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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



May 23, 2017

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News

2017 Commencement



Excitement reverberated through the walls of the Tinley Park Convention Center as this year's 1,710 graduates of Governors State received their diplomas during Saturday's **Commencement ceremonies**.

A week of Commencement activities honored graduates. During the [DDP Cording Ceremony](#) of **May 12**, participants in the [Dual Degree Program](#) received special cords in the colors of their community colleges to be worn with their cap and gown.

More than fifty doctoral students received their hoods for Commencement during the [Doctoral Hooding Ceremony](#) on **May 18**. Graduating with a [doctoral degree in Physical Therapy](#), Othman O'Malley called achieving his doctoral degree his "dream come true." To read more and view photos of the hooding ceremony, click [here](#).

Streamed live, speeches from the ceremonies can be viewed on the [GSU Facebook page](#).

President Maimon Advocates for Higher Ed

Throughout this month, President Maimon has advocated for funding for GSU and its peer institutions through a variety of media outlets.

Last night, President Maimon and Student Senate President Justin Smith were featured on NBC5 News in [an investigative report by Carol Marin](#) on the "Collateral Damage" caused by the unprecedented budget crisis.

"In fiscal year '16 we had a 70% cut in appropriation. And for fiscal year '17, the year that we are in, we had a 50% cut in appropriation," said Maimon. "There is no fat at all. And in fact we are beyond muscle and bone. What we are being asked to do is cut off vital organs."

In last week's [editorial in the Daily Southtown](#), Dr. Maimon celebrated the traditions and opportunities given to students at GSU and stressed the importance of the health of our public universities.

Also, in an audio [feature on NPR](#), Dr. Maimon paralleled the Illinois budget impasse to the creation of the constitution in her review of Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*. "Compromise is essential to democratic government," she says. To listen to President Maimon's review, click [here](#).

Announcements and Events

Pet-Palooza

Artists, musicians, animal trainers, and all-around lovers of fur babies are needed for Pet-Palooza! Bring your well-mannered and leashed pets for fun and games at the Orland Township Grounds on **Saturday, June 17** from 12 – 3 p.m. Hosted by Paul O'Grady and the Board of Trustees, the Pet Fair and Parade will benefit Orland Township's Pet Food Pantry which is in need of food and supplies.

Ways you can help:

- Volunteer to set-up/breakdown the event
- Contribute your musical, artistic, and animal training talents

- Help obtain donations from vendors such as pet stores, grocery stores, veterinarians, and restaurants
- Ask vendors to purchase a table at Pet-Palooza
- Donate a five-pound bag of dog-food or make a cash donation to the pantry

Pet-Palooza serves as a fundraiser for GSU's Student Education Association (SEA). For more information, contact student organizers [Gwen Medrano](#), [Samantha Allen](#), or faculty advisor [Dr. Katy E. Hisrich](#).

Library Summer Hours

[GSU Library](#) Summer Hours began on Monday May 15. Library summer hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Library will be closed on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, email [the Library](#).

STEAM Camp on Campus this Summer



Science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics: these concepts are the foundation of modern education, and they're all a part of summer learning at GSU. Registration is currently open for [STEAM Camp](#) where students, ages 11 to 16, will take part in activities in the visual and performing arts, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, physics, and robotics.

There are two sessions: **July 17 – 21** and **July 24 – 28**, both from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., for middle and high school students for \$200 per session, per camper. STEAM Camp Plus activities are also available from 3 – 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday for an additional fee of \$60 per session, per camper.

To register, click [here](#).

Highlights

Dr. Gökçe Sargut Recognized for Excellence



[Dr. Gökçe Sargut](#), Associate Professor of Management at Governors State University, discusses his prolific research, organization theory, and [Faculty Excellence Award](#) for his teaching, research, and service to the university.

To read the interview, click [here](#).

