GSU Survives and Thrives, Faces Future with First State Budget in Two Years

More than two years of fiscal uncertainty ended last Thursday as the Illinois House overrode Governor Bruce Rauner’s veto to pass a long-awaited budget for the state. In these two years, students, faculty, and staff have demonstrated dedication to the university’s wellbeing through acts of advocacy: from bus trips to Springfield to forums on funding higher education to creative expressions such as songwriting, the GSU community has been steadfast in its mission.

Throughout the crisis, President Elaine P. Maimon has represented GSU in news outlets across media platforms, including an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education published directly following the House override of the governor’s veto.
The article cites President Maimon's praise for student involvement in advocacy efforts: "The way our student government and student senate have organized in a civil way to tell the story of the importance of higher education has just been amazing."

The Chronicle of Higher Education writes, “Despite tight finances, Governors State made sure that its students wouldn’t be on the hook for paying back their MAP grants, which was the case at some Illinois colleges. About one-third of the university’s undergraduate students are eligible for the aid, and many of them are also first-generation students.”

To read more about the ending of the budget crisis and what it means for GSU, click here.

**Members of GSU Athletics Named to CCAC All-Academic Team**

Congratulations to GSU student-athletes who have been named to the CCAC All-Academic Team! The Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference made the announcement Thursday, July 6.

Sophomore Julian Hardy of the men’s basketball team has become the program’s first-ever selection to the CCAC All-Academic Team. To read about Hardy’s achievements, click here.

GSU women’s basketball team members added to the All-Academic team include seniors Kanitral Averhart and Achuynna Robinson, plus sophomore Rachel Distor. Read the release here.

Four members of the women's golf team have been named to the All-Academic Team): senior Toi Bowers, doctoral candidate Hollie Campbell, senior Nicole Bruisch and graduate student Ava Marciniak. For more details, click here.

**CPA Flex Tickets on Sale Today**

**50 Years of Wonder: A Tribute to Stevie Wonder by America's Got Talent Finalists**

*Sons of Serendip; January 13, 2018.*

Tickets to the 2017–18 season of GSU’s Center for Performing Arts are now available. Flex packages offer 15 percent off regular ticket prices, as well as ticket refund privileges, when you purchase three or more tickets. Purchase flex tickets for the upcoming season here.

To view a full list of the season's offerings, visit the CPA here. Single tickets will be available for purchase on July 17.

**Announcements and Events**
Undergraduate Open House This Week

Come show your friends and family members what it means to be a Jaguar at this week’s [Undergraduate Open House](#), **Saturday, July 15** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tour state-of-the-art student housing at Prairie Place, meet leading professors, and enjoy music and refreshments. To register for the last Open House of the summer, click [here](#).

Follow GSU on Snapchat

[Snapchat Code]

Add governors_state on Snapchat and live every moment at GSU in real-time. Snap or screenshot the snap code to add GSU on Snapchat.

Take a Summer Time-Out for Fun!

Summer is for fun, so take a break from the office for GSU’s Time Out for Fun (TOFF)! All GSU staff, students, and faculty are invited to get together, as schedules allow, between noon and 2 p.m. this **Wednesday, July 12** for a variety of organized activities such as bean bags, bocce ball, volleyball, hula-hoops, board games, and more. In case of rain, pool, X-Box, and ping-pong are on the agenda.

TOFF activities are planned for the following Wednesdays during the summer: **June 28; July 12, 19, and 26; and August 2 and 9**. Locations will be announced in an upcoming e-blast. For more information, contact TOFF Committee members Karen Caesar, Dean Jennings, Marco Krcatovich, or Lydia Morrow-Ruetten.

Sports Broadcasting Internships

Are you interested in Sports Broadcasting? The department of [Digital Learning and Media Design](#) is seeking interns to participate in sports coverage for men’s and women’s basketball games and women’s volleyball games. Positions include camera, audio, graphics, announcers, engineering, and social media. For more information, view the flyer [here](#) or contact Mark Kundla.

Book Sale in the Library
Don’t forget to stop by the ongoing Fourth of July Book Sale to purchase pre-owned books for only twenty-five cents! The sale ends this **Thursday, July 13**.

Be sure to check out the cart of free Market Research textbooks and journals also located on the library balcony.

**Summer Film Festival**

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the Summer Film Festival, hosted by GSU’s School of Extended Learning and Intellectual Life Committee. The next screening, Michael Caplan’s *Algren: The Movie*, will take place **Wednesday, July 19** at 4:30 p.m. in F1622.

Reserve your seat [here](#).

**A Must-Read Checklist for Planning Your Upcoming Events!**

Faculty and staff members: are you planning an event or events in the 2017–18 academic year? Although rooms aren’t released until two weeks after the semester begins, planning in advance and engaging your campus partners is an **essential** component of your event's success. This [checklist](#) will help facilitate the success of your event.

