Renovation of the kitchen is approved

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Dec. 11 2015, Governors State University held the Board of Trustees meeting in Engbretson Hall. Many Action Items were on the agenda. One of them was Resolution 16-16: Approval of Contact for the Purchase of and Installation of Kitchen. The Resolution reached approval. The Board of Trustees approved up to $3,800,000 for the renovation.

The Phoenix interviewed Betsy Joseph, Director of Auxiliary Services and Housing, on the renovation of the kitchen. According to Director Joseph, the renovation of the kitchen will not only include the serving area, but also the seating area and what is now the Lake Side seating area (the cafeteria annex) as well. However, they are waiting on bids to see what they can do for the renovation.

The construction will begin after finals, “We will keep catering operations up and running until commencement. From commencement until sometime in early August the café as we know it, will be out of commission,” said Director Joseph.

If the university has a sufficient amount of money, the glass wall that separates the Lakeside Lounge from the cafeteria will be removed and replaced by a sliding wall. Director Joseph stated, “We would have the area open for dinning most of the time, but when it needs to be a catered event or a program that area can be divided off.”

Since the cafeteria will be out commission Director Joseph is working on figuring out what kind of dining program will be able to operate during the summer for students and employees, as well as what type of catering service would be provided. “The conversation is just starting and I am collecting from the different departments what they anticipate some the events will happen during the summer or catering needs that they’re going to have. So that we can try to identify, short of the scope of what we need for this summer, in order to figure out how best we can serve,” said Director Joseph.
Can GSU improve shuttle service?  

By: Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

It is a concern that GSUXpress Shuttle is not being accommodating with students, staff and faculty. Many students, staff and faculty rely on the shuttle it takes them to campus from Metra Electric. The residents at Prairie Place also rely on the shuttle as well for going to and from the campus or the Metra station.

Being a rider of the shuttle, it is not accommodating all the time specifically, when it comes to having enough space for passengers and operating hourly. For example, the shuttle that arrives at the Metra station at University Park at 9:00AM is frequently full. Sometimes the shuttle driver has to make a second trip or passengers rather get a the Pace bus than wait. Majority of the students, staff and faculty come in early because they have to start at 9AM. However, some of the passengers do not have to be on campus that early; still they ride the 9AM shuttle because the shuttle has a three-hour gap. It will not come to the Metra station until 11:40AM.

Many passengers have a problem that there are two shuttles and two drivers, yet they operate at different times of the day. Which makes passengers wait longer and sometimes even miss the train in the evening. However, ther is no problem with the drivers.

Karen Bryant, an undergraduate student in Psychology, was asked how she felt about the shuttle schedule, this was her response, “I think the shuttle should run hourly or at least follow the Metra schedule because classes are between 9:30 and 12 or 12:30 and 4:30 there is no shuttle between those gaps. Also, if you have a 4:30 class that ends at 7:20 you have to leave early in order catch the shuttle.”

Campus police was addressed on this issue because the shuttle operates out of their department. They were asked why the shuttle does not operate hourly. Their response was that the Director of Auxiliary Services and Housing, Betsy Joseph created the schedule. Therefore, Director Joseph was addressed about the shuttle issue. However, she was not aware of the situation. Director Joseph stated that the schedule was created based on the need from the Metra to campus.

Director Joseph stated as well she would address the shuttle issues to head of Campus Police, Chief McGee.

A Look Back and a Look Ahead- Graduate Professional Network

By: Matt Gentry  
Grad Columnist

Graduate Students,  
Welcome back to GSU! Isn’t it ironic? it is called the spring semester as well as look during the Fall 2015 to take a moment to look GSU’s campus. We wanted all graduate students across that represents and supports is a student organization called the spring semester GSU! Isn’t it ironic? it is

Welcome back to  
Grad Columnlist

By: Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

Look Ahead- Graduate  
Professional Network

By: Matt Gentry  
Grad Columnist

Graduate Students,  
Welcome back to GSU! Isn’t it ironic? it is called the spring semester when the weather is anything but? Regardless, I hope you had a great winter break and are excited to be that much closer to your educational goals! The Graduate Professional Network (GPN) is a student organization that represents and supports all graduate students across GSU’s campus. We wanted to take a moment to look back at GPN activities during the Fall 2015 semester as well as look ahead to upcoming events.

