect late-summer afternoon greeted nearly 70 visitors to Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at last Saturday's first-ever Carts and Cocktails get-together.



NMSP Director and Curator Geoffrey Bates described the gathering as a consciousness-raising event that gave a number of first-time visitors a chance to see, and learn about, monumental works of art placed in a stunning natural landscape on GSU's campus.

Following a patio reception next to GSU's main pond, participants were treated to a tour of the sculpture park on golf carts. Bates, along with NMSP board members and docents, described individual sculptures and the conservation needs of artwork constantly exposed to the extremes of Midwest weather conditions.

"I believe this was a signal event for the park's collection, in that it exceeded our visitors' expectations significantly and put both the university and the sculpture park on the map for a group of people previously not familiar with NMSP," Bates said.

Bates thanked the numerous volunteers who contributed to the success of Carts and Cocktails.

Dean Bordelon to Lead Graduate Studies

GSU Provost Terry Allison announced this week that Dr. Deborah Bordelon has been appointed the university's Dean of Graduate Studies. Dr. Bordelon will continue to serve as Dean of the College of Education.

Read Dr. Allison's full [memo](#).

Thriller Preview On Campus Today

A special preview of *Thriller, the Legend Continues* will rock the Hall of Governors today at 12:15 p.m. The show's lead singer and four dancers will perform numbers from the show, a tribute to Michael Jackson. The preview is free and open to the public.

GSU students can attend *Thriller, the Legend Continues* for the special price of \$25 per ticket. Student tickets are available at the Center for Performing Arts box office. Student ID is required.

Thriller, the Legend Continues takes place Saturday, October 1, at 8 p.m., at the Center for Performing Arts. The show includes an onstage lineup of "Our Michael," musicians, background singers, and dancers. The concert replicates Michael Jackson's BAD and Dangerous tours and is sure to be a musical thrill for everyone.



Neukam Heads Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Governors State University would like to welcome Kirstan Neukam as Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

Neukam previously served as the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, where she was responsible for facilitating the University's efforts in assessment/accreditation, strategic planning, and institutional reporting of data encompassing various aspects of the university.

In addition to her work at OPSU, Neukam has served as a mentor/consultant for the Higher Learning Commission's Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning, assisting various schools with assessment efforts. She looks forward to sharing her passion and expertise in research with the GSU community.

Enlisting Help for Hogtown

Following the success of *Chicago Heights*, GSU Independent Film and Digital Imaging professors Daniel Nearing and Sang Hoon Lee are preparing to produce *Hogtown*, a love story and mystery set during Chicago's brutal race riots in 1919.

Nearing, an associate professor, and Lee, an assistant professor, are seeking assistance in making their second feature film. On Sunday, September 25, they'll give a short preview of *Hogtown* at an outreach session to members of the south suburban Tall Grass Arts Association.

The session is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Nearing said he and Lee are enlisting help in the production of the film, including donations of any kind, including production funds; equipment help; locations; or catering.

To RSVP or learn more about Sunday's session, contact Tall Grass board member Suzanne Patterson at 708.420.0563.

Chicago Heights, produced with the assistance of GSU students and staff members, was the recipient of several awards, was shown at numerous film festivals around the world, and was named to Roger Ebert's list of the Best Art Films of 2010.

Professor Published in Harvard Business Review

Dr. Gokce Sargut, Assistant Professor of Management at Governors State University, is co-author of *Learning to Live with Complexity*, the cover story in the September-October issue of Harvard Business Review.



The article, co-written with Dr. Rita Gunther McGrath of Columbia University, examines strategies for making sense of the unpredictable and undefinable in today's hyperconnected business world.

In just a short time, the article states, most businesses have gone from complicated to complex. They now contain numerous diverse, interdependent parts. This makes managers' jobs much more difficult:

- They can't predict what will happen when various parts of the business interact; the same starting conditions may yield different results.
- Seemingly simple actions produce unintended consequences.
- Human cognitive limits mean that no manager can understand all aspects of the business, but many refuse to acknowledge those limits.
- Rare events can be more significant than average ones – and may occur more often than we think.

Managers can navigate this difficult landscape by making fundamental changes in how they approach key tasks, such as forecasting, mitigating risks, making tradeoffs, and ensuring diversity of thought.

Dr. Sargut, who is in his second year at GSU, said the university has provided an atmosphere that is conducive to his research. "I like it here a great deal," he said. "Everyone has been very supportive and positive about my work. There is a wonderful culture of teaching at GSU."

Alumni Association Hosts Ballpark Trip

Join GSU alumni and friends for a fun-filled afternoon at the ballpark when the White Sox take on the Kansas City Royals at U.S. Cellular Field on Sunday, September 25. The trip is sponsored by the GSU Alumni Association.

Game time is 1:10 p.m. Seats are located in Section 111 and cost \$48 per person. Call [Cheri Garey](#) at ext. 4128 to reserve your tickets.

