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GSU View

University Newsletters

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4-11-2016

## GSU View, 2016-04-11

Office of Marketing and Communications

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## News

### Join the Budget Conversation

As President Maimon announced in her April 4 email to the GSU community, she and Provost Bordelon invite you to an all-campus Budget Symposium on Friday, April 15, from 9am to noon, in the GSU gymnasium.

For many reasons, it has been decided that this symposium will be an internal event — faculty and staff only—without an external facilitator.

Together, we will share ideas about efficiencies and synergies - how best to continue GSU's forward progress even as the State of Illinois gives every indication of long-range underfunding of its public universities.

All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Because of the nature of the symposium, *RSVP's are required*. Please RSVP via return email, or by calling extension x4130. The Office of the President would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

### Rally for Your Future



On Wednesday, April 20, the GSU community is invited to the Illinois Statehouse to rally again with other Illinois colleges and universities, and the Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education to *#SaveHigherEducation!* Students and their families, university alumni, faculty and staff, business and local chambers of commerce representatives, and legislators are all invited.

The rally begins at 12:30 p.m. at the Illinois Education Association in Springfield, Wednesday, April 20. Buses will depart from GSU's D Building Main Entrance at 8:30 a.m. For more info, contact [Student Life](#) at 708.235.7362 or email Assistant Dean of Students, [Sheree Sanderson](#).

### Fifty for the Future Features 9 GSU Students

The Illinois Technology Foundation selects 50 college students in Illinois each year and recognizes them

as the best and brightest technology students in the state. This year nine of the 50 came from GSU. Please congratulate Janusz Guros, Edwin Koszulinski, Grzegorz Maryniarczyk, Jonathan Mason, Julian Operana, Devid Petecki, Jerry Rodgers, Eric Rosas, and David Shelton on both their individual accomplishments as well as the shared honor that they brought to GSU.

## Local Entrepreneur Donates Uniforms to GSU Soccer Club

Melvin Buckley, an area businessman, donated new uniforms to the Governors State Soccer Club this winter. The team invited Mr. Buckley to visit campus, meet the team, and learn more about GSU. Read more on page 6.

## Watch Out for Campus Geese!

Canada geese are here, and they are nesting. Please be respectful and cautious around our feathered visitors. Read more on page 8.

## Entrance Sign Will Be Down Temporarily

Due to the ongoing roadway expansion project, the west-entry campus sign will be down and out of service through Tuesday, April 12.

## New Quiet Study Space in Library

Finals are just around the corner. Looking for a quiet place to study on campus? Check out the newly created Individual Quiet Study Space in the library. The space is open and available during library hours. [Read more.](#)

## Summer Courses

Registration is open for summer courses now. Take a class to get a jump on the fall and keep growing your education over the summer. With offerings from Accounting to Theater, short-term and online [classes](#) are offered across the curriculum.

## Announcements

### Water Resources Posters on Display

Dr. Xiaoyong Chen, Professor of Biology, and Sarah Borgman, an undergraduate student in GSU's Biology program, have completed a research project that addresses the issues of conservation and sustainability surrounding water. The posters are on display along the walkway on the first floor in F Building from April 4 through April 18.

### Advancing Success for College Men of Color



On Tuesday, April 12, Dr. J. Luke Wood and Dr. Frank Harris III, Associate Professors at San Diego State University, will present two workshops in Engbretson Hall. At 9 a.m., they will discuss Counseling and Advising Men of Color in College, and at 1 p.m. they will explore Teaching Men of Color in College. Please [RSVP](#) online.

## Mindful Healing

Dr. Maristela Zell will lead two meditations on Thursday, April 14 outside in front of the lagoon by the picnic tables. The short mindfulness meditations emphasize hope, optimism, and gratitude for the GSU community. The first runs from 3:30 to 4 p.m., and the second will be held from 4 to 4:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the UPI. In the event of rain, the meditations will be moved indoors. Contact [Maristela Zell](#) for more information.

## Career and Internship Fair

Explore career and internship opportunities in communications, technology, business, public administration, criminal justice, addiction studies, community health, and education at the Spring Career and Internship Fair on Thursday, April 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts Lobby. Meet with potential employers and start planning your future. For more information, call 708.235.3974.

## Graduate Program Fair

On Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., GSU will host a Graduate Program Fair in the E-Lounge. Prospective students who attend the fair will receive a code to waive their application fee. Programs requiring application through the College of Arts and Sciences are excluded from the waiver. Please [register](#) by April 8. For more information, contact [Julie Anderson](#) or call 708.534.4086.