The GPN planned and executed a number of successful programs in the fall including: Negotiating the Job Offer for Healthcare Professionals, Future Educators Career Workshop, provided discounted business cards, provided free headshots, ran a Zarleno’s Ice Cream Fundraiser which raised $115 for our budget, and hosted a GA Reception.

Our monthly meetings were also a success with an average of 14 students attending and the election of our co-chairs (with their field of study): Ashely Boltien-Occupational Therapy, Shemerial Alexander-Healthcare Administration, and Zimrah Gordon-Interdisciplinary Leadership.

We provided two different informational programs during our meetings, including “Tips for getting a Graduate Assistantship” and “All About OPUS”.

Looking forward to this semester, we will have the following events: a financial aid information session specific for graduate students, an ice cream social serving discounted Zarleno’s Italian Ice Cream, an Outstanding Alumni Networking Social (tentative), and a community service project. We will also be conducting a survey for graduate students and running off a money prize for one lucky participant! Every graduate student is automatically enrolled in a Blackboard course titled “Graduate Student Information Center” which is the best way to stay up to date with information and programs.

Do you have something you think could make graduate student culture better at GSU? Please share it with the GPN! We are growing on campus and working hard to support our graduate students. The best way to contribute is to show up at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday, 3/2/16 from 3:30-4:30 PM in A1122 (next to Office of Career Services). Can’t make it to the meetings? Email GPN Co-Chair Matt Gentry at mgentry@student. govst.edu and share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

GSU, The place of 
encouraging arts

By M.V. Sharath Chandra  
Contributing Writer

For the first time, a thought was deep-seated from the bottom of my heart which gave an everlasting surprise. A University, in spite of having all the academic excellence, has a specialty of exploring the things which are most crucial, critical and auspicious to the students. I heeded from my friends about Governors State University. It is a place of endowing in all the ways and now it is really a very pleasant feel to see the same thing here and the great heritage.

In the first sight, the university has a frightening look due to its size but it is the large school of diversified people and consisting various academic and non-academic events. The most amazing spot is Visual Arts Gallery, which is a significant place for creating a fabulous experience in visual captivation. The VAG society has extremely dedicated in establishing the dynamic exhibitions and emerged in student artists’ work. This is the real advancement and it puts forward the college’s philosophy of integrating life outside the classroom with the teaching that occurs within.

In this, they include sculpture, costume, pastels, paintings, artist books, photographs and various art. Sometimes this gallery is used to host other artistic activities such as music concerts and poetry readings. This is really astonishing and very obvious to know the creativity of students. It defines how student artists see their work and how their art finds its own way into the world of illustration and publication. From my perspective, culture of encouraging arts has its own appreciable place and GSU does this in an outstanding manner and introducing such art galleries in university is the marvelous example of this because there are only few universities who encourage creativity and arts.
The Professor Profile for this first Issue of the year is Dr. John Sowa from the College of Arts and Sciences, division of Science.

Interviewed by Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

Sowa: Currently I am teaching Physical Chemistry II lecture and laboratory; I thought it would be a fun one to teach as my first class at Governors State.

The Phoenix: How long have you been in the field of education?

Sowa: 22 years. My most interesting teaching experience was to teach a chemistry (huaxue) course in Wuhan, China in 2009.

The Phoenix: Was teaching your first choice?