GSU Honors Program Takes its Seminar to Italy



The [GSU Honors Program](#) leaves today for its first seminar in Rome, Italy this summer from **May 23 – June 10**. Through historical and cultural visits, students will study the leadership of Ancient Rome, the Pope, the noble families during the Renaissance and more, comparing them to concepts of modern day theories on leadership. Students will also spend an evening serving at a local soup kitchen to experience modern day leadership and a side of Rome that most tourists do not see.

The Honors Seminar in Rome supports the Honors Program mission by providing students with a high-impact, unique, experimental, and immersive learning opportunity for students. Study abroad programs aid in student retention and provide an invaluable learning opportunity to participants. If you are interested a study abroad program, you can find more information [here](#).

Please follow the group to Italy by liking the [GSU Honors Study Abroad Facebook page](#).

Southland Companies Network at GSU



GSU's [School of Extended Learning](#) hosted a business networking breakfast last Thursday. Joan Wisniewski and Mary Gajcak of the Workforce Investment Board of Will County presented *Meeting Your Employees' Training Needs with Grant Funds*.

In addition to the employee training grants, guest speakers provided a comprehensive overview of their Will County business services and on-the-job training programs. Company representatives from First Midwest Bank, National Tube Company, Big Wrench Plumbing & Sewer, LegalShield Business Solutions, and Sharn Enterprises were in attendance.

Felicia Townsend, External Program Manager of the School of Extended Learning, says, "Governors State University School of Extended Learning is committed to strengthening businesses in Chicago's Southland and in other parts of Illinois. Providing our businesses with valuable resources, such as training grant opportunities, helps us contribute to their development and overall success."

Workshops & Trainings

Summer doesn't stop GSU from continuing its workshop and training offerings for students, faculty members, and staff. Check out informative programs such as this week's two-day workshop on Faculty Development in International Business, a June program addressing hunger and housing insecurity among college students, as well as the Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag Lunch. For the complete list of options, click [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.](#)



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University Park, IL, May 18, 2017

DDP Cording Honors Soon-to-be Graduates

Excitement buzzed on the stage of Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts as soon-to-be graduates of the [Dual Degree Program \(http://govst.edu/ddp/\)](http://govst.edu/ddp/) awaited the start of their celebratory Cording Ceremony on the evening of May 12.

The DDP is a partnership between [GSU \(http://govst.edu\)](http://govst.edu) and 17 regional community colleges which allows students to work alongside a transfer specialist as they achieve first their associate degree and then, at GSU, their undergraduate degree. When the students enroll at GSU as juniors, they receive a cord in the official color of their respective community college. At the formal Cording Ceremony, President Elaine Maimon drapes a second cord, now braided with GSU's formal colors of black and white, across the shoulders of each student.

DDP transfer specialist Jessica Specht says that the blended cord signifies "wrapping up the two degrees and two experiences" as the students prepare for graduation.

The ceremony is a cherished event both for the student and their accomplishments as well as the faculty who have guided them through their undergraduate degrees. Dr. Randi Schneider, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, describes this event as among her favorite in 30 years of working at colleges and universities.

"The cording ceremony is an annual tradition that symbolizes the success of DDP transfer students and the unique partnership we have forged with our community college partners across Chicagoland. The event represents the best of who we are as educators and our commitment to changing the lives of students and their families."

Now adorned with official academic regalia, students ready themselves to receive their diplomas during the official Commencement exercises on May 20.



University Park, IL, May 19, 2017

Doctoral Hooding Celebrates Future Leaders

As Dr. David Golland, professor of History in the College of Arts and Sciences, led the processional at the 2017 Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Thursday, May 18 at Governors State University, 59 GSU students filled the stage of the university's Center for Performing Arts. This year's candidates, arranged by college and degree, took their seats and kept contemplative countenances—the solemnity of the ceremony reflected in their faces—but the joy of the night was palpable in the room.