## Interview Skills Workshop

Grow your opportunities at an interview skills workshop. Learn how to prepare for interviews, improve non-verbal communication, and overcome common mistakes on Monday, April 18 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. A mock interview with critique will be part of the presentation. The event is hosted by the Graduate Professional Network and Office of Career Services. Contact [Matt Gentry](#) for further information.

## Class Gifts

Has GSU changed your life for the better? Give a legacy gift for the university and the students of tomorrow. The basic gift is \$20.16, to reflect the year of graduation, and for an additional \$25 per person, you will have an opportunity to honor someone special who has helped you on your road to graduation. All graduates and their honorees will be acknowledged on a rolling digital display at Commencement. All gifts are due by April 13. For additional information, contact [Jackie Small](#) at 708.235.2188 or visit D34200.

## GSU Launches Free App to Celebrate International Sculpture Day



*Illinois Landscape No. 5* Artist: John Henry (American, b. 1943)

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will launch a new, free app on April 24 in honor of International Sculpture Day. The app will provide a real-time walking guide to the park, information from the artists, and more. iPhone users can go to the Apple Store and search for Otocast. Android users can search for Otocast in GooglePlay. More information is [available on the Web](#) or by calling 708.235.7559.

## Honor Society for Nursing Students Accepting Applicants

The Department of Nursing at GSU is accepting applications from nursing students for the honor society Lambda Lambda. The induction ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 19 at 6 p.m. Interested nursing students should contact [Shirley Comer](#) or call 708.235.2133.

## School Psychology Master's Program

GSU's School Psychology Master's program is accepting applications for the Fall 2016 cohort. School psychology, recently ranked #2 in Best Social Service Jobs by U.S. News and World Report, is a growing field. Students accepted into the program will earn both a Master of Arts and Specialist in Education in School Psychology. This is a four-year, part-time program. Questions can be directed to [Terri Christiansen](#).

## Dining Hall Survey

Your opinions and feedback can help make dining at GSU meet your needs. Arena Food Service, GSU's dining partner, would like to hear your opinions. The survey is available from Wednesday, March 30 through Tuesday, April 12. You can take the [survey](#) online.

## Faculty Highlights

### Dr. Khalil Marrar Featured on GSU News

Khalil Marrar, Assistant Professor CAS, is featured this week in the GSU Newsroom. Dr. Marrar teaches Political Science on campus, has a book titled *Middle East Conflicts: The Basics* forthcoming this year from Taylor & Francis, and serves as a terror expert in the media. Learn more about one of GSU's dynamic faculty members on page 10.

### School Counseling Professor Named Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Katie Wix! Dr. Wix had been honored as the 2016 Illinois School Counselor Educator of the Year Award by the Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA). Dr. Wix teaches many of the school counseling preparation programs and works closely with school counselors-in-training to implement ISCA standards and other national standards to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the developmental model in existing school counseling programs.

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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# Local Business Owner Donates Soccer Club Uniforms to GSU

For Melvin Buckley, the local business owner who donated uniforms to the [GSU Soccer Club](#) this past winter, mentorship and philanthropy are guideposts.

“This is a natural thing for me. Wherever there are kids and wherever there’s a lack, I want to participate,” he said during a recent visit to campus. “Jackie Small (Director of [GSU’s Annual Fund](#)) had been talking with me, and I’d been busy, but a day came when I decided that today I’m going to Governors State and I’m going to see what they’re doing over there. I try to do things on as high of a level of integrity as I can, and so if I notice there’s a need and I can do something, I will.”



The students greeted Buckley in their uniforms, bright white shorts and shirts with golden arches—The Golden Arches—on the sleeve to represent the sponsorship from Buckley, who owns two local

McDonald's restaurants in Richton Park and South Chicago Heights. It was mentorship that led him into that business venture.

“I was really in the right place at the right time,” he said. Buckley, a lifelong athlete, was volunteering at a Michael Jordan basketball camp—something he did frequently— in 1987. There was one young man, he said, who was “a little challenging” for some of the coaches. Buckley saw the boy’s difficulty and

stepped in. "I went over there and calmed him down and talked to him, then he started doing what he was supposed to do. A woman who was watching came over and she asked for my name, she asked what I did, and she gave me her card."

That woman was the Dean of McDonald's University, and she liked the leadership skills that she saw in Buckley, then a salesman for Xerox. Two years later—after building up his property management company to raise the capital—Buckley began his journey with the worldwide fast-food giant.

Originally from Harvey, Buckley places expectations on the young people he helps that are no higher than those he holds himself to. He is a self-described realist who believes in hard work and self-reliance.

