Presidential Debate: One for the ages

By Dan Bilow
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 26, Governors State University, hosted a viewing of the Presidential Debate in the G-Wing Atrium. Monday night, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump met at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. for the first of three scheduled presidential debates. The moderator of the debate was Lester Holt of NBC News. Holt began the 90-minute debate by greeting both candidates and posed the first question of the night to Clinton. “Why are you a better choice to create the kinds of jobs that will put more money into the pockets of American workers?” Clinton’s response was directed at creating new jobs by investing in small businesses and improving infrastructure.

When the same question was posed to Donald Trump, his response was geared towards keeping jobs from leaving the country and reducing taxes on small and big businesses. “I’ll be reducing taxes tremendously, from 35 percent to 15 percent for companies, small and big businesses,” Trump stated. Clinton replied by attacking Trump’s plan for tax cuts, “the kind of plan that Donald has put forth for small and big companies, that would be trickle-down that Donald has put forth tax cuts, “the kind of plan that businesses” Trump stated.

In response, Trump attacked Clinton’s plan for tax cuts for the lower and middle class and the tax increases for big businesses, “You are going to approve one of the biggest tax cuts in history.” He said, “You are going to approve one of the biggest tax increases in history. You are going to drive business out. And you want to increase the regulations and make them even worse.”

The clearly winded Trump who seemed to sniffle in between sentences, questioned Clinton’s temperament and stamina during the debate. He said, “I also have a much better temperament than she has.” Clinton, shook her entire body and gave a wide smile and replied, “Woo! OK.” She said she would leave it to the audience to decide for themselves about how Trump’s temperament would be as president.

The topic of healing the racial divide in America was the next issue discussed by Lester Holt. Clinton made the recent killings of young African-American men by police and plans to tackle gun violence the key points in her argument. Clinton stated, “The gun epidemic is the leading cause of death of young African-American men, more than the next nine causes put together.”

When Donald Trump was asked the same question, his answer: “law and order”. Trump also went on to say, “Now, whether or not in a place like Chicago you do stop and frisk, which worked very well, Mayor Giuliani is here, worked very well in New York.”

In his cross-examination Holt told Trump after his statements, “but I do want to follow up. Stop-and-frisk was ruled unconstitutional in New York, because it largely singled out black and Hispanic young men.” Trump responded, “No, you’re wrong. It went before a judge, who was a very against-police judge. It was taken away from her. And our mayor, our new mayor, refused to go forward with the case. They would have won an appeal.” He stated, “If you look at it, throughout the country, there are many places where it’s allowed.”

The sample gathered of people who watched the debate around the country suggested that the audience was more pro-democratic than a normal poll. A small group of undecided voters reacted to the debate and were polled, 18 of 20 voters decided Clinton won the debate.

All during the debate, Clinton attempted to make Trump appear to be unfit for president, while Trump attempted to label Clinton as just another politician who says the right things but never takes action. Dr. David Rhea and Dr. Jayne Goode from Communication were coordinators from the viewing.

The Talking Circle

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

On Sept. 21, students visited Prairie Place for the first Talking Circle of the semester. A Talking Circle is a group discussion in which students have an open dialogue about a chosen theme as it relates to their personal experiences. The theme of this Talking Circle was “stereotypes.”

Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator, facilitated the conversation. About ten people participated. The discussion opened with an introduction from Schoenberg. She then asked attendees to state their name and their ethnic background.

There were people from different countries present: United States, China, Japan, Mexico and India. Afterwards, Schoenberg brought up typical stereotypes such as the dumb blonde myth, the belief that all African-Americans can dance well, and that women can’t play sports.

The facilitator looked for attendees to offer their opinions of those stereotypes. Next, the participants played a game. They had to guess the stereotypes placed on their backs. They had no idea why people treated them differently. The Talking Circle closed with a discussion about the exercise. Schoenberg will facilitate another Talking Circle in November.

“It’s about global awareness and knowing things outside of your normal world. We have almost 500 international students and they have a lot to share with our domestic students and vice versa. We have a lot to learn from each other,” said Schoenberg. The next Talking Circle topic will be “Love, Dating, and Marriage.”
Editorial

Illinois, look at Indiana

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The good ol’ Hoosier state, Indiana, boarders Illinois. If you’re driving southbound on I-57, there is a billboard that says, “Indiana, A Balanced Budget since 2007.” It is almost as if Indiana is teasing Illinois’s budget stalemate.

