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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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News

All Invited to GSU's 48th Annual Convocation Ceremony

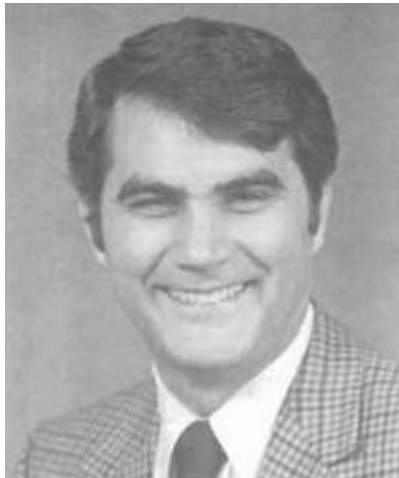


[Governors State University's](#) annual Convocation ceremony is always exciting, but this year holds a special significance: the first entering freshman class will take part in its final march before Commencement. These students are the first to complete a four-year undergraduate degree at GSU.

Convocation 2017 also welcomes the Class of 2021 to GSU and recognizes the winners of the Faculty Excellence Awards and the Baysore Award.

The ceremony will take place **Friday, August 25** at 3 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. Contact [Penny Perdue](#) or call 708.534.4130 for more information.

Nominations Requested for the Baysore Award



The Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Award is presented to the GSU employee who most fully demonstrates the following four qualities so consistently and fully embodied by Dr. Baysore during his eighteen-year service to the university:

- Absolute integrity
- Total competence
- Generous dedication
- Unfailing civility

The Baysore Award will be presented by President Maimon during Convocation on Friday, August 25.

This award is given only when a candidate meets the strict qualifications as listed above. Nominators are encouraged to devote special time and attention to their written nominations. The length of the nomination is not as important as the quality, but enough information should be included so that the committee can make an informed decision.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, August 18** at 5 p.m. Submit your nominations to [Penny Perdue](#).

Announcements and Events

GSU Master Event Calendar

The University Events Office is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new GSU Master Event Calendar. Join us to learn about the new calendar in the Hall of Honors on **Tuesday, August 1** from 10 – 11 a.m.

Training workshops for event planners and schedulers will take place later in August. More information about the sessions will be announced soon.

Contact [Karen Caesar-Smith](#) for more information

Submit Nonperishable Food to Receive Library Amnesty

During the first week of the [GSU Library's](#) Food for Fines Amnesty program, over 45 pounds of non-

perishable food items have been collected, according to Amy Holman, Library Circulation Manager. Amnesty continues through the end of this week; the deadline is **Friday, August 4**.

All GSU students, faculty, and staff who bring overdue GSU library books and materials along with one or more cans of food to the library circulation desk will have their late fines forgiven. This does not include charges for damaged materials.

Canned good donations will be directly donated to the GSU Food Depository. Those who do not have library fines are also welcome to donate. Contact the [library](#) for more information.

GSU First Annual Department of Public Safety Car and Motorcycle Show

GSU's Department of Public Safety is hosting its first Car and Motorcycle Show on **Friday, September 8** from 4 – 8 p.m., rain or shine. Enjoy a fun and memorable evening with the show's awards, goodie bags, dash plaques, and door prizes.

A donation of \$10 is required to display your vehicle, and all proceeds benefit the Special Olympics Illinois. No admission will be charged for spectators. Contact [Lee Taylor](#) for more information.

Graduate Student to Showcase Work in Visual Arts Gallery



GSU's Katie Wraczewska, a [Master's in Art](#) student with a specialty in Ceramics, will begin showing her sculptures in the GSU Visual Arts Gallery tomorrow, **August 1**. Her collection includes sculptural pieces that emphasize texture and activate the gallery space through floor to wall connection.

Stop by the [Visual Arts Gallery](#) from **August 1 – 18** to check out the show. The closing reception will take place on the evening of **August 18**.

Take a Summer Time-Out for Fun!

Summer is winding down, so take a break during the last weeks of summer for Time-Out for Fun! All GSU staff, students, and faculty are invited to get together, as schedules allow, between noon and 2 p.m. this **Wednesday, August 2** 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 next two Wednesdays this summer: August 2 and August 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](#).

Highlights

Rising to the Top



Jerry Rodgers, a senior at [Governors State University](#), knows the value of a strong résumé. To stay ahead of job market competition, he's taking part in micro-employment via a company called [Parker Dewey](#) while he finishes his degree at GSU.

Read [Jerry's story](#) in the GSU Newsroom.

Students return from Summer China Studies Program

Image

GSU students spent almost three weeks in China and have now safely returned. Their program was organized by GSU partner school, Hangzhou Normal University (HNU). They stayed on campus, took courses on the Chinese legal system, Chinese culture, Chinese enterprise, urbanization development, and Kung Fu. They also visited the city of Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Wuzhen. All students received scholarships from HNU and some received an additional Study Abroad scholarship from the [Office of International Services](#), making this program extremely affordable and accessible.

We look forward to having the students share their experiences with the GSU community and hope to have even more students participate next summer. For pictures of their time abroad, please check out the [GSU Study Abroad Facebook page](#).

