Governors State University

PHOENIX

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Library Archives Opened to the Public

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 3, Governors State University’s Library staff celebrated the opening of its archives to the public and the tenth anniversary of Friends of the Library. Sarah Wegley, Library Operations Associate and Paul Blobaum, Full Professor, manage the archives.

The ceremony began with Ann Manning-Nagel, the president of Friends of the Library, stating, “We’d like to thank everybody for showing up today for our ribbon cutting of the renovation of our new archive room and also to celebrate the Friends of the Library’s tenth anniversary.” Afterwards, Manning-Nagel introduced the dean of the university library, Lydia Morrow Ruetten. “This is just a joy and a pleasure and so happy you could join us today for this huge celebration,” said Morrow Ruetten. She continued to thank the Friends of the Library members for their support and listed what has been made possible by their contributions. “We just got a new collection from Diversity Inc., part of the Southland chamber that was closing down. We were able to grab 25-35 years of the work they did in the south suburbs to racially integrate our community. We’re very happy to receive that,” said Morrow Ruetten.

Provost Deborah Bordelon was present as well. She thanked all the guests for coming to the ribbon cutting as well as the staff and faculty of the library for their work towards the archives. “The library is the heart of the university and what is important with the archives is that we need to be able to research these artifacts and documents to understand who we are. History lets us know where we are coming from and where we are going,” said Bordelon.

Then President Elaine Maimon was welcomed as well. “I also want to thank everyone here because this is a very important event that we are celebrating,” said Maimon. She continued to mention the importance of GSU history.

Next came the ribbon-cutting portion of the event. Manning-Nagel, Morrow Ruetten, President Maimon and Provost Bordelon stood behind the ribbon. President Maimon was given the scissors to cut the ribbon, which was signed by the official opening of the GSU Library Archives.

Morrow Ruetten invited the guests to stay and look around at the artifacts. Since it was a ceremony of the opening of the archives, GSU artifacts were placed so people could view them.

The Phoenix was given a tour of the GSU Library Archives by Wegley. The archives has a section of rare books, “They are kind of older books and if someone wants to look at them, they’re in the catalog but they have to stay in the library to look at them,” said Wegley.

The archives also has past Volumes of “The Phoenix” as well as our previous campus newspaper, “The Innovator”. They also have digitalized copies of “The Phoenix”. The library archives also has student capstones and thesis. The older prints can be found in the catalog.

Another artifact displayed at the event was “The Creative Woman”, a journal featuring women of GSU according to Wegley. Guests were invited to have cake and coffee in the Library Skylight Gallery.

Ann Manning-Nagel, Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Provost Deborah Bordelon holding ribbon while President Elaine Maimon cut the ribbon announcing the public opening of the GSU Library Archives. Photo by Brenda Torres.
Editorial

How to Conclude the Academic Semester

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

Fall ’16 semester will end in less than four weeks. This is the time to check grades. If grades look concerning, this is the time to visit professors during office hours. This is the time to prepare syllabi or write tasks to complete before the last week of class. This is the time to start on final papers and projects because let’s be honest, not all of Thanksgiving will be dedicated to studying for exams or editing final papers.

Be smart. Start papers early. We are lucky enough to have a few places to go for writer’s block. The Writing Center located in the Academic Resource Center. There are hired writing consultants who can assist students with research papers and analysis papers.

Moreover, each major has a library liaison to help students with projects or assignments relating to their study. Also, librarians can teach students how to navigate databases that all teachers suggest you use to find scholarly or peer-reviewed articles.

Several areas on campus exist to create a temporary solitary space such as the group study rooms in the Library or the meditation room near Student Life.

If this semester marks the end of college for you, visit the Office of Career Services and have one of them review your resume or cover letter. You would want an employer to see your best attributes when he or she examines your job application. Take a moment and think about Fall’16 overall: What were your favorite moments? What were your academic mistakes? How can you improve now?

Yes, the end of another academic semester is near but changing your habits can happen at any time. Don’t be one of the people who wait until the last minute to change.

Preparing for the Career Fair

By Matt Gentry
Grad Columnist

The Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair is coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 22, from 2-5 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Lobby. If you are nearing graduation, and you are in the College of Health and Human Services, then you should consider attending. Even if you are a ways away from graduation, getting practice at a career fair is a great opportunity to gain experience for the future.

Here are some quick actions you should take now to make the most of your opportunities.

