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Student Life

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By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On Jan. 27, President Trump signed an executive order for a seven-nation immigration ban for 90-days, and suspension of the nation’s refugee program for 120 days with an indefinite suspension for Syrian refugees. This has brought fear to many college students, faculty, and staff.

Therefore, on Feb. 1, GSU President Elaine L. Maimon, sent out a letter to the campus regarding the university’s stance, “I am writing to assure all GSU international students, faculty, and staff—both now and in the future—that we value their presence and their contributions to our campus community. We will continue to be a welcoming campus, championing openness, diversity, respect, innovation, and academic freedom,” wrote Dr. Maimon.

Many universities from Illinois responded as well such as University of Illinois, University of Chicago and Northwestern University. In fact, Northwestern stated that they will not be releasing any information on their student to the federal government, according NBC news.

Other universities outside of Illinois, such as Michigan State University, have stated a similar position on the immigration ban, “MSU will not release the immigration status of students unless compelled by law, a recent statement from the university confirmed.”

According to the executive order, Section 3 of, Suspension of Issuance of Visas and Other Immigration Benefits to Nationals of Countries of Particular Concern, people from the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence will be conducting reviews “to determine that the individual seeking the benefit is who the individual claims to be and is not a security or public-safety threat.”

Given what has happened this past week with the executive order, many people have stated that the ban is un-American. The Phoenix interviewed, Dr. Andre Marak, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Science (CAS). Marak, an historian and political scientist, shared an historical perspective on the executive order.

“This action is not un-American. Sadly, it is only too American. It reminds me of the historical era leading up to the passing of the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, which aimed to reduce the immigration of Eastern and Southern Europeans, but created an outright ban on the immigration of Arabs and Asians,” stated Dr. Marak.

Marak expounded further upon the Johnson-Reed Act, and its affect upon foreigners, “This law was a long time in gestation and built on the exclusion of Chinese immigrants in 1882 and Japanese immigrants in 1907 in response to the so-called Yellow Peril. We now look back and acknowledge that the confinement of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II was both unconstitutional and a stain on the United States as a nation. But this was part of a broader trend including the reluctance to take in Jewish refugees during WWII (at least until 1944) and the mass repatriation of Mexicans and Mexican Americans (i.e., U.S. citizens) during the Great Depression. We like to view U.S. history as an arc that is always bending toward justice, but sadly that is not always the case.”

Dr. Khalil Marrar, political science professor from the CAS was interviewed by WTTW’s Chicago Tonight regarding the immigration ban. Dr. Marrar’s research is focused on public policy, foreign affairs, administration and Middle East politics. Chicago Tonight asked Dr. Marrar, “Is Trump’s executive order really that much different from immigration bans imposed by his predecessors—including President Barack Obama? Or is it a big setback for counterterrorism efforts?”

Dr. Marrar’s responded, “Two things when the president [Obama] issued it in Iraq it was about setting . . . the idea of 90-day stay is something that harkens to an old saying of American politics, justice delayed is justice denied.”

President Maimon recommends in her letter, that GSU international community members who may be affected by the executive order, carefully reconsider traveling outside of the US during this time, and to contact the Office of International Services for additional assistance.

The OIS is located in the GMT Building, room 165, or can be reached at 708-235-7611, ois@govst.edu or mailto:ois@govst.edu. Please also consult OIS’s webpage, www.govst.edu/ois.

A poster from a social campaign that GSU is participating in with North Park Neighbors. Photo courtesy of North Park Neighbors.
Editorial

Look Within and Rise Up!

How do we discern what is really going on? How do we know the truth in an environment of “alternative facts,” constant spin, “fake news,” and entertaining distractions? To whom do we look for the answers? Where do we go for clarity? How do we decide what action to take, if any? My suggestion is to go within yourself for your answers. Slow down. Breathe deeply and often as you contemplate what is going on in our world. Critically examine everything you hear, read, and see. Take things apart piece by piece, and judge according to your heart and sense of human decency what is right. Then rise up. Help one another. Lift one another, and, take action to ensure humanity wins as far as it depends upon you. Day sings: All we need is hope. And for that, we have each other. And we’ll rise up. We’ll rise unafraid. We’ll rise up. In spite of the ache. We’ll rise up. And we’ll do it a thousand times again.