Palanca Receives Distinguished Service Award

Peter Palanca, a senior lecturer in Addiction Studies at GSU, has received the George Schwab Distinguished Service Award, presented annually on behalf of Illinois leaders in the field of substance use prevention and treatment.



Palanca received the award on September 9 at the annual conference of the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA). Recipients are selected based on their service to IADDA and the field, including leadership and expertise in the development of public policy.

Palanca is chairman of the advisory board of GSU's Addictions Studies and Behavioral Health Department and holds a faculty appointment as senior lecturer of Addiction Studies in the College of Health and Human Services.

He is executive vice president and chief operating officer for Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, a statewide, nonprofit organization that advocates for people with substance use and mental health disorders.

A Homewood resident, Palanca has been a leader in the alcohol/drug prevention and treatment field for more than 30 years. He is current chairman of the board of the IADDA, and is one of 12 individuals appointed to the Children's Mental Health Partnership, the policy guiding group for children's mental health issues in Illinois. He is vice chair of the board of directors for the National Association for Children of Alcoholics, and is also a board member of Prevention Partnership, a non-profit prevention and health promotion agency located in Chicago.

Keeping GSU Safe

With a new academic year under way, GSU's Campus Threat Assessment Team (CTAT) is again encouraging faculty, staff, and student workers to participate in the campus safety initiative. As more evidence and research develops concerning campus tragedies, GSU is taking a hands-on, holistic

approach so tools are in place to ensure campus safety.

GSU's CTAT has adopted an online, interactive course – Kognito's At-Risk Training – to assist in our campus safety initiative. All GSU students, faculty and staff members are encouraged to participate. The training requires only 45 minutes and can be completed in multiple sittings.

Through the training, participants can:

- Learn common indicators of psychological distress.
- Practice approaching students.
- Practice referring students to supportive services.

Please visit www.govst.edu/ctat to learn more or go directly to GSU's training launch page, <http://aruf.kognito.com>, to begin the training. To access the course, all learners must enter the GSU Enrollment Key: govst51.

In an effort to get everyone to complete the training, CTAT is tracking university departments to determine which unit has the first 100 percent completion rate. The first department to meet a 100 percent rate will receive the CTAT Campus Safety Initiative Reward.

CTAT is striving to maintain a safe environment at GSU. We must all work together to achieve that goal. If you have questions please send an e-mail to: ctat@govst.edu.

Big Screen Under the Stars

GSU students and their families can enjoy an old-fashioned night at the drive-in on Friday, September 23. The East 3 parking lot (formerly Parking Lot E) will be transformed into a drive-in movie theater with a big screen showing *The Zookeeper* under the stars. The show begins at dusk. Popcorn and candy – perfect movie refreshments – will be served.

The Zookeeper, starring Kevin James and Rosario Dawson, is the family-friendly comedy about a group of zoo animals who decide to break their code of silence in order to help their zookeeper friend find love.

Everyone is welcome. The event is sponsored by Student Life. For more information contact [Sheree Sanderson](#) at ext. 4552.

Responding to Trauma, Disability

Gary Karp, author and Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame inductee, will speak at *Thriving Through and Beyond Trauma* on Monday, September 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The program is presented by GSU's Physical Therapy program and sponsored by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center.

Karp, who suffered a spinal cord injury in 1973, has spoken extensively at rehabilitation facilities. During his insightful, engaging, and enjoyable talk, he will draw from his own experiences as a wheelchair user. Among the questions he will address:

- How do people respond to traumatic change and disability?
- What are the adaptive processes people draw upon?
- What is the social context for how we all view disability and adjustment?
- How does the experience and services of acute rehab make a difference?
- What is the optimal relationship for a clinician with a patient to best draw on their capacity to thrive?
- How did he learn to be such an incredible juggler?

For more information, contact [Dr. Robbie O'Shea](#).

Learn, Earn While You Serve

The Students in Service Program at GSU is again offering students the opportunity to learn while serving their community and earning a \$1,175 education award.

Learn more about this educational service opportunity at an information session today at 4 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. Applications for the 2011-2012 Students in Service Program will be distributed at the meeting.

Students in Service, in collaboration with Illinois Campus Compact (ILCC) and AmeriCorps, encourage and support college and university students to provide valuable service in their communities. SIS members make a difference in their communities, gain valuable civic and workforce skills, and upon completion of their term of service, earn an education award.

Participating students are committed to 300 hours of volunteer work, specifically working with underserved communities. Upon completion they receive the \$1,175 award.

Scholarship Spotlight - Crystal Locke



Crystal Locke of Tinley Park received the Manilow Scholarship for Students who Achieve Intellectual Excellence. Crystal is an undergraduate student in the College of Health and Human Services in the BSN program.

Crystal is a registered nurse. Her long-term goal is to become a professor of nursing.