First off, career fairs take preparation. Every interaction is a mini interview, which means that you need to have done your research before arriving. Check out the Office of Career Services website (www.govst.edu/careerservices/)

and go to upcoming events for a list of companies in attendance and what positions they are hiring for. Once you have that information, roll up your sleeves and do some research. Researching is important because you can come up with appropriate questions that show you go the extra mile. For example, you could ask: “How do new grads fit into the corporate culture?” or “Do you have any mentorship programs?”

Another critical piece of advice is to make an appointment with the Office of Career Services to have your resume critiqued by a professional. Even if you already think your resume is fantastic, having a trained eye look it over can only help. A suggested edit here or a corrected error there could be the difference between your resume ending up in the ‘keep pile’ instead of the ‘toss pile’. Be warned that appointments are filling up fast, so don’t expect to walk in and be helped 2 days before the Career Fair. Book your appointment today.

At the career fair it is expected that you will dress professionally, bring business cards if you have them, plenty of resumes, and individualized cover letters. If you already narrowed down the company and position. You will also have a few minutes to deliver your “elevator pitch” to each company representative.

An elevator pitch is a brief delivery (~30 seconds) of information to spark an employer’s interest in your skills and abilities. Having a great elevator pitch takes practice!

Focus on your education, your experience, and what makes you the perfect candidate, i.e. what sets you apart. Practice in front of a mirror, in front of a friend, or in front of a counselor at the Office of Career Services.

Many employers will have giveaways, but please remember that this is not your early Christmas shopping trip. Take one promotional item at the very end of your interaction, only after you have handed over your resume, delivered your elevator pitch, collected their business card, thanked them for the opportunity, and exchanged a handshake.

The reason it is important to collect a business card is so you can follow up with an email. Soon after the career fair (within a day or two) send an email with a note of thanks and reference something you talked about so they remember you out of the many candidates they met.

Hopefully these tips help you succeed at the career fair next Tuesday and good luck landing your dream job!
The Professor Profile for this issue is Dr. Lorri Glass from the College of Health and Human Services division of Social Work.

Interviewed by Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

Glass: I have been at GSU for 10 years and became the Coordinator of the BSW (Bachelors in Social Work) Program in 2008. In addition I have the pleasure of teaching in the bachelor and masters programs in the social work department. My area of interest is social work practice and I have been concentrating on the impact of trauma on individuals from a holistic perspective. In the BSW Program I teach micro and macro practice, diversity and social justice and a course I created on trauma. In the MSW (Masters in Social Work) Program I teach micro practice as well as a graduate course that I created on Trauma Informed Practice.

Phoenix: How long have you been teaching?

Glass: I have been teaching for approximately 20 years. I have over 35 years of practice and management experience in mental health. I find that my practice experience informs my teaching and enhances what I bring students in the classroom.

Phoenix: You are known for being a great social work professor. What made you go into social work?

Glass: I did not discover social work as a career until my second semester junior year in my undergrad program. I was a Political Science major who was heading to law school. I took an Introduction to Social Work Class and was hooked. My professor was the epitome of "thinking out of the box" and a true example of putting your values into action. I did not know that there was such a vocation that would allow me to integrate knowledge and action. I discovered my passion and have found this career choice to be a perfect fit for me.

Phoenix: You are the advisor for Generating Hope on campus. Can you tell me how you are helping the organization with your prior experience in social work?

Glass: Generating Hope has been an unexpected occurrence in my life. It has been mutually beneficial to myself and students as we crafted and are now working on sustaining the group’s mission. I recognized the possibilities and power in bringing people together with a common life experience and passion for change. After that the process has been organic and has evolved to what is now a recognized student organization. One of the things that I have learned in my practice and leadership experience is that the most effective leader knows when to guide and when to “get out of the way” and let the group emerge. I am looking forward to the evolution of Generating Hope and foresee a continued positive impact on the GSU and wider community.

Phoenix: What is your favorite part about teaching?

Glass: I view teaching in the same framework as I do social work practice which recognizes the importance of relationships as well as creating an environment that enables sharing and openness and promotes transformation. I have a passion for social work and I work to transmit that passion to my students. I challenge them and expect excellence so that they are prepared and competent to practice. In addition I want to be supportive and make myself accessible to them as they take the often confusing journey to personal and professional development. My favorite part of teaching is to see the transformation in students as they gain confidence and overcome barriers. It is quite rewarding to be part of preparing the next generation of social justice advocates.