This is when our education has to come fully into play. Educating one’s self is not just about getting a job or having a successful career. Education is about becoming empowered to act in accordance with your consciousness in the fullness of your own integrity. Education is about becoming brave enough and strong enough to treat others the way we want to be treated, to do what is right, and to act with compassion.

Education is about becoming literate in many different ways. Media literate – able to deconstruct the messages that are constantly being fed to us. Historically literate – able to analyze current events in the light of past occurrences. As the saying goes, “Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.”

Civically literate – how much of the Constitution do we really know and understand? Do we really understand what is legal for our elected officials to do, and what our options are if we deem their actions illegal or unconstitutional? Do we know our rights and the rights of others? Do we care?

At the end of the day, we all will lose if we allow hate and fear to win. The social fabric of our country stands to either be torn to shreds or woven into a magnificent tapestry incapable of being destroyed.

Mel’s Corner

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Reporter

A student recently shared her frustration with me about her difficulties completing the registration process for her classes. After making a few inquiries, as well as having a little experience of my own, I learned the process can be discouraging. Add to that, trying to keep up with a new, full course load while trying to navigate an unfamiliar building and you have a recipe for some serious frustration. The question is, what do you do about it?

The bottom line is, none of us can control all the random events that happen in our lives. Good or bad, as unfair as it may seem, life just is what it is. What we can control is how we respond and how we allow things to affect us. In my opinion, the best way to avoid major drama is:

1) Have your business in order, early, at all times and as often as possible. Sometimes it’s hard to make things work out, but if you’re in a best of circumstances. Don’t give anyone an excuse.

2) Once you’ve done number one, relax, or at least try to. Stress will just work themselves out. Whether or not you’ve had a stress attack won’t make a big difference to the outcome but it will make a difference to your overall wellbeing.

When it’s all said and done, most of us have one goal and it isn’t changing something that we can’t control anyway. The goal is to get your degree. Get that degree and ride into the sunset! That’s my goal anyway…

Grad Column

What is the Graduate Professional Network?

By Brittany Godsey
Grad Columnist

Mission: The GSU Graduate Professional Network represents and supports the interests of graduate student community by promoting scholarly activities and providing opportunities for professional development. This organization shall provide a forum to address issues pertinent to graduate students and serve as a liaison between the graduate student body and the administration to encourage communication and cooperation.

Why get involved with the GPN?:

- When you become a member of the GPN you will be a part of the decision making for our future programming and events. If you have a personal interest in professional development or believe other students in your field would benefit from a workshop on a specific topic or skill, we can work on setting it up.
- We have held events and workshops that help with resume writing, interviewing skills, and leadership skills. At meetings you will have the chance to network with other students and staff that can help build your skills and possibly lead to a future connection in your field.
- GPN members are student advocates for other graduate students, so getting involved contributes to all our success!
- Meet our Co-chairs:
  - My name is Brittany Godsey. I am studying School Psychology in the Eds program here at GSU and am the Graduate Assistant of Graduate Student Programming... When I graduate in 2019, I would like to work in an early intervention setting and am also interested in applied behavior analysis in therapeutic day schools. I attended GSU for my undergraduate degree. I studied Interdisciplinary Studies with a double minor in English literature and psychology. I am new to the GPN this semester and am looking forward to helping the organization grow, and would love to see more workshops available online in the near future for our busy graduate students!
  - Meghan Faloona was recently elected as co-chair of the GPN. She is studying Physical Therapy and will be graduating in 2019. Meghan received her undergraduate degree from Lewis University where she studied Athletic Training. Meghan said she joined the GPN to be involved in the planning of potential new programs for graduate students. Her goal is to help create programs and events that other graduate students can enjoy while also relieving stress in healthy ways. She hopes to create events that include dance, healthy eating, and mediation.
- If you have any questions about the GPN or topic suggestions for this column, you can email me at bgodsey@student.gsvst.edu.

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.

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Professor Aslam Shahid Honored by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

By Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

On Dec 9, 2016, Professor Aslam (Sam) Shahid was awarded the 2016 IEEE Chicago Section Distinguished Mentoring Award.