Sowa: My father is a retired organic chemistry teacher and we lived across the street from the college (Union College, Schenectady, NY). He would take me to his classes or let me play around in his lab. When I was six, I got all of the kids in the neighborhood together and started teaching a chemistry lab in my basement. We raided my Mom’s laundry room and made various concoctions with soap. My neighbor was an artist and he challenged me with an alchemy experiment to convert lead into gold. The next day, at school, I collected pencil leads from the other students. When I got home, I placed them in a flask of concentrated hydrochloric acid, put the flask in a dark closet in our basement and checked the reaction over the course of several weeks. The pencil leads never turned into gold but I think that was a really exciting experiment to do.

I always wanted to get a Ph.D. in chemistry and I went to Iowa State University, 1985-1991. When I started looking for jobs in industry, I got a few interviews with oil companies but my heart told me to go into teaching!

The Phoenix: Can tell me about some of your publications?

Sowa: My most recent paper discusses the impact of the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. We studied a fish species called Menhaden; they skim the surface of water to collect plankton as food. We thought oil floats on the surface of water, thus, these fish are most likely to ingest oil from the BP Spill. We compared the fish that we caught in the Gulf from 2010-2014 to a similar species caught in NJ. Guess which fish were more contaminated?

The Phoenix: I understand you have an interest in photography. Can you tell me about it?

Sowa: I enjoy capturing artistic images with my old camera and there are some awesome scientific aspects involved in film processing. I am working with Gerry Slowik in Visual and Performing Arts to incorporate film photography in teaching and club activities at GSU.

The Phoenix: You are the faculty advisor for the chemistry club. Can you tell me about it and future plans for it?

Sowa: There is a wealth of opportunities for chemists in the Chicago area. I am hoping that the Club will be a catalyst for getting students to see these opportunities. I am also hope to use it as a catalyst for some fun social activities.

If you are interested in having your Club/Student Organization featured in our “Club Spotlight,” email us at phoenix@govst.edu
On the books: GSU’s bookstore gives credit back to students

By Misturat Ganiyu

Starting Spring Semester of 2015, Governors State University initiated the Price Match program in its bookstore. According to Bernie Bolz, the GSU Book Manager, students, faculty and staff would bring a copy of a competitor’s price for the chosen book. The book must be in stock. Next, a Sales Associate or the Book Manager compares that price to GSU’s bookstore price, “They’ll still pay the full price here, but the difference is given on a gift card,” GSU Book Manager Bernie Bolz said. That car could be used to buy anything at the bookstore, except gift cards. “...We have the one-on-one attention, so if something is a mistake or something wasn’t correct. We are able to fix it within the bookstore,” said Bolz. “You don’t have to wait for Amazon’s customer service to email you back.”

By Misturat Ganiyu

Troy Nickle enlightens ‘All of Us’

By Misturat Ganiyu

Maya Angelou, poet, civil rights activist and author once said, “The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are not be questioned.”

Her words inspired Troy Nickle to make two pieces. Each artwork started as a response to Governors State University’s Start Something that Matters initiative. After Art Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson was given an assignment to find an artist who was “working on specific projects of importance to communities,” his search led to Troy Nickle.

“I have created a body of work with the intention to create awareness and start a dialogue about the plight of the Syrian refugees and of those displaced through the world,” said Nickle in his artist statement for his piece in the GSU Library. “I think the role of an artist is to allow us to look at the world in a new way, to create opportunities for questions, insights, curiosity, reflection and wonder” Nickle mentioned in an email interview.

Nickle’s first artwork was developed on Governors State University campus lawn last spring that read the first half of Maya Angelou’s quote, “The ache for home lives in all of us.” His second piece now resides in the GSU’s Library Skylight Gallery. “The purpose of the Skylight gallery is to provide a place for students to study amongst art,” noted Library Dean Lydia Morrow.

“Many of my indoor installations are created in situ in the gallery specifically for the space,” said Nickle. “...I am always looking to create work in a place where I can find a balance between various elements that work in harmony and how a work can enhance one’s experience of a place.” said Nickle.

Troy Nickle’s “All of Us” exhibition stays in the Skylight gallery till the end of the semester.