It makes you wonder why Illinois legislators and the governor can not come to an agreement. Indiana has been an example of a financially solvent state in the Midwest for years, “In Indiana, the governor and state Legislature act as a team. They put into practice the basics that help an economy grow while maintaining a budget surplus, cash reserves, and AAA credit,” according to Forbes magazine, Indiana ranks 8 in ‘Best States For business’ compared to Illinois ranking of 38.

Another rejuvenerating concept is to treat commuting like quiet time, a time to relax the mind and not worry about kids, the stress of a job, or school exams. Numerous researchers have shown that quiet time can reduce stress, so it is important to carve that into your day.

Because I don’t mind driving (when I’m not running late anyway), the car is a perfect space to relax, so turn OFF the radio AND your cell phone.

Consciously decide to not think about stressful topics, and instead be thankful while focusing on peaceful, happy things. Give it a try and I bet you’ll be surprised at how you feel. I was.

Time is valuable, so maximizing your time allows you to get the most out of your work, family, and education. Re-think the way you spend your commute, which represents a large chunk of your day. Instead of arriving home like usual, take advantage of the time to arrive home better educated, rejuvenated to study, or refreshed.

By Matthew Gentry
Grad Columnist

Time is a precious commodity, especially considering many GSU students are non-traditional and have multiple responsibilities. Among graduate students surveyed, greater than 50% commute more than 30 minutes. Your driving or public transportation time is a perfect opportunity where you can do more than just listen to music. Below are a couple of suggestions to help you rethink how you spend your commute.

First there is the practical. For public transit commuters or drivers with Bluetooth enabled cars, commuting time is a great opportunity to make phone calls, do errands via phone, check in with family on what’s for dinner, etc. As students, commute times are also great for re-listening to lectures that you audio record (check with your professor first). Especially because classes can be up to 3 hours long, listening to a content-heavy lecture twice will enable you to better grasp concepts.

Last week’s article, “Best Apps for Grad Students,” also talked about apps like Eternote which audio record while enhancing note taking. Being focused and studying takes mental endurance, and everyone needs breaks to recharge. If you don’t have much time to read magazines, watch your favorite tv shows, or kick your feet up, then try and find ways to mentally recharge on your commute.

Podcasts are a popular way to listen to topics that you love. You can find topics on just about everything, so I encourage you to check out shows like “This American Life” (a Chicago based show), TED radio hour, How I Built This, NPR Politics, or whatever floats your boat. Doing something that gives you a mental break allows you to get back to work when you get home, which most of us have to do.

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Grad Column

Make Your Commute Time Valuable

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The PHOENIX is published twenty four times annually. We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the GSU community. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership. All submissions must be credited, and include the submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study. Address Correspondence to: Phoenix Newspaper, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway Room E2543, University Park, IL 60466

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OpEd

Ask Holly

By Holly Britton
Contributing Writer

I am not sure what I really want to do. I am finishing my gen eds and supposed to be deciding but still have no clue. What should I do?

First of all, I want to reassure you that you are not the only person who has questioned what they want to do or what major to go into.

The thing is, most people know what they want to do but don’t know how to create the path to get them there. There are several areas on campus as well as upcoming activities to help you find that path.

“Jaguar Jump Week” is coming up, and will feature a “Major” day during which participants will have the opportunity to speak with students who are currently enrolled in particular majors to ask questions and gather knowledge regarding their experiences.

The possible downside is that you don’t really get to know, on your own individual level, how to create a unique path for your passions. If you are really looking for one-on-one individual attention to find the right path for you, I’d recommend visiting the Center for the Junior Year.

Center for the Junior Year works with you individually to help turn your passion into a career and not just a job. You can also visit the Office of Career Services to talk with a career counselor or even take the strengths assessment to find potential areas you’ll be good at.

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The Professor
Profile for this Issue is Dr. Christopher White, from the College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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By Brenda Torres
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Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

White: American literature classes are at the heart of my teaching. The course I teach most regularly is Major American Authors. We focus on a specific period or theme (like Romanticism, Modernism, the Gothic, or experimental fiction) or an author grouping (like William Faulkner and Louise Erdrich). Outside of American Lit, I teach Literary Criticism and Contemporary Literature, and I’ve taught Literature of the Environment and writing courses. Recently, I designed a new English Capstone course, where students assess the broader value of an English degree and look ahead to how they’ll apply their liberal arts skills in their professional lives beyond GSU. I have the privilege of teaching students at all levels from First Year Writing to Introduction to Graduate Studies. Teaching such a wide diversity of courses is something that I love about being a faculty member at GSU. It definitely suits my range of interests.