Students interested in planning events for student clubs and organizations can contact [Student Life](#) for guidelines and assistance.

**Highlights**

**Remembering Dr. Ellis**

Following the recent memorial service held for GSU’s beloved faculty member [Dr. Cyrus Marcellus Ellis](#), the university received the following letter of appreciation from his wife Colleen Rock Ellis:

> My heart is deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support by the GSU community. Thank you for the cards, texts, messages, flowers, food, and donations that you gave to honor my husband, Dr. Cyrus Marcellus Ellis, and to support me on this difficult journey. Thank you to all those who could rearrange their schedules to attend the memorial service. I am grateful to be a part of a community that comes together to support one who is mourning. I will always treasure the thoughtfulness of my “GSU family.”
> Sincerely, Colleen Rock Ellis

**Katy E. Hisrich**
GSU Assistant Professor Katy E. Hisrich’s palette of passions is as colorful and textured as a garden in full bloom. From education and entrepreneurship to technology, from community service to traveling, Hisrich searches for ways to bring each color of her palette to life in her classes in GSU’s College of Education.

Read more . . .

Tour de Southland

While the 2017 Tour de France is well underway, you can still take part in your own cycling adventure close to the GSU campus through the 22-mile Old Plank Trail that connects with the nearby Thorn Creek Trail and runs from Chicago Heights—the eastern edge of the Southland—to Joliet, the western border. Read about the full experience here.

Workshops & Trainings

Check out the next Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag Lunch and WorkZone training opportunities. For the complete list of options, click here

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.
Historic Budget Impasse Ends

The 736-day budget impasse in Illinois ended Thursday afternoon when the Illinois House voted 71-42 to override Governor Bruce Rauner's vetoes of a spending package that imposes personal and corporate income tax increases and establishes a long-awaited budget for the state.

In a statement, GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said, "We should pause to honor the work of so many students, faculty, trustees, and staff across the state who worked tirelessly to address the increasing pressure that the budget crisis created for our campuses. I want to thank our campus community for your hard work and sacrifice that have kept us going through these unprecedented times."

The fight for higher ed began even before the stalemate started on July 1, 2015. In February 2015, funding for public universities like GSU had been placed on the state's chopping block causing early ripples of concern to radiate through the higher education community. By January 2016--six full months into the stalemate--GSU leadership was speaking out about the growing crisis, and by spring, students had joined the fight to save higher ed and were rallying. Those high-profile efforts continued throughout the crisis, and behind the scenes, the work was nonstop.

Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations for GSU, stayed on the front lines and worked with peers from sister institutions in the state as well as legislators in Springfield.

"There's a tremendous sense of relief that we've finally gotten to this point," she said. "The last two years have been beyond challenging and frustrating, but I am fortunate that I work really closely with my counterparts at all the other public universities, and I think we're a strong team. Whenevr we could, we stood together and presented a unified front."

Kelly also stressed that over the course of the last two years, the state senators and other legislators who represent GSU and the region advocated unwaveringly for the university.

"My job was made easier because at every single turn, those who represent GSU and our region were always, always voting in support of us. I would like the campus community to know how supportive the people who represent our university are and always have been," Kelly said.

Faculty member Dan Nearing, founder and coordinator of the MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging, said that he felt "elation, relief, and sorrow that any of it had to happen."

"With respect to teaching and supporting our students, consequences for the filmmaking program at GSU have been harsh," Nearing said. "It will take time to repair the damage, but we find ourselves at the beginning of a rebuilding process that excites us."

So what does this mean for funding at GSU? According to Kimberly Lambert-Thomas, Vice President of Administration and Finance, GSU will see a "10 percent reduction of the last full year state appropriation in FY15." GSU will receive a $21.6 million state appropriation for FY18. Thomas also said that $364 million was
Allocated for MAP funding statewide, but no disbursement has been officially decided.

"Public higher education has been tested in the worst circumstance possible," Dr. Maimon said, "and GSU faculty and staff have been heroic. No matter what has been thrown at us, we've maintained our core values in terms of students being first at GSU. Now we can focus on recovery and resurgence."
Hardy Receives CCAC All-Academic Team Honors

Thu, Jul 06, 2017 - [Men's Basketball]

UNIVERSITY PARK, IL – Sophomore Julian Hardy of the Governors State men’s basketball team has become the program’s first-ever selection to the CCAC All-Academic Team, administered by the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Hardy appeared in 19 games during the 2016-17 season, earning starts in 11 of the last 12 games, during which time he averaged 24.4 minutes per game. He posted a career-high 13 points against Calumet St. Joseph on February 1.

A mathematics major, Hardy qualified for the GSU High Honor Roll after recording straight A’s during the fall term and made the GSU Honor Roll for the spring term as well. The point guard started the season with the junior varsity squad before being promoted to the varsity team in November.