According to the IEEE website they are, “The world’s largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.”

“It was founded in 1884. It goes back to when we didn’t have electricity. They were the first organization to publish that the society established and added to the university.”

Shahid has a bachelors in electrical engineering, a masters in computer science, and a second masters for online teacher certification. He continued stating how being a member of IEEE has benefited him, “It gives me an upper edge of current [technology] trends that are on the horizon. They always publish cutting edge, state-of-the-art technology,” stated Shahid.

Moreover, Shahid expressed his feelings on being awarded, “I don’t know the feeling but I was very happy, to earn this award. I am sure there were other members who applied for this award.”

He continued by stating how being a member of IEEE has benefited him, “It gives me an upper edge of current [technology] trends that are on the horizon. They always publish cutting edge, state-of-the-art technology.”

Not only does Shahid work with college students, but also with younger children and teenagers at the Museum of Science and Industry when IEEE needs him. “I take my flight simulator, my model air craft, and I teach students the principal of how the airplanes fly,” stated Shahid.

Shahid has a bachelors in electrical engineering, a masters in computer science, and a second masters for online teacher of certificate.

By Hannah Carroll  
Contributing Writer

Chinese native, Jiaqing (Kat) Huang, is currently an ESL (English as a second language) student here at Governors State University.

H: Where are you originally from?  
K: Guangzhou, China. It’s in the southern part of China, near Hong Kong.

H: What is your first language?  
K: Cantonese, but I studied Mandarin when I was young.

H: What do you think has been the most difficult thing about studying in a foreign country?  
K: I came here alone and there really aren’t a lot of other Chinese students here. But, I do have a few Chinese friends in the ESL program, which makes it easier.

Communication is probably the hardest part overall, though. My friend, Ray speaks Mandarin so that’s how we talk with each other.

H: What has been your favorite part of being in the United States so far?  
K: The culture. It gives us many freedoms and is less stressful. Moreover, Shahid continued by stating how being a member of IEEE has benefited him, “It gives me an upper edge of current [technology] trends that are on the horizon. They always publish cutting edge, state-of-the-art technology.”

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By Fredrick Black Tremble
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, February 2, 2017, students were informed about the national debt at Governors State University. Brendan Hall and his team of friends held an event for awareness about our government’s national debt. The program is called “Up To US: The Competition.”

Up to US is a program that empowers students and people to educate their peers on our long term national debt. It educates them on how it can affect their economic opportunities, and what their generation can do to have a voice in raising awareness of our hard fiscal challenges.

Surprisingly, about 100 students signed the pledge for “Up To US.” But most students didn’t know that their government is 19 trillion dollars in debt. To many students, the national debt may seem like nothing. But our generation has a lot to worry about. The decisions made by our leaders today will affect our economic opportunity, earning power, chance to pay off student loans, by a home, start a family, or even start a business.

According to itsuptous.org, our federal government has a running deficit, consistently spending more than it receives. To make up for this, the U.S. borrows money, adding to federal debt. The U.S. government’s debt held by the public is currently over 14 trillion, which is about 75 percent of GDP. The Congressional Budget Office projects that if current laws are maintained, federal debt held by the public will climb to 141 percent of GDP within 30 years—more than our counties entire economic output. These are dangerously high levels of debt.

If we fail to address our long-term debt, the federal government will have a much harder time investing in priorities for economic growth, like education, research and development, and infrastructure. Through Up to US, the people can get loud and get heard about these issues.

By Brenda Rock
Contributing Writer

On December 9th, 2016, Ju’Juan Day, Mr. Governors State University (GSU), mentioned during a Student Senate meeting the issue of the Sound Policy. The Sound Policy was created to prohibit music being played in the Hall of Governors during class time. According to Sheree Sanderson, Student Senate Advisor, the Sound Policy was created due to many complaints she received from faculty members and students about music being very disturbing during class time.

Lester Van Moody, Student Senate Treasurer, mentioned that the policy is going to affect the liveliness on campus, especially now that GSU is a four year university. According to Moody, people often go to check out events in the Hall of Governors because of the liveliness of the music. Moody also stated that many organizations on campus are going to be adversely affected by this policy, like the International Culture Organization (ICO). ICO holds its Multicultural Fashion Show every year in the Hall of Governors. The Fashion Show is their signature event. The event attracts large audiences thanks to the music. Many GSU students like to participate in the fashion show to represent their countries and cultures.