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

White: I taught my first English course, Freshman Writing, as a graduate student at Penn State University in 2001. Then I went on to teach writing and literature courses all through grad school. And I was hired at GSU in 2009. So that means I’ve been teaching for about 15 years now.

Phoenix: What made you go into teaching?

White: When I was in college, I served as a Teaching Assistant for a Philosophy professor, and I also volunteered as a tutor for GED students. Those experiences helped me to discover my interest in education, and they also gave me my first look at what teaching actually involves. More generally, I’d say I went into teaching because I love learning so much. I’m always learning new things—certainly in my own field, but also just generally. I’ve been taking guitar lessons for the past year and a half (and having a blast) and I’m also learning how to hold a handstand for 30 seconds. On top of this, I’m just profoundly interested in how learning works, how it happens, at any age, and with any subject or skill.

Phoenix: What do you enjoy most about your work?

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Phoenix: You are the advisor for the literary magazine on campus, Reconstructed. Can you tell me a little about the magazine? What do students take away from this experience?

White: Reconstructed is GSU’s student-run literary/art magazine—a venue for (GSU) students to share and showcase their creativity. We publish student poetry, fiction, nonfiction, visual art, photography, and short film—in both print and digital format (reconstructedjournal.com). Our first issue appeared online in April 2012, and we’ve published one or two issues every year since then.

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Dr. Christopher White. Photo by Brenda Torres.

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**Mariachi at GSU**

By Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 28, The Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) sponsored a Mariachi performance for Mexican Independence Day that observed Sept. 16.

The event began with president of ALAS, Elizabet Lopez, welcoming the audience to listen to Mariachi and introducing ALAS. “We are a student organization, that focuses on bringing awareness of the Latino culture. We also aim to do service projects that enrich campus and our greater community,” said Lopez.

Lopez then welcomed Brenda Rock, president of International Culture Organization (ICO), to sing the Mexican National Anthem.

Next up was Juan Gutierrez, president of Jaguar Spirit Organization. Gutierrez gave the history of Mexican Independence Day, which occurred on Sept 16, 1810, when Mexico gained independence from the Spanish.

Afterwards, Lillian Aguado, vice president of ALAS, gave a history on Mariachi. Aguado said the musical art form “originated when Herman Cortes invaded what today is considered modern Mexico, in the year of 1519.”

Aguado then brought on the Mariachi band, ‘La Barca Jalisco’ who began to play. The Mariachi echoed through the halls of GSU. They asked for requests from the audience and Rock asked for “El Mariachi Loco” which translates as “the crazy mariachi.” Rock and Justin Smith, president of Student Senate, began to dance in front of the audience and then others joined.

During the performance, Sandra Chavez, from the Center for the Junior Year and psychology student sang with the mariachi. Chavez use to perform globally, but stopped to continue her education.

“La Barca Jalisco” continued to ask for requests as people danced from the audience. The treasurer of ALAS thanked the audience for joining them and invited them to their next meeting to be held Oct. 5 at 3:30pm in the A2110.

**“Blood Among Brothers” First Global Lunch Series of the Semester**

By Veronica Butterfield  
Staff Reporter

The Global Lunch Series offered at Governors State University was initiated during the Spring 2016 semester as a result of growing interest in world events. It was created to allow our faculty to present on global issues they feel should be discussed among students and peers.

Governors State University’s Dr. Khalil Marrar, Associate Professor of Public Policy & Political Science, started off this semester’s Global Lunch Series with a moving presentation regarding American Middle-East Policy on the Sunni-Shiite feud.

The event took place in the E-Lounge on Wednesday, September 28, 2016. A complimentary lunch was provided for all who attended.

The audience was composed of 20 diverse students and staff. Dr. Marrar immediately pointed this out to bring attention to the fact that such a group would not congregate so peacefully in the Middle East.

Dr. Marrar challenged the audience to consider what happened that brought the Islamic State into Iraq and Syria and the atrocities they commit about. Who is responsible and what can we do to fix the catastrophic state Syria is in now? Once the forum was open for inquiries, conversation became heated as the students and staff pondered where the gap of understanding these issues lies.

Two more presentations are to follow in the Global Lunch Series this semester. On Wednesday, Oct. 19, students and staff can join Dr. Ellie Walsh as she discusses U.S.-Cuba Relations in the Hall of Honors from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Then, on Wednesday, Nov. 30, former Peace Corps Volunteer and Foreign Credential Evaluator, Shelley Tekeste, will discuss the Peace Corps’ work in Ethiopia. All students are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

**Chatroom**

By Misturat Ganiyu  
Associate Editor

The GSU Library staff has created online chatrooms where students can ask librarians questions. It is the digital version of the library’s Reference Desk. GSU Senior Librarians are active in the chatrooms Monday thru Friday, Noon to 4 pm, to reply to questions. Students may ask the same types of questions they would in person at the Reference Desk such as how to research a topic, check out books or use IShare. The people who reply to your questions have been GSU library staff for many years.