Arturo Chairez, president of the newly-founded athletic club on campus, prepared a statement to show his club's gratitude:

"Words cannot express my sincere thanks to Mr. Buckley for his generous donation to the Governors State University Soccer Club. It has given the club a great deal of excitement and joy to have uniforms that represent the club for who we are. We play soccer for the love of the game and these uniforms embody that in every way. We thank Mr. Buckley for believing in us and donating uniforms that have inspired us to keep pushing forward and become more united than ever before. We are the GSU Soccer Club, and we thank you again."

GSU's Soccer Club formed in the spring of 2015 as an all-gender, all-class recreational team for students. With two homegames left in April and one match scheduled at NIU, there's still time to see them in action in their new uniforms.

Small, who works with GSU donors through the Development Office, showed her thanks as well.

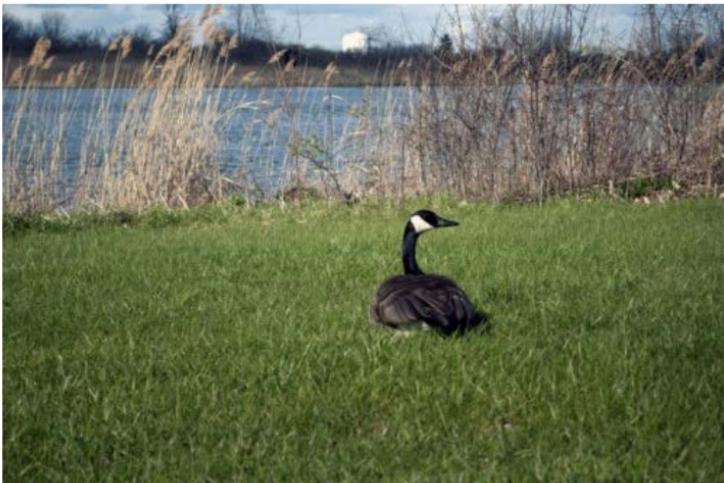
"We thank Mr. Buckley for answering our call on this project so quickly and welcome him into our family of GSU student supporters."

# Canada Geese Nesting at GSU

If you've walked outside or even looked out a window at GSU, you've probably noticed some spring visitors. They walk around in pairs and trios, laze on the lagoon during classes, and they don't seem to pay any attention to where they leave their, umm, waste.

Although many people mistakenly call them Canadian, these aviary additions to campus come from all over the North American continent.

Canada geese are the most widespread goose in North America and are becoming increasingly common in urban areas in Illinois. While there are several subspecies of Canada geese in



North America, only the giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*), the largest subspecies, is known to breed in Illinois. Geese use lakes, ponds, bays, wetlands, marshes, and storm-water management ponds for nesting grounds. Canada Geese are herbivores and will spend several hours grazing and foraging for food on land or in water. When feeding, they often use agricultural fields and areas of short vegetation such as lawns. In the fall, large flocks of multiple families gather together for the southward migration to their wintering grounds.

Canada Geese are not shy about building nests in urban environments—especially near campus buildings and entrances—and Geese will aggressively

defend their nest and any young during breeding season. For this reason, you should stay at least 30 feet away from geese at all times. If you find yourself less than 30 feet away, try increasing the space between you and them or taking a wider approach to your destination. Be alert and ready to get out of the vicinity of the goose. When geese feel threatened, they will typically charge humans from behind striking them with their wing or beak.

Recognize the warning signs of an attack:

- A goose that is likely to attack will begin with being noisy and making hissing noises.
- The goose will probably also extend its wings to help it appear more fearsome.

*\*Remember that it is always safer to avoid confrontation than to provoke it. The safest action you can perform is to increase your distance from the geese.*

Take action:

- Use a different entrance or sidewalk than you commonly use if you notice geese in the vicinity.
- Stay at least 30 feet away from geese.
- Do not stare down the goose, but be sure to know where it is.
- Do not turn your back; face the goose as you slowly walk away to reduce the threat of attack.
- Get to safety, well away from the goose.

For additional information about wildlife in Illinois, please visit:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/>

# Khalil Marrar

In a classroom at Governors State University, [Dr. Khalil Marrar](#) calls his [freshman cohort](#) to action. During a discussion of levels of government and how to effect change, he demonstrates active citizenship by calling a municipal hotline to report a pothole near the Northside neighborhood he commutes from every day. He places the call on speaker so that his students can hear.