“Julian is one of the hardest-working student-athletes we have on the team,” said GSU Head Coach Tony Bates. “He has a terrific mindset in the classroom and is a good role model for his teammates in that area.”
The Governors State women's basketball team has placed three players on the CCAC All-Academic Team, as announced by the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The CCAC All-Academic Team recognizes student-athletes with cumulative grade-point averages above 3.25 (entering the Spring 2017 term) who have been enrolled for one academic year and have completed at least 30 semester hours.

Earning spots on the All-Academic Team were seniors Kanitral Averhart and Achuynnua Robinson along with sophomore Rachel Distor. The honor marks the third major academic award for Averhart, a two-time NAIA-Daktronics Scholar-Athlete recipient who also spent four semesters on the GSU Athletics Honor Roll.

"We're very pleased to have three players earn this award in our first season of CCAC competition," said GSU Head Coach La Toshia Burrell. "Kanitral, Shey and Rachel showed a strong commitment to our program and their classroom work."
UNIVERSITY PARK, IL – Four members of the Governors State women's golf team have been named to the All-Academic Team by the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC). The four selections were tied for second-most in the CCAC.

The CCAC All-Academic Team recognizes student-athletes with cumulative grade-point averages above 3.25 (entering the Spring 2017 term) who have been enrolled for one academic year and have completed at least 30 semester hours.

The first-ever All-Academic Team recipients for GSU include: senior Toi Bowers, doctoral candidate Hollie Campbell, senior Nicole Bruisch and graduate student Ava Marciniak.

"I'm proud of how our team performed in the classroom and on the course this season," said GSU Head Coach Mark Haines. "It's great to see the commitment our student-athletes make to academics and for their efforts to be recognized."

Women's golf finished with a season grade-point average of 3.73 — the highest of any sports team at GSU.
Katy E. Hisrich

Dr. Katy E. Hisrich’s palette of passions is as colorful and textured as a garden in full bloom. From education and entrepreneurship to technology, from community service to traveling, Hisrich searches for ways to bring each color of her palette to life in her classes in GSU’s College of Education.

As Faculty Chair and Advisor for the Student Education Association (SEA) at GSU, Hisrich has introduced a website and social media launch, research projects, and community outreach events to train education students to be future world leaders.

“It’s important that our students are equipped with the tools that are needed to be successful leaders in today’s world,” Hisrich said. She brings more than a decade’s experience of teaching at the elementary, college, and university levels to GSU, as well as research on learning processes, curriculum, developmental psychology, parent education, early childhood education, teacher preparation, and student engagement. She blends all of this with her in-the-now sense of the professional world.

The daughter of an educator and psychologist, Hisrich has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Arizona State University, a Master’s degree in Elementary Education from University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Child Development from the Peabody School of Education at Vanderbilt University, where she originally went to study business.

Before joining GSU in 2014, Hisrich taught courses for education and psychology department at various colleges and universities. She researched parent education, learning, and child development for the Office of Parent Development International at ASU, as well as served as the Executive Editor for ASU’s online education journal, Current Issues in Education. She also reviewed university programs and wrote curriculum for courses in education and psychology. At the New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Research, Hisrich developed and facilitated workshops for parent education programs.

At GSU, Hisrich has become synonymous with the SEA, winning awards for the work she’s done with the tiny but spirited group she has cultivated and grown to a high profile organization of undergraduate and graduate students preparing for school-based careers: teachers (infants to 12th grade), social workers, school counselors, and occupational therapists.

In June 2016, the National Education Association recognized Hisrich as an Outstanding Local Advisor, just months after GSU recognized her for securing a record seven grants in two years for the SEA.

“I’m humbled by these honors and hope to do more to promote the SEA and GSU,” said Hisrich, whose SEA events on and off campus have created a high profile in the social media world, as well as the community, for this professor who lives close to the Wisconsin border. “It is really all about the students. I want them to stand apart from their peers. While I may test their resolve, it is to help them become quality educators and productive members of society.”
Hisrich: The SEA. I'd say I spend about 10 to 20 hours a week with the group because I love my students and the projects we do. So the drive is worth it for me.

Right now, one of my research projects involves doing a student engagement survey to determine how students perceived themselves before they joined SEA and how they perceived themselves after. We want to assess their leadership skills and confidence. Some of these kids wouldn't have become leaders without SEA. Research shows when students are involved, they enjoy school more, enhance their skills, and earn better grades. Furthermore, they develop as leaders with organizational, teamwork, and communication skills. It puts them ahead of others when they are looking for jobs.

GSU Newsroom: What are your Early Education Students doing with Kids@College this year?