STEAM Camp Enriches Summer for Kids



Over the summer, GSU has hosted two sessions of summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) camp for kids ages 11-15. The comprehensive programming included instruction across the disciplines, providing students with an exciting summer learning environment.

Over two weeks, GSU hosted more than 55 children. Groups departed campus for field trips to the Park Forest SouthWorks MakerLab, Park Forest Fire Department, Thorn Creek Nature Preserve, and Bimba Manufacturing.

GSU Student-Athletes Participate in GSU Foundation Golf Outing



Student-athletes lent their support Monday by volunteering at the GSU Foundation Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing, held at the Flossmoor Country Club. Proceeds from the Scholarship Scramble provide merit and financial need-based scholarship opportunities to deserving students pursuing bachelor's degrees.

[Read more . . .](#)

Alumni Reconnect at Biology and Chemistry Reception



The [GSU Alumni Association](#) hosted a reception this month reconnecting alumni from the Divisions of Science, Mathematics, and Technology, Biology, and Chemistry at Copper Still Martini Bar & Lounge. Faculty members, staff, and alumni enjoyed refreshments while catching up and networking.

To see a photo gallery of the event, visit the [Alumni Association's Facebook page](#).

Listen to the New Episode of the Thought Leader's Viewpoint

GSU's [School of Extended Learning](#) hosts Chris King, the president of Robinson Engineering in Illinois, who has served as the company's president since 2000. Robinson Engineering will sponsor the SEL's next workshop.

To listen to King's strategies on achieving exceptional customer service, listen [here](#).

Workshops & Trainings

A complete list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found [here](#). Check out the 25Live training sessions for the GSU Master Event Calendar as well as the next Office of Marketing and Communications Brown Bag Lunch.

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, July 27, 2017

Rising to the Top

Jerry Rodgers wants an edge. A senior at Governors State University, he wants to stay ahead of job market competition, and he's doing it through micro-employment via a company called [Parker Dewey](http://parkerdewey.com/) (<http://parkerdewey.com/>) while he finishes his degree at GSU.

"The way that I actually connected was through my mentor at GSU, (Vice President of Development) Will Davis. He came and told me about the organization, about the opportunities they have for students," he said.

Davis worked with Rodgers through the [Male Success Initiative](http://govst.edu/msi/) (<http://govst.edu/msi/>) (MSI), an enrichment program that provides academic, professional, and personal development for men of color at GSU. Through engagement and empowerment, MSI students are ushered "from orientation to graduation," with mentorship as a key component of that process.

Rodgers came to GSU through the unique [DDP](http://www.govst.edu/DDP/) (<http://www.govst.edu/DDP/>) pathway, a broad partnership program that helps students move seamlessly from community college to the university. He's set to graduate with a [Bachelor's degree in Computer Science](http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Browse/Computer-Science-Degree/) (<http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Browse/Computer-Science-Degree/>) in December.

"This gives me practical work experience on my résumé and a better shot at obtaining potential jobs when I graduate," Rodgers said.



So what is Parker Dewey? It's a new platform that allows students and recent graduates to explore their options through project-based employment. It's a way for employers and employees to see if they have "a love connection"—in the words of Jeffrey Moss, founder and CEO of Parker Dewey—and it might be the next step in moving Millennials from the gig economy into full-time, right-fit careers.

"When I was in venture capital, we would hire five interns or so every year," Moss said, "and they had 3.9 grade point averages from Harvard or Stanford. Amazing pedigrees. And every year, two or three would stink, and we knew it the first week. It was the wrong fit, or they didn't have that grit, that something more that made them figure out how to get stuff done."

Enter Parker Dewey. Here's how it works.

Parker Dewey connects career launchers—graduates and those about to graduate—with companies seeking talent to see them through projects. It could be a five-hour job (compiling a set of data into a chart, for instance), or it could be twenty or forty, but there's never any commitment, no contracts or strings. On the surface, it's a quick chance for launchers to get some (paid) experience and employers to shorten the company to-do list. In practice, it's an opportunity for both to find out if they're a good match. Unlike working through temp agencies, if a company wants to hire a Parker Dewey career launcher full-time, there's no contract to be bought out of. They just do it.



Ned Laff, who heads up the Center for the Junior Year at GSU, is excited to see Governors State partnering with Parker Dewey.

"A student comes out of this experience with a genuine understanding that their skill sets are very real. They personally understand how what they're studying translates into marketable skills that can fit into any number of work settings. Because the projects are short term, students are able to test the

waters in a variety of areas, then they can demonstrate their flexibility in their résumés and portfolios," Laff said.

Rodgers is the first student from GSU to go through Parker Dewey. He said the process of going from interested to working was fairly simple.

"You go on the site, read short descriptions of available projects, and apply for the ones you like," he said. "From there, you might have a phone interview or one on Skype. I feel like this is moving me down my path. I'm using <https://www.parkerdewey.com/> as a resource, and employers are going to see that I have experience."

Laff said that the university is in the process of finalizing their relationship with Parker Dewey and to look for a full launch in the fall.