According to Nickle’s artist statement, “these interconnect patterns resemble a kind of sublime structure, which now lies in ruin, reflecting an uneasy reality of destruction and violence.”

Troy Nickle’s exhibition was inspired by Maya Angelou’s quote: The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.” Photo by Misturat Ganiyu.

Dana Solatka glances at Troy Nickle’s images that reside temporarily in the Skylight Gallery, which is located in the GSU Library. Photo by Misturat Ganiyu.

Jaguar Connection: a new way to connect

By Darius Robinson

On January 26, 2016, GSU launched an online program called the Jaguar Connection. In order to get a better understanding of what the Jaguar Connection about Assistant Dean of Students, Sharee Sanderson, for a thorough rundown of the program.

Q. What exactly is the Jaguar Connection?
A. The Jaguar Connection is an online resource for clubs and organizations. What the system does is streamline processes and creates an avenue for student clubs and organizations to be able to promote, communicate, find their common interest, work collaboratively and really get their message out about their particular club or organization.

Q. Who came up with this concept?
A. This is actually an old concept that has been being used by hundreds of other colleges and universities. GSU is just now getting connected with this concept. Collegiate Link is the entity that created the program that Governors State uses.

Q. Do you feel the Jaguar Connection will achieve its goal and be effective?
A. Definitely! The Jaguar Connection is a very user friendly program that pretty much walks you through all of the processes. Each club and organization that is registered has their own portal within this system that allows them to have access to an assortment of different functions via the Jaguar Connection.

In addition to the Q and A, Sharee Sanderson explained that prior to the launch date there was a 10 week process in order to get the program up and functionally running.

Although this is a new addition to Governors State University’s way of life it will more than likely be the new wave of how GSU operates in regards to its clubs and organizations. This system is way to stay in the loop of things that are happening amongst the clubs and organizations at GSU.
Black Women Rock will display its fourth annual debut at Governors State University soon. This award show will acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of African American women in the GSU and local community. Each issue of The Phoenix will provide you, our readers, with different perspectives of this festivity.

First, here are the nominees and the categories:

Scholar (Student):
- Raven Phillips
- Felice Kimbrew
- Markeeta Parker
- Tenille Bell
- Yolanda Pitts

Scholar (Faculty/Staff):
- Dr. Delawnia Cornes-HaGans
- Dr. Elizabeth Johnson
- Dr. Latonya Easley
- Dr. Lynette Danley
- Dr. Alicia Battle

Phenomenal Change Agent:
- According to Black Women Rock program, this award will be presented to a faculty member who has "enriched the lives of students through education, mentoring and involvement."
- Nominees: Latonya Holmes, Dr. Lynette Danley, Ricca Louisissant, Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Dr. Carolyn Rodgers
- Dr. Shea Dunham
- Dr. Alicia Battle

Female Athlete of the Year:
- Nominees: Kendra Riley, Zaporia Smith, Dominque Hunt

Philanthropist (Faculty):
- Nominees: Patricia Guy

Advocate/Activist:
- Nominees: Jennifer Taylor, Ricca Louisissant

Entrepreneur (Student):
- Nominees: Sheila Perry

Rising Star:
- According to Black Women Rock program, the winner of this category will be an undergraduate student who "has shown outstanding leadership and service."
- Nominees: Keena Garner, Tracy Stephen, Lauren Sanders, Karen Bryant, Misturat Ganiyu, Felice Kimbrew, Sahara Davis-Turks

Public Health Brigade participates present to the College of Health and Human Services

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Jan. 29, Study Abroad Coordinator Amy Schoenberg and Dr. Phyllis West from the Social Work Department presented to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), on the Public Health Brigade trip to Nicaragua on the student experience. The service project took place during Jan. 5-12.

Coordinator Schoenberg, Dr. West and Dr. Alicia Battle from the Social work Department worked together to organize the service project trip.