The benefit of talking to a librarian through the chatroom is that there are no interruptions. They are in their own office when they talk to students via chat. “We don’t have anybody to feel like they’re interrupting us or that they are being ignored” Diane Nadler said. Also, communicating with a librarian via the chatroom is quicker than waiting to receive an email response.

If students’ questions are in-depth, the librarians recommend students visit the library.
Campus

Business and Culture of India

By Veronica Butterfield
Staff Reporter

Interested in studying abroad but never have summers available? Now you can go during Spring Break. This school year, Governors State University’s College of Business is taking students to India. You do not have to be a business major to attend. Undergraduate and graduate students at GSU are encouraged to apply. Anyone slightly interested in business will certainly appreciate the chance to observe the vibrancy and growth of India’s economy first hand.

Next year’s study abroad trip will take place March 11-21, 2017. The group will travel to major cities in India including Delhi, Agra, and Mumbai. During the trip, participants will enjoy company and university visits, cultural events, sightseeing activities, and lasting memories.

"I am responsible for steering this office, so it fulfills its mission," said Neal. To him, no one is a bad writer. "The thing is that you just stop a little early in the process, so your writing process may take a little longer than somebody else’s writing process but it is a process, just keep going and going, you’ve never done, you’ve just reached the deadline," said Neal.

Writing has been his passion since he was a child. His mother and grandmother encouraged his desire to read despite discouragements from some people around him. His BA in English from Northwestern University and MFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago provided him with different ways of viewing language first—just get it out. "Write in your unplanned hand and hand. If you want to be a better writer, you’ve got to read."
South Africa Study Abroad Trip, Part II

By Donnica Gordon
Staff Writer

This article is continued from last week.

From May 15 – May 27, 13 GSU students participated in a momentous study abroad journey to the southern region of South Africa. Led by Dr. Ola Ijose of the College of Business and Dr. Cynthia Carr from the College of Health & Human Services, the students partook in a wide variety of activities that had a profound impact on their lives.

Doctoral Nursing Student Deborah Coleman-Givens, expressed her immense enjoyment of the study abroad experience, “I truly enjoyed the trip. It was a life experience I often think about. It was a proud moment for me to say I went to South Africa. I would love to go back.

This place touched my heart and made me appreciate life and how blessed I am.”

Student Karen Bryant says she found the trip exciting and enlightening. “What stood out for me was the resilience of the South African people. I met a wide range of South Africans from students to community activists, and medical professionals. Faced with major crises of illiteracy, unemployment, and HIV prevalence, there are many groups working to find viable solutions...I have a greater appreciation for the diverse people of South Africa along with the tremendous struggles they face as they rebuild the country post-Apartheid,” said Bryant.

Father-Son pair, Robert and James Mason, were able to participate in the trip together. Robert Mason, MFA, is a recent graduate from CAS with a degree in Independent Film and Digital Imaging. His son, James, is a current MBA student at GSU. For Robert, being able to share this experience with his son was an extra special bonus.

The elder Mason also commented on the invaluable nature of the trip while offering sage wisdom to the GSU student body. “The experience was priceless. We live in a global community and are now competing with students from all over the world for jobs and opportunities. Every student needs to get off campus and explore the world we live in. There is so much to learn and to be exposed to that we can’t get in a classroom,” he said.

By Sydney Milligan
Contributing Writer

The following article was contributed from a summer course taught by Dr. Patrick Santoro.

Squonk, according to urban legend, alludes to a fabled formidable varmint that stalks northern Pennsylvania’s woodlands. According to Urban Dictionary, Squonk is also South African vernacular for off-kilter or misaligned.

Both of these definitions are easily attributed to and aptly describe Squonk Opera, a Pittsburgh-based innovative avant-garde performance art troupe touring their latest show Pneumatica at Moraine Valley Community College. Fifty to seventy-five percent of the time, one was unsure of what was going on as a cyclone of original melody, intriguing graphics and fabulous farce blend captivatingly in the company’s off-balance ode to wind and fancy-free.

One engrossing aspect of the group’s presentation of their most recent creation is the hilarious prop design and work. Utilizing gas masks with attached inflatable hose contraptions that evoke noses or majestic elephant trunks in a way, were quite funny.