Generating Hope

Generating Hope is now officially recognized as a chartered organization under Student Life.

By Danielle Terry
Contributing Writer

Generating Hope is a social justice student club whose mission is to provide support, mentoring, and resources to formerly incarcerated students, and their families, who are seeking or currently enrolled in higher education.

The club seeks to identify and advocate for avenues to dismantle the structural facets inherent in our society creating collateral consequences and barriers for individuals to fully participate in society including mass incarceration, racism, poverty, oppression, and current social and economic policies, etc.

Ameenah Rashid, club president, and the other members of Generating Hope are carrying the torch of hope for students and their families who have faced incarceration. Previously founded as the Generating Hope Support Network under the sponsorship of the Department of Social Work, Generating Hope at their first event of the semester. Photo by Brenda Torres.

Generating Hope is chartered organization under Student Life. The social justice club is comprised of students majoring in various disciplines including Social Work, Criminal Justice, and Psychology. Rashid expressed the need for more faculty and administrators to get involved. The group’s main purpose is to support formally incarcerated students’ success in higher education.

According to Rashid, the group not only do the incarcerated suffer from the effects of incarceration, but so do their families. “Our group is here to raise awareness on the effects and educate about the implications and history of mass incarceration, stemming from the 13th amendment.”

The 13th amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for a crime making it legal to force incarcerated individuals to provide uncompensated labor. Upon completing their sentence, many still face the stigma of “punishment.” Statistics show that it is hard for people to get jobs, apply for federal benefits, and get housing in society once they’ve been incarcerated due to societal stigmas that are attached to them as former “convicts.”

The group feels very passionately about removing these stigmas and leaving the past in the past. Generating Hope founding members Darryl Cooke, Jerry Davis, Terry Barnes, and Patricia Miller, fought to change various Governors State University forms that required the applicant to state if they had been incarcerated through the “Ban the Box” initiative. Ultimately, the box wasn’t removed, but the probationary period of meetings and review boards were eliminated.

One of the main reasons the club has formed on campus is to promote education among those who have served time in jail. Rashid expresses that the best way to fight against recidivism is with education. She says, “Our focus is to strengthen people in their education to improve their social mobility.” Generating Hope not only works to change societal views regarding the formerly incarcerated individuals, but also of their family members who often also suffer emotionally, socially and financially from their loved one’s incarceration.

Generating Hope meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m and the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m in room A2110. For more information contact Ameenah Rashid by email at arashid2@student.govst.edu, by phone at 773-220-4286 or send a message through Lugnar Connection.
Dia de los Muertos Celebrated at GSU

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 7-11, the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) celebrated the Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead. The Day of the Dead is traditionally celebrated on Nov. 2, but the ALAS needed more time to plan.

Day of the Dead originated in Mexico, but is also celebrated in Central America. Most people confuse it with All Souls Day. Day of the Dead remembers loved ones that are deceased and is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church.

Moreover, ALAS decorated favorite the altar with foods of their deceased loved ones such as fruits, pastries, or even bottles of liquor.

Other objects can be placed on the altar such as a deck of cards for someone who liked playing cards or even toys for children who passed away.

Liliana Aguado, Vice President of ALAS, spoke to the importance of displaying the Day of Dead at GSU, “So that the community can know about our Latino Culture and see it live,” said Aguado.

GPA Graduating Honors Standard

By Jessica Love-Jordan
Contributing Writer

As GSU continues to transition its campus culture from that of a “junior level & up” to a four-year university, it’s important that we also look at how policies and procedures can be improved.

That’s why in the Fall of 2016, the Student Senate launched the “KYP: Know Your Policy” campaign. Each month throughout the academic year, the Student Senate highlights one or two of the many policies that have a significant and direct impact on GSU’s student body. For the month of November, the campaign focus is on Policy 21: The Honors Policy.

Under the current “Honors Policy,” to graduate from GSU with a Latin Honors distinction (i.e. Cum Laude, Magna cum Laude, Summa cum Laude), you need to maintain at least a cumulative 3.80 GPA. To be recognized on the Dean’s List, you need to have at least a 3.70 GPA for the term.

However, students at other public universities in Illinois (like Chicago State, UIC, Northern, Eastern, Southern & U of I - Springfield) only need between a cumulative 3.5 - 3.65 GPA for a Latin Honors distinction. Likewise, most public universities in Illinois require a minimum term GPA of 3.5 for Dean’s List recognition.