Dr. West began by expressing, “This was an incredible experience and a change of a lifetime experience.” Dr. West stated that fourteen of the students participated on the service project trip, nineteen of them were from the CHHS. GSU teamed up with University of Wisconsin Madison and Claremont University.

The students were required to take a class for the service project trip. Dr. West and Dr. Battle teamed up to offer the class at GSU.

Through out presentation Coordinator Schoenberg and Dr. West showed photos of the service project. The responsibilities for them were to provide hygiene items for the families that live in low economic areas of Nicaragua. They built latrines, shower units, septic tanks and washing areas for family units. Dr. West stated the work was very demanding than what they had anticipated.

Coordinator Schoenberg expressed, “We got to work and live and live inside this community for over three days and we got to bond with them.”

Later student participants were interviewed. Ayah Darwish, an undergraduate student stated, “Seeing and meeting so many wonderful and humble people made me come back down to earth and appreciate everything I have a thousand times more!”

A graduate student from Communication Disorders/ Speech-Language Pathology program, Avalon Marciniak elaborated, “This experience taught me how to be aware of subtle nuances of another culture. Working with the families taught me how to work and communicate effectively with individuals that speak a language other than mine. I learned how to be aware of my own judgments and practice selflessness.”

To hear more about the students experience, on February 16, the students will be having an Education Abroad Symposium of Public Health Brigade in Nicaragua. It will be in E- Lounge at 4:30pm.
Vitae and Athletics

What’s been happening with GSU Athletics?

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

Last semester Governors State University Athletics was chosen to be a part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Since the Fall Semester, the GSU Basketball teams have faced challenges because they are new according to the Head Coach of the Women Basketball team, Associate Athletic Director and Interim Sports Information Director La Toshia Burrell, “Since we are a new program, we started from the ground-floor. We faced a lot of challenges, in all aspects.”

However, Coach Burrell stated they are looking forward to this Spring Semester. “We are really excited with the group of individuals we have so far. We are looking to continue to grow for all sports,” said Coach Blank.

Still, the athletes shined in their academics. Coach Burrell stated that eighteen of the athletes achieved honor roll status. The sports department hopes to increase those numbers this semester.

The coaching for the basketball teams does not end on the court, but continues off the court as well. According to Coach Burrell, “A big part of the reason why we are here is our passion, love for the game. We know that it is more than a game, it’s a game of life and academics is a big part of that. As well as getting involved in our community, we do volunteering once a month.”

Coach Burrell stated that the Women Basketball program does team bonding once a month, “We really believe in building and developing these women into young adults and helping them to grow.”

The teams did struggle last semester, “We are hoping to grow in all levels on the court and off the court,” said Coach Burrell.

Jaguar Basketball Schedule

Men Home Games
Feb. 7 @ 11 pm
Feb. 16 @ 7 pm
Feb. 20 @ 6 pm

Women Home Games
Feb. 11 @ 5 pm
Feb. 16 @ 5 pm

Tutoring at Prairie Place

By Jessica Rodgers
Contributing Writer

Attention freshmen and sophomores! There is a new program offered by the GSU Writing Center. We now have walk-in tutoring available at Prairie Place to assist students with essays. Jessica Rodgers and Briana Holden are the trained Sophomore Writing Tutors who are prepared to help students start on their paper, make a plan for a paper, and get them unstuck at any point along the way.

Jessica and Briana can be found in the Prairie Place (Great Hall) on Sundays from 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; and Saturdays from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. The complete schedule for each term is located on the Writing Center website: www.govst.edu/owl. There, students will also find other helpful resources.

Statistics show that peer tutors are the most effective way to help students with their writing, so there is no need to try to do all those papers alone. Jessica and Briana are here to help.