The "ritual" of hooding, as GSU President Elaine P. Maimon termed it in her address, although part and parcel to graduation, is not a commencement itself but "an act of investiture." The placing of the hood upon doctoral candidates' shoulders is a preparation and a welcoming, a moment when those who have taught and guided recognize their students' readiness to stand on the shared platform as scholars and experts in their chosen fields.

"The key to the ceremony today is the placing of the hood on your shoulders," Dr. Maimon said. "We as holders of advanced degrees invest in you the academic authority that we hold. By doing so, we celebrate the tradition of mentors passing on to students the authority of knowledge."

Sheree Sanderson, Assistant Dean of Students in Student Life at GSU, earned her Doctor of Education in Interdisciplinary Leadership this year. It is the second degree she will receive from the university, having graduated with her Masters in Communication and Training nearly twenty years ago.

"When people come to Governors State to get an education, they often find a whole different outlook on life," she said. "Now I am able to say I fulfilled my dream."

Across the stage, Tina Decker awaited her hood. She was one of three nursing students honored in 2017 by the [College of Health and Human Services](https://owa.govst.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=cx4s1_rbHlqpvBp7XJKvXtD3texASCQzH3vU2sBm0ipeSCp7UCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.govst.ed). (https://owa.govst.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=cx4s1_rbHlqpvBp7XJKvXtD3texASCQzH3vU2sBm0ipeSCp7UCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.govst.ed)

working professional — Decker serves as a department chair at Trinity Christian College — she plans to use her doctoral degree to continue in her commitment to sharing new approaches for medication math with her undergraduate students.

Provost Deborah Bordelon recognized the importance of the work that the night's students would continue doing upon commencement.

"These are impressive chosen



professions," Bordelon said. "Doctors of physical therapy and occupational therapy who will help people heal, cope, and succeed. Doctors of nursing practice who will manage healthcare treatment practices and education programs.

Doctors of counselor education and supervision who will work to better lives through improved mental health management and treatment. And graduates of the Interdisciplinary Leadership doctorate program who are now prepared to better serve education

and nonprofit agencies."

Matt Gentry, a two-time Olympic wrestler who attended Stanford University prior to attending GSU, was also seated on the stage. Earning his doctoral degree in Physical Therapy, Gentry not only tended to his family and career during his studies, but he took time to [advocate for Governors State](http://gsunews.govst.edu/why-rally/) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/why-rally/>) when the ongoing Illinois budget stalemate was relatively new.

Speaking then of the importance of GSU graduates in the community, he said, "[Our stories collectively make up the Southland fabric](http://gsunews.govst.edu/hundreds-rally-at-gsu-to-support-funding-for-higher-ed/) (<http://gsunews.govst.edu/hundreds-rally-at-gsu-to-support-funding-for-higher-ed/>)."

Gentry credits the physical therapists who worked on him as an amateur wrestler on the Canadian National Team with inspiring his professional aspirations, and he calls GSU "a good fit" for his goals.

Near Gentry, Othman O'Malley also awaited the hood that would signify his completion of the Physical Therapy program at GSU. O'Malley's first love was law, but his time in South Korea, where he taught English to native children, is where he discovered his passion for helping people.



"GSU has given me the chance to pursue a career that I think is one of the most rewarding ones there is," he said. "The program has prepared me for all aspects of the profession. I feel ready to enter the field and succeed. That's my dream come true."

Over 50 other students, no story alike, transitioned together with O'Malley, Gentry, Decker, and Sanderson on May 18. Chair Patrick Ormsby, of the Governors State University Board of Trustees, addressed them all, saying, "As a student at GSU, you learned skills that you will always use. You forged relationships with classmates, professors, and supervisors. You have created your own bright future. After you leave GSU, your doctoral degree will allow you to become leaders in your fields."

Victor Hugo once called perseverance “the secret of all triumphs,” and GSU’s graduating class — and the university itself — stood Thursday night as proof of that definition. Congratulations to all of this year’s doctoral candidates, and best of luck on your future paths.