Why are GSU’s honors GPA requirements so much higher than the other public universities, and even most private universities in Illinois? Some have suggested that it is because the university in years prior was a transfer/junior level & up school. Specifically, because undergraduate transfer students essentially get a “reset” on their GPA when they transfer in, the standard is set much higher to ensure that the distinction is earned.

A problem with this rationalization, though, is that GSU has been a four-year university since the Fall of 2014 and that reasoning does not apply evenly across the current undergraduate population. It is worth noting that Policy 21 was last updated in 2009.

Another issue with that logic is that for the twelve public universities in Illinois, the process is the same in that transfer students enter with a GPA reset to 0.0, but GSU is the only one that has such high GPA requirements for honorable recognition.

Regardless of the reason, the outcome is that GSU graduates are left with somewhat of a disadvantage when compared with other public university graduates in Illinois. For example, a student who graduates from Chicago State University with a cumulative 3.65 GPA will have a Latin Honors “Cum Laude” distinction on their transcripts. However, a student who graduates from Governors State with a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or even 3.75, graduates with no honors recognition at all.

Distinctions like that can make the difference in landing a job interview or graduate program acceptance. Taking all of this into consideration, the Student Senate is pushing for policy change.

As a part of the KYP campaign, the Student and Academic Affairs Committee is working toward getting a long overdue revision made to Policy 21 that will make the GPA requirements comparable to the other four-year universities in Illinois.

Students can sign the petition for Policy 21 on the Student Senate page in Jaguar Connection.
2016 Election Unites Prairie Place Residents

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

Late evening at Prairie Place on Nov. 8, Prairie Place Hall Council and Student Senate sponsored an Election Day Party for Prairie Place residents. The event started at 8 p.m. in the classroom at Prairie Place and officially ended at 10 p.m. However, students moved to a different area of the Hall to continue watching the 2016 election coverage as the night went on.

About 40 students attended the event where they watched NBC news coverage of the election on a projector. The hosts alternated election commentary with free pizza and NBC News coverage.

Clinton had 104 electoral votes to Donald Trump’s 137. NBC’s Political news anchor announced that states that had been closely contested. Clinton’s 228 votes. However, like Al Gore before her, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States.

Several students following the election to ascertain the sentiments of the GSU student body regarding the election results. Many students didn’t want to publicly share their identities when sharing their thoughts. One student commented, “Actually, I am speechless.” Another student, “It was a shock. I’ll leave it at that.”

President-Elect Donald Trump: 2016 Presidential Race Post Election Coverage

By Donnica Gordon
Staff Reporter

On November 8, 2016, Mr. Donald Trump became President-Elect of the United States of America. President-Elect Donald Trump won 279 electoral votes to contender Hillary Clinton’s 228 votes. However, like Al Gore before her, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States. Clinton, if elected, won the popular vote for the presidential contest. Both contenders represented a first for American politics. Hillary Clinton, if elected, would have been the first woman to ever be elected as president of the United States.

Though there were obviously millions of Americans who supported Trump, and were ecstatic for his victory, there were millions of others who were stunned, heartbroken, angry, and afraid—not just because their candidate lost, but in grief for what many fear lies ahead in America in terms of heightened intolerance, disdain, and disenfranchisement based upon campaign rhetoric. To this end, protests were seen across the country on election night with plans for such protests to continue.

The Phoenix randomly interviewed several students following the election to ascertain the sentiments of the GSU student body regarding the election results. Many students didn’t want to publicly share their identities when sharing their thoughts. One student commented, “Actually, I am speechless.” Another student, “It was a shock. I’ll leave it at that.”

Senior Biology student, Andres Martinez, reflected, “I didn’t vote because I felt like he was going to win anyway. I’m sure a lot of Latinos voted, but it didn’t make a difference. I’m going to watch and see what he does. Maybe I’ll end up on the other side of the wall. Hopefully not.”

Senior Sociology student, Abbas Ashshahed shared, “Right now, I have mixed emotions. I kind of got depressed too [because] I don’t know what’s going to come. In my opinion, he has no prior experience in government, and in this case, who will be running the government? That’s a big concern of mine. Everything is up in the air now. We don’t know what his policies will be... It’s also disturbing to me that he did not win the popular vote. His claim that he wants to make America great again like 50 years ago. What does that mean? Is that a racist code? I’m just not sure where he is coming from with that. Also his determination to repeal Obamacare is disturbing not just for minorities, but for all of the people who are benefiting from it. So, I’m disturbed on several levels right now.”