Black History

True History Not Slave History

An Overview Presented by:

Focus: Part I – COLOR

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2016 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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GSU Library
Seeking historical information regarding Black History makers? GSU Library has a collection of books, DVDs, and eBooks dedicated to Black History. Visit www.govst.edu/library, or the library, or contact library@govst.edu.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Monday, February 1
BSU MEETING
5 p.m., Engbrethton Hall

Tuesday, February 2
BLACK JEOPARDY
3-5 p.m., Hall of Honors
Show what you know and learn what you don’t – all while having fun competing.

Wednesday, February 3
LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX: NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
6 p.m., Prairie Place
Learn about national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora.

Thursday, February 4
CARD TOURNAMENT
3-5 p.m., Lakeside Lounge
Spades and bid whist were favorite games of Pullman porters on the railroad cars. Join us to learn and/or play these awesome card games.

Friday, February 5
BLACK CINEMA
7 p.m., Prairie Place
Enjoy an evening of films produced and/or starring African Americans and learn more about Black culture.

Monday, February 8
HIDDEN COLORS 1: THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN, MOOR, AND AFRICAN DESCENT
5 p.m., Engbrethton Hall
Screening of the documentary about the real and untold history of people of color around the globe, discussing why the contributions of African and aboriginal people have been left out of the pages of history.

Tuesday, February 9
THE RACIAL CONTRACT: WHITE SUPREMACY AS A POLITICAL SYSTEM
4:30 p.m., CSC 2569
Dr. Ben Alimwalla invites all GSU students, staff, and faculty to an open-classroom lecture and discussion of Charles Mills’ critical race theory, specifically, his work on white supremacy as a political system.

Monday, February 15
HIDDEN COLORS 2: THE TRIUMPH OF MELANIN
5 p.m., Engbrethton Hall
“Hidden Colors 2,” the follow up to the critically acclaimed 2011 documentary about the untold history of people of African and aboriginal descent, investigates the issues and truths surrounding the global African presence.

Tuesday, February 16
RETHINKING BRAZILIAN RACE RELATIONS IN THE ERA OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
featuring Dr. Jerry Davila, Professor of History, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign
4:30 p.m., TBD
This lecture will explore how Brazil, which used to tout itself as a “racial democracy,” has recently come to embrace affirmative action at the time the U.S., through a series of Supreme Court decisions, is rejecting it.

Wednesday, February 17
BLACK INVENTIONS
Noon – 5 p.m., Hall of Governors
Exhibit of inventions by African Americans and how they used their ingenuity to create career paths and opportunities in the fields of science, technology, business, and other arenas.

Monday, February 22
HIDDEN COLORS 3: THE RULES OF RACISM
5 p.m., Engbrethton Hall
Hidden Colors 3: The Rules of Racism is the third installment of the critically acclaimed documentary series Hidden Colors 1 and 2. This installment tackles the taboo subject of systematic racism.

Tuesday, February 23
SLAVERY IN MEXICO
3:30 p.m., B2203
In 1829, President Vicente Guerrero became Mexico’s first Black President and the first president of color in North America. During his administration, he abolished slavery in Mexico. This presentation addresses his importance to a forgotten American slave narrative and endorses the thesis that American Slavery was a leading cause of the Mexican-American War.

Thursday, February 25
OPEN MIC NIGHT
6 p.m., Lakeside Lounge
Come join us as we share Black history through spoken word, song, and other performing arts.

Saturday, February 27
BLACK WOMEN ROCK
6:30 p.m., Center for Performing Arts
“Black Women Rock” (BWR) celebrates the outstanding achievements of Black female students, faculty, & staff.

Monday, February 29
BSU MEETING
5 p.m., Engbrethton Hall
AFRICAN AMERICAN READ IN
6 p.m., Hall of Honors
Join over a million readers from all ethnic backgrounds in celebration of Black History Month participate in the African American Read-In. The African American Read-In celebrates literacy as a significant part of Black History Month. Email Dr. Rashidah Muhammad at rmuhhammad@govst.edu or call 708.534.6974 to be a reader. Everyone is invited to participate.

For more information please call 708.235.7362 or diversity@govst.edu