Estelita Sides, President of the International Business Organization (IBO), stated that the Club Fair that took place in January was not as lively as the one from August of last year due to the lack of music. For that reason, Sides felt her organization did not attract as many members as she wanted. Sides stated that this is a problem that must be addressed.

Van Moody mentioned that the Student Senate is working on trying to appeal the Sound Policy. On February 24th, Student Senate is going to meet with the University President and Provost to help solve this issue. Student Life does not want the spirit of GSU to dissipate.

By Dana Solatka
Staff Reporter

Howdy fellow students! Are you getting tired of our beautiful prairie? Hop on the train, and take a ride downtown! For the month of February, most of Chicago’s museums have free general admission for Illinois residents. Take the GSU shuttle to the Metra station, and ride the train to the Museum Campus. From there, you can visit The Shedd Aquarium, The Field Museum, or The Adler Planetarium. To visit The Museum of Science and Industry, get off at the 55th/56th/57th street stop, and walk 2 blocks to the museum.

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Campus

The 2017 Black Women Rock Nominees

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The fifth annual Black Rock (BWR) Program is schedule to occur on Feb. 18 at the Center for Performing Arts. This award show acknowledges and celebrates the achievements of African American Women in the community.

The BWR program originated from Student Life, but it is transitioning to a Black Student Union program, stated Robert Clay, Director of Intercultural Student Affairs.

The program was based on the BET channel’s Black Girls Rock award show. BWR started five years ago, “During the Black History Month, we decided to do a program that would give recognition to not only faculty, but students and staff. We try to bring the community around in terms of a celebration of accomplishments for women of color during the Black History Month,” stated Sherree Sanderson, Assistant Dean of Students Student Affairs.

The 2017 BWR nominees with their categories are as follows:

Fine Arts:
Student: Kerby Wells
Arika Rogers
Faculty Nominee: Yvette Brown
Performing Arts
Student: Saiye Perre
Janelle Butler

Phenomenal Educator
Dr. Tasha Banks
Dr. Elizabeth Johnson
Dr. Phyllis West
Dr. Darlene Wright

Rising Star
Ashley Richards
Toi Bowers
August White

Change Agent
Student: Ameenah Rashid
Joy Thomas

Faculty: Sheryl Jones-Harper
Dr. Vickii Coffey
Dr. Phyllis West

Family Development Center: Offering Expanded Services for GSU Families and Numerous Learning Opportunities for GSU Students

By Donnica Gordon
Associate Editor

Located on the main drive immediately across from the West parking lots is the Family Development Center (FDC), Governors State’s award winning, state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center.

NAEYC accredited, the FDC provides childcare and preschool services for students, faculty, and staff of the university as well as for the surrounding community. The center serves children from birth to 12 years of age with childcare, Early Head Start, preschool, and pre-Kindergarten programs. The FDC was recently awarded an expansion grant that allows it to offer a free, six-hour pre-K program to low-income children. The program currently operates from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but will most likely be extended to 2:00 p.m. GSU student-parents who qualify for financial aid and Pell Grants would most likely meet the qualifications for their child to participate in the expansion program according to Carol Morrison, Director of the FDC.

For families who need a full-day program, the FDC opens at 7:00 in the morning, and closes at 6:00 p.m. However, the hours outside of the expansion program would have to get paid for. Parents usually pay for that out-of-pocket, or they can apply for child-care assistance through the state. There is a discount offered to GSU students.

In addition to providing quality early childhood services, the Family Development Center serves as a lab experience for GSU students across a variety of disciplines including Early Childhood Education, Communication Disorders, Counseling, Psychology, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Community Health.

“A lot of GSU students come here for internships, practicums, and lab experiences,” said Morrison. “Early childhood education students do two of their classes in the building. GSU Nursing students come here to do vision screenings. Occupational and Physical Therapy students come to do observations or work with us as interns,” Morrison continued.