A Master’s counseling student stated, “I feel sorry for my kids. There’s such uncertainty in the world now. I wasn’t Hillary, and I wasn’t Trump. I feel like [with] both of them, [it] was ‘picking the lesser of two evils’, and at the same time I felt the ramifications would affect my kids’ future so much. For the first time I think it was all about the future of our generations to come, and that was saddening. I’m still absorbing it. I stayed up into the wee hours of the morning watching it, not sure of how I felt. It was like a bad accident. Couldn’t look away. That’s how I felt.”
The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Advancement and the GSU Foundation, is working to actively reach out to current GSU students with several initiatives that will empower them to achieve their career goals once they graduate from GSU.

As a GSU student, you belong to an immense network of gainfully employed, successful, and influential Alumni who have graduated from Governors State University. Over 45,000 people have attended GSU to date. There are over 18,000 GSU alum on LinkedIn, with 14,614 alumni in the Chicagoland area alone.

Will Davis, VP of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the GSU Foundation says they are looking to engage current students on what their interests are after they leave GSU with their Bachelors, Masters, or Doctoral degrees and even certificate programs.

“Some of our goals are to get to know our students and their career interests. Help align those students with alums and/or industry leaders that we know so that when students graduate, they have contacts in their areas of interest,” says Davis. A look at the LinkedIn GSU Alumni Profile shows GSU alums in virtually every major US city or metropolitan area across numerous industries including Education, Healthcare, Business Development and Operations, Administration, Community and Social Services, IT, Engineering, the Arts and Design, Marketing, Accounting, Military and Protective Services, Entrepreneurship, Legal, Finance, Media and Communication, and the list goes on and on.

Davis says, “We hope to help GSU students get internships and other opportunities within organizations and industries that they plan on spending their careers in so that they are not scrambling to try and find career opportunities and jobs after graduation. Instead, we want to support students in obtaining internship experiences as well as building their alumni network while they are still as GSU in order for them to already have jobs before they walk across the stage.”

A key factor in being able to make these goals happen is to learn what current students are interested in. Davis says such knowledge will allow the Office of Institutional Advancement, the GSU Foundation, and the Alumni Association to form connections out in industry if they don’t currently exist, and/or leverage existing relationships with individuals that are in industries of students’ interest. Davis says, “Once we know the interests of our students and where they want to go, we will engage those industries and corporations and build relationships with them so they will see GSU as a pipeline for talent and resources.”

With an eyes towards student’s career and attainment of their aspirational goals, the Alumni Association, the GSU Foundation, and Institutional Advancement want to get to know the current student body. With these goals in mind, Davis says, “We are looking to engage all students at Governors State University whether you are a Grad student, a Doctoral candidate or an Undergrad. We want to get to know you so that we can be of service to you, and so that we can be a resource to you for your future career needs.”

The Alumni Association wants to know how they can best help GSU students. In the near future, there will be increasing opportunities for current students to connect with the Alumni Association, and to network with GSU alumni as well as to share what their interests are, and what they would like the Alumni Association to be able to do for them once they graduate. For more information, please contact Cheri Garey, Director of Alumni Relations at cgarey@govst.edu or 708.534.7892.

You can also start by connecting with the GSU Student and Alumni network page on LinkedIn or the GSU Alumni Association Page on Facebook.
Last year many GSU students lost thousands of dollars in free money for college because they didn’t fill out their FAFSA.

Don’t wait. Fill out your FAFSA now.

www.fafsa.gov
GSU Federal School code 009145
Student Senate Town Hall(s)

Wednesday, November 16th
7pm – 8pm
Great Hall Prairie Place

- AND -

Thursday, November 17th
3pm – 4pm
The Lakeside Lounge

Your Student Senate wants to hear from you!
The Student Senate exists to advocate for and empower the student body at GSU. So, to make sure your voice can be heard, starting in the Fall 2016, the Senate will be hosting a Town Hall meeting, at least once each semester.

Our goal is to promote general welfare of GSU students through the representation of student concerns, viewpoints and interests regarding governance issues to the administration, staff and faculty.

But we need to know your concerns!
While the Senators will be sharing some important information, we want to talk with you, and not at you. Bring your questions, concerns, and/or ideas, and let your Student Senate work for you. Join us for an hour of intellectual exchange.

*Refreshments will be served & attendees will be entered into a door prize raffle for GSU gear.*