Hisrich: Each summer, the students in my EDEC4460 integration (project approach and STEM) class spend several hours in a morning teaching kids at this Prairie State College program. My students create a center activity on the topic selected that year for Kids@College. Last year it was space; this year it is inventions. My students are creating seven activities that focus on amusement park inventions. Some are recreating rollercoasters or Ferris wheels. The students at the camp will rotate to each of the centers to learn about the invention and figure out how to build it themselves.

GSU Newsroom: Discuss your most impactful grants of the seven you received since 2014.

Hisrich: Care bags for military soldiers & PADS was made possible by an Illinois Education Association grant. We collected items such as socks, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and snacks to make military bags for soldiers. This was rewarding because a lot of people participated and supported us – faculty, students, community members, businesses.

I also liked the technology workshops, Technology workshops for teachers: Connecting through Connections. The National Education Association provided this grant for us to conduct free professional development workshops at schools. My students learned a lot. They felt like they could contribute to the field of education because they taught current educators how to implement technology in the classroom and school. All of these grants really have enhanced my SEA students’ skills in terms of leadership, communication, teamwork, and organization, as well as their professionalism and knowledge in the field.

GSU Newsroom: Where do you draw your drive and inspiration?

Hisrich: My parents. My mom has her Master’s in Psychology. She used to work with adolescents in juvenile delinquent facilities. My dad has a Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship. He is a Dean at Kent State University. He’s held many positions, but the last was the Director of the Entrepreneurship Center at Arizona State University’s Thunderbird School of Global Management. For years, and currently, he teaches classes at the university and travels to other countries to teach, which is why I grew up living and traveling all over the world – living in 7 countries and traveling to over 30. He also has over 40 books on entrepreneurship, marketing, small business, etc. Currently, we are working together now on a podcast on entrepreneurship which will be posted on the website I am creating.

GSU Newsroom: If you could fold all your passions - parent education, children, learning, research, entrepreneurship, and technology into one project, what would it look like?

Hisrich: My long-term goal, for the past 15 years since I got my dog Kaiya, has been to build and create a farm for families. The farm would have a variety of animals, especially cats and dogs, that we would rescue from all over the country. Families would be able to interact with the animals. This interaction helps children and adults enhance their social-emotional skills. It also promotes family engagement. Here, I would also teach parents and families how to better interact and communicate with their children. Plus, it helps save animals, as they have a place to live and people could come adopt them. I have started a business plan with my dad, but it is still a dream.
Tour de Southland

The 2017 Tour de France has begun. 22 teams of nine riders set off on July 1 to cover approximately 2,200 miles of Germany, Belgium, and France by bicycle. While GSU can't quite bring you there (although you never know what study abroad opportunities will arise through the Office of International Services, we can offer the 22 mile Old Plank Road Trail, a biking and hiking path that connects with the nearby Thorn Creek Trail and runs from Chicago Heights—the eastern edge of the Southland—to Joliet, the western border.

Not only does the trail provide an opportunity for pastoral peace while exercising, it also lets riders (and hikers!) check out local hangouts and havens.

**Downtown Park Forest** – Welcome to arts central. Hop off the trail and spend some time walking through the Tall Grass Art Association gallery, visit the home of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, and grab a bite to eat before you get back on your bike. Park Forest is a key arts district in the Southland, with roots reaching back into the sixties.

**Matteson Metra** – For the eco-conscious traveler, the trail allows you to bike or hike to the Matteson Metra station where you can go green on public transportation and ride the rails all the way into downtown Chicago. The Metra Electric route brings travelers to places like Hyde Park/University of Chicago, McCormick Place, the Museum Campus, and Millennium Park. All aboard!

**Historic Frankfort** – Go a little further, and you can visit historic downtown Frankfort, a community founded in 1855. Some original structures and many new ones that preserve the village's historic feel are accessible from the trail. Visit the historical society, try some barbecue, or—on Sundays from May to October—visit the Downtown Farmers Market on Breidert Green.
Arrowhead Bridge – This award-winning, nearly quarter-mile suspension bridge lifts the trail over the traffic on Route 45 and gives riders an inspiring view. To the north, a Southland shopping district awaits; the southern vista reveals open sky and fields, a look into the Southland's farming past.

New Lenox Town Center – Stop by the town center in New Lenox and see what's happening. The village hosts movie nights, live music, and food trucks (http://www.newlenox.net/pView.aspx?id=27855&catid=529) throughout the year.

Joliet – The Old Plank Road Trail ends at Washington Street in Joliet. From there, ambitious cyclists can connect with the I&M Canal Trail system (https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/greenwaysandtrails/pages/imcanal.aspx) and other Will County trails (https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/preserves-trails/trails/hickory-creek-bikeway). Or, take a rest by the river before you cycle back home.

And if nature isn't your thing, but you still want to stay in shape, you can always visit the Recreation and Fitness Center (http://www.govst.edu/Recfit/) at GSU.

Happy trails!