Marrar moves quickly from the podium to being perched on a desk where he can engage a student in an earnest cross-examination that substitutes exploration for recitation. The moment plants

both student and teacher deeper in understanding with each new question that enters the exchange.

Marrar joined the Governors State community in 2009 and is one of GSU's full-time faculty involved in our [nationally-acclaimed freshman cohort experience](#). Born in Kuwait, he has lived and traveled extensively in the Middle East. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Illinois State University, and he earned his Doctorate degree in Political Science at Loyola. He is widely published, and his areas of expertise include International Studies; Comparative Political Systems; International Political Economy and Institutions; and American, Ancient, and Modern Political Theory. Marrar has taught and lectured on some of the most prestigious campuses in the Midwest, including Loyola, DePaul, and University of Chicago. Over the last decade, he has made regular

media appearances as a terror expert on multiple networks, including NBC, CBS, ABC, PBS television, and Fox News Chicago.

His book, *The Arab Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy: The Two State Solution*, was published by Routledge in 2010, and *Middle East Conflicts: The Basics* will come out later this year through Taylor & Francis.

Marrar recently sat down with GSU News to talk teaching, Brussels, and Governors State.

### **Dr. Marrar, what brought you to Governors State University?**

I have two reasons for being at GSU. First—and this is not just a slogan—GSU is a place where ideas are allowed to thrive. The second reason is people, the students and colleagues I work with. The students that I've met are so down to earth and capable. Emotionally and intellectually, in terms of the kind of life skills that they have and bring to the table and to the classroom, you could not find anywhere else. And my colleagues bring a wide variety of backgrounds and talents to the university.

Governors State is a place really at the nexus of suburban and urban, where people can come and better themselves in a way that is much more profound, much more dramatic than anywhere else,



not just in the city but nationwide. And when I say that, what I mean is this university gives them an opportunity that few other places can give them, not just to enlighten themselves but to be able to do well economically for themselves. I love that the people here actually believe in it.

Look at the university's mission, for example. It's not a cookie cutter mission. It's tailored to meet economic needs of the community—which is important—and intellectually, it's one that really allows the individual to become better rounded as a citizen as well as a worker. This is truly a public university that has a liberal arts sensibility. The classes that we teach here are smaller than most classes that I've taught at the most expensive liberal arts colleges, and in those classes, we explore ideas that resonate in any liberal arts school.

### **What inspired you to study politics?**

It was sort of an accident really. I was in Springfield visiting the center, the whole complex and Federal infrastructure surrounding the museum, and I was reading about Abraham Lincoln. Young Abe worked for his father. They were

basically homesteaders, and his father lent him out and took his wages. I read this plaque that said because of this, because of the grueling work he did without a wage, he was made empathetic to the slave experience. This was quite possibly the moment that made the young future president wise to the plight of the slaves.

Abraham Lincoln's insight hit me—and I realized that everything that happens in the world around us is connected to politics in some way, shape, or form.



But then the political world is not always the way it appears. The awesome thing about places like GSU is that we can, in the classroom, demonstrate to students that politics, broadly

conceived, includes them. They have something to add by drawing on their lived experiences. Politics is potentially transformative—it makes us want to strive for something better. That is what brought me to politics.

**The topics you teach unavoidably touch on events that we see on the news. When something like the recent event in Brussels happens, we even see you on the news as an authority talking about it. What can you say to your students on days like that, when the politics manifest as something so tangible and jarring?**

I like to highlight the ideas behind the headlines. As to Brussels, in a world where you have lots of ideas, the people that, for example, attacked Belgium are motivated by ideas to destroy. The beauty of GSU in particular, and the sort of higher education that GSU stands for in general, is that we work to counter those destructive ideas by creating knowledge. And I think there's something magical and beautiful about learning and that creation taking place here which counter not only those ideas to destroy, but the very motivation behind that destructiveness. Ignorance and radicalism, extremism, fanaticism and stuff like that are all things that basically come out of—not a world that is critical but—a world that's frankly dogmatic, and the best way to sort of undo dogma is through an education, an education that makes us want to think.

I remind students that we're part of the real world at this institution, because everybody here

has experience in the world. I basically teach people who are practitioners, literally students that are



practitioners who work in various fields and have experienced their own field here as graduate students, right? I also have undergraduates who may have grown up in an environment that was not necessarily one that would have led them to college, and they've persevered and worked hard, got good grades, and they're here now. The freshman cohort that I see here after the transformation is filled with people that want to do well. And the nice thing about GSU is that we give them the tools to do well. We give them the skills to do well, and most importantly we give them the direction to do well. I think that's our strongest point.