University Park, IL, May 23, 2017

Gökçe Sargut

[Dr.Gökçe Sargut \(http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/gsgargut/\)](http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/gsgargut/), Associate Professor of Management at Governors State University, has defied the notoriously long process of publishing a research paper. Dr. Sargut's research in organization theory has been prolific: he has produced more than a dozen scholarly papers ranging in topics from school boards' social capital to supply chain politics to cookie-cutter style movie production.

"It's almost my social duty to be at a high level and produce more," said Dr. Sargut, attributing the volume of his publications to his experiences at research universities like Columbia University in New York, where he earned both his Ph.D. and master's degree in Management of Organization, and the University of Illinois, where he earned his MBA.

Dr. Sargut's arduous work has been fruitful: in 2016, he was recognized by GSU's [Faculty Excellence Award \(http://www.govst.edu/COBEvents/\)](http://www.govst.edu/COBEvents/) for his teaching, research, and service to the university. His work has also fetched the [Producer of the Year \(http://www.govst.edu/COBAwards/\)](http://www.govst.edu/COBAwards/) Award from the [College of Business \(http://www.govst.edu/cob/\)](http://www.govst.edu/cob/). *The Harvard Business Review* and other prestigious publications have promoted the organization theorist's findings, which have won praise from his peers and leadership at GSU.

For all his writings and awards, Dr. Sargut wants to do even more, revealing an insatiable appetite for research in the area of competitive dynamics and structural change in creative industries. He wants to know: *How do organizational fields interact with culture?*

Recognized throughout the industry, Dr. Sargut's academic service and published works have been instrumental to GSU's College of Business team in securing the gold standard [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(http://www.govst.edu/COBAccreditation/\)](http://www.govst.edu/COBAccreditation/) (AACSB) accreditation.

GSU Newsroom: Why is the AACSB recognition important?

Sargut: The AACSB is one of the most rigorous accrediting bodies in the world. Only five percent of schools get this logo, and it brings out our name and helps attract higher caliber of faculty and more marketable graduates. It's important because it means we have created a number of processes based on established best practices, and it ensures we are following our mission and keeping up to date in our research and thinking. That logo means our processes and structures are the best.

GSU Newsroom: What paper are you proudest of?

Sargut: One of the papers I'm proudest of is *All You Need Is Trust? An Examination of Inter-organizational Supply Chain Projects* (published in *Production and Operations Management* in 2015). I wrote it with two other colleagues, and it took four years and a number of revisions to complete. As this is a top-ranked journal, it was a long and difficult process. We looked at supply chain relationships—two companies working together. Along the way, the paper went through many iterations, and we had to modify our model several times. By the time we finished, the paper was nothing like what we started. That's what I really appreciated about the process—the constant learning and getting better at the craft of research.

GSU Newsroom: What inspired you to study organizations?

Sargut: General curiosity. I'm interested in so many things all at once. Having been raised by parents who are educators, I was always very interested in why people act the way they do in various environments and under different circumstances. The study of organizations emerged as the ideal research platform for me, since organizations are the focal point in pretty much any human endeavor. It has a very rich and diverse research tradition, since it borrows and builds on research from all areas of the social sciences.

GSU Newsroom: What attracted you to Governors State University?

Sargut: Governors State was doing an interesting experiment in terms of how American higher education goes. I'd never seen anything like this before. The school was established in the late 1960s as the original "University without Walls." It had no walls and people could walk in and out of class. They didn't have a traditional grading system. Students had to produce a portfolio of work. It was an interesting system that no other university in the country had at the time. Also, when I moved my family here in 2010, I found the people to be amazingly friendly. In the business school, people were kind and reasonable. If anyone made a mistake, they simply took ownership and went on with their lives. It was very different from the politically charged environment I had experienced for a long time in New York City. Here, I like the warmth and camaraderie.