GSU Speech Pathology students run a summer program for children enrolled in the center who might have speech problems. This allows the students to get practical experience in giving speech therapy, doing evaluations and assessments, and providing classroom language enhancement activities.

“It’s good for the students, it’s good for the community, and it’s good for the kids,” said Morrison.

Student-Parents who are interested in enrolling their child in the FDC, should call the center at 708.235.7300, and set up an appointment to tour the center and fill out an application. Ask to speak to Sheila or Lura.
By Jeremy Manthey
Sports Reporter

The Governors State University Men’s Basketball team looked outgunned in the rebounding department against Calumet St. Joseph as they were outrebounded 50-26. Calumet St. Joseph collected almost as many offensive rebounds (24) as the Jaguars did total rebounds (26). Despite the rebounding numbers, the Jaguars only lost the game by ten to a final score of 93-83.

Only eight people were dressed for the Jaguars. Jalen McGruder, Torrey Oliver, and Dalvin Echols all faced foul trouble in the first half, collecting two fouls apiece. Oliver had a game high 17 points heading into the half with Jalen Miller contributing 14 points and 5 rebounds. For Calumet, Darrick Scott led the team with 12 points and Devin Harrison contributed 11 points. The Jaguars faced a 54-45 deficit.

Calumet’s Scott could not be stopped in the second half as he scored 19 points in the half alone to finish with a game high 31 points while also contributing 10 rebounds. Harrison finished with 16 points and 6 rebounds and Damonte Lowery also contributed 15 points and 8 rebounds on their way to outscore the Jaguars in the second half, 39-38, to take the victory. Oliver was the high scoring man for the Jaguars as he scored 26 points and also contributed 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Miller filled the stat sheet, finishing with 20 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 blocks. Echols finished with 14 points and 5 assists. Lastly, Julian Hardy contributed 13 points.

Calumet St. Joseph improves to 12-11 and 8-8 in the CCAC while Governors State drops to 8-17 and 5-11 in the CCAC. Governors State’s next basketball game is on February 4 vs Holy Cross at 3:00 p.m. at The ARC.
By Mychael Vanarsdale
Political Science Columnist

National News-Betsy DeVos Nomination is Sent to the Full Senate

Michigan’s Republican Chairwoman Betsy DeVos is one step closer to becoming the new United States Secretary of Education. On January 31st, the Senate Education Committee sent DeVos’ nomination to the full Senate for a party-line vote. DeVos is facing strong opposition from ranking members of the Senate Education Panel (Democrat Senator Patty Murray of Washington & Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer of New York).

As of now there is no Democrat member of the Senate planning to vote for DeVos, and this year vote for Secretary of Education could be the deepest split in history. DeVos has been a long supporter of school choice initiatives and reallocating public school funding to support a privatized charter school system. The main conflict behind DeVos nomination is the ideology of America’s Public Education System and how it should be shaped in the future.


Illinois/State News-Illinois Debt Woes Continue

The lack of a state budget continues to have daunting and detrimental effects on citizens of Illinois as we approach the two year mark without a state budget. According to the Chicago Tribune, the state has an unprecedented amount of unpaid bills that is set to hit the $15 billion dollar mark by July if a budget hasn’t been. Illinois’ current backlog of unpaid bills is at the $11 billion dollar mark. Since the Six-Month Stop-Gap funding bill ended on January 1st, public universities are again operating without any assistance from the Illinois State Government.


City of Chicago News-Disposable Bag Tax

The City of Chicago has issued a Disposable Bag Tax that took effect February 1st. Residents of Chicago will be assessed a 7 cent tax on all disposable bags, paper and plastic, issued at retail stores. The purpose behind the tax is to limit the amount of trash in landfills. For every 7 cents taxed, 5 cents goes to the City of Chicago and 2 cents is returned to retailers to cover their costs. This initiative could be adopted by the state for a policy recommendation.


Local News-South Suburb Islamic Institutions Tighten Security

In the midst of United States President Trump’s executive order to ban citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries for the next 90 days, many Islamic leaders from Chicago’s Southland have expressed concern over the rhetoric and a possibility of an unwarranted attack against them and the people in their communities. The Cook County Sheriff office said they have increased their patrol efforts of Mosques and Islamic schools in suburban cook county. Some schools like Aqsa School, an Islamic all-girls school in Bridgeview, closed the school for a week after the initial immigration ban was put in place. Cook County Sheriff Office Spokeswoman Sophia Ansari encourages members of the public to call the Sheriff’s 24/7 Discrimination Hotline if they ever feel threatened or targeted at (773) 674-4357.