The props, such as the gas masks and the cannon-blasters letting out large tufts of smoke (like those Puff the Magic Dragon emits from his pipe), were such an intriguing and entertaining aspect of the show. Another fantastic part of Pneumatica was the costuming. The part Breaking Bad’s Walter White, part new-agey scatter-brained professor lab coat ensemble showed how the attire and its design was impressive. The inflatable vest that expanded to look like a strange koosh ball, sea urchin concoction also showed interesting costume design was one of the evident strengths of the presentation that added to its being enjoyable.

Moreover, the music and sound was one of the most outstanding aspects of the show. All of the original orchestration was attention-grabbing and totally pleasing to the ear. In addition, the high emphasis on wind and string instruments that evoke the sentiment of and are associated with the air fit with Pneumatica’s theme wonderfully and simply added a beautiful layer of cohesiveness to the display. The music coming through the metal tubes and piping composing the main structure was exciting and also fit the theme and mood of the performance quite well.

Lastly, what truly stood out about Squonk Opera and their staging of Pneumatica was the mass appeal and accessibility to a widespread audience of all ages. In thinking about the other performances I have attended over this summer, they all have been quite adult-oriented.

Even the self-proclaimed fairy tale based on an 18th century mythical tale by Carlos Gozzi The Green Bird expressed many themes and geared towards a more advanced audience. However, this particular show proved quite the opposite. It was entirely family friendly and very much youth-oriented.

As much as I was intrigued by the eclectic performance taking place onstage, I could not find myself able to tear my eyes away from the children frolicking at play on the grass. Seeing youngsters enthralled with and enjoying the spectacle, and cavorting around without a care in the world truly embodying the essence of summer just being kids, was captivating; and made it clear the show accomplished its goal of pleasing a public of all ages and more.
The Fighting Saints Marched In

By Nicole Lipscomb
Sports Reporter

It was another Tuesday night, and like most this time of year, the recreation center buzzed with volleyball for its “Black Out Night” home game on September 27.

The Lady Jaguars were returning from conference, and as the fall weather chilled, the crowd cheered on the Jaguars for support as they played the South Division’s leading team, the St. Francis Fighting Saints.

The home team suffered a sweeping defeat losing all three games. “We ran into a good team tonight, but will learn from this experience,” said women’s head coach, Pedro Gonzalez, according to the GSU sports website. Scores for each game read (25-13, 25-10, 25-20).

The Lady Jaguars displayed great team effort as they worked together to block and support hard hits over the net. Player highlights included Hayley Wacker finishing with a team-best seven kills, and Erika Halverson putting away six balls and seven digs. The team finished with a game total of 32 digs.

Jaguars Service Project for Pets

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 23, the Women’s Basketball team and the GSU Cheer team participated in a service project. The woman gathered in the Hall of Governors and boxed up dry dog food for the Best Buddies Pet Pantry.

The Best Buddies Pet Pantry is an organization that helps families and their pets stay together. “It is to help those who have low funding and are unable to supply food for their pets, to keep their pets,” stated Women’s Basketball Coach La Toshia Burrell.

The organization provided the team with dog food for them to do the packaging. Each of the boxes contained eight bags of food, which feeds four pets. Furthermore, the team has been collecting pet food on campus. “Student Education Association (SEA), students and faculty have been still bringing in a lot of donations. We are going to continue our efforts for the month of October,” said Coach Burrell.

The team also be accepting monetary donations in order for the organization to buy more food. They are also collecting pet toys for the organization. Coach Burrell expressed that it was rewarding participating in the service, “I think the team had fun doing it. It was rewarding for me because I was able to step back and watch them work. They knew the value of what they were doing.” Moreover, the team is still receiving food donations, and they will be focusing more on canned pet food because the organization has a large demand for it.

The Women’s basketball team is required to do a service project once a month. “I feel its very important to get out in the community not only to bring awareness to whatever cause we’re helping, but also to promote our athletic program,” said Coach Burrell.

They will be starting another service project this month and continue to collect pet food throughout the month as well. In Nov., they will be collaborate with VISTA Byron Terry to conduct a coat drive.
Student Life is excited to announce the crowning of Mr. & Ms. GSU on Saturday, October 8, 2016

Finalists for the title:
Mr. GSU- Trauvell Crawford and Ju’Juan Day
Ms. GSU- Katelyn Mattes and Ashley Palacios

Cast your vote online via Jaguar Connection Monday, Oct. 3-Thurs. Oct. 6th

Who Will Win the Title?