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By Frederick Black Tremble
Contributing Writer

Calling all Poets, Singers, Musicians and other Creative Artists!

On January 26, 2017 GSU held it’s monthly open mic night for students and other artists in Lakeside Lounge. Open Mic Night is hosted by Governors State’s Program Council. Artist like Jeremy Williams (JMC), Janelle Butler (Oliv Blu), accompanied by Justin Smith, Lance Williams (LNW), Semaj, and many others performed. One of the artist, Lance Williams (LNW) said, “Open mic is important to me because I can express myself to the world. I can show them my art and the real me.” Open mic night is held every last Thursday of the month. So if you’re an artist, or you just want to express yourself, come out to open mic night!
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017 EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1 – 28
BLACK HISTORY LITERARY WORKS & RESOURCES
GSU Library
Are you seeking historical information regarding Black History makers? The GSU Library has a collection of books, DVD’s and eBooks dedicated to Black History. Visit www.gsvst.edu/library and select the Library Catalog located under Library Resources. Type in Black History Month for your keyword and you will find a listing of items that are currently available in the GSU Library. Visit the library or contact us at library@gsyst.edu.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
BLACK HISTORY TAUGHT THROUGH THE BIBLE
6 – 9 p.m., E Lounge
This five part series will provide history lessons about the African American presence in the Bible. Topics and dates include Color 2.1, Slavery 2.8, Spiritual Death & Resurrection 2.15, Priest of God 2.22 and Adoption 3.1.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
OLD SCHOOL CANDY SALE
11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hall of Governors
While times change, and people also change, our memories don’t have to. BSU will bring back memories of your childhood and favorite candy and snacks.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
KARAOKE NIGHT: TRIBUTE TO BLACK ARTISTS
6 p.m., Engbrecht Hall
Come join us as we sing songs written and performed by Black musical artists.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
BLACK INVENTIONS IN MODERN DAY SOCIETY
Noon – 5 p.m., Hall of Governors
This is an exhibit of improvements and/or inventions made by African Americans who have used their ingenuity to create career paths for themselves. Their inventions have promoted the civilization of mankind and can be seen in science, technology, business, and domestic settings.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
VALENTINE CRUSH FUNDRAISER
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Purchase your Valentine a Crush soda or cake pop in honor of Mr. Herbert Smitherman, Sr., who joined Procter & Gamble in 1966 as its first Black hire. With a doctorate in physical organic chemistry, Smitherman worked on flavors for Crush soda and also helped develop Safeguard soap and Biz detergent, among other products.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
CELEBRATION OF BLACK LOVE/WIN A DATE
6 p.m., E-Lounge
We are pairing up singles for Valentine’s Day and learning how to develop healthy relationships, with insight shared by married GSU faculty/staff.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
MOVIES & MCKTAILS: SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU
This event is for anyone wanting a nice date night with their significant other to celebrate the love and journey of the first Black president and first lady, Barack and Michelle Obama. Popcorn and mocktails (non-alcoholic beverages) will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
OPERATION HEALTHY
3 – 4:30 p.m., Hall of Governors
Fresh fruits and vegetables are available to the campus community for FREE as we address the food desert challenges in University Park.

NATURAL HAIR IN THE WORKPLACE
3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Hall of Honor
This workshop is designed to discuss natural hair in a professional setting. This presentation will not only highlight the plight of the African American woman and their decision of wearing natural hair but will also view the subject from beauty industry, law, and health perspectives.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
5th ANNUAL BLACK WOMEN ROCK AWARDS CEREMONY
6 p.m., Center for Performing Arts
Black Women Rock celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of Black female students, faculty/staff, and administrators at Governors State University. This black-tie affair is FREE and open to the public.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
SOUL OF GSU COMPETITION
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Hall of Governors
The Soul of GSU is a food competition for students, faculty/staff, and administrators to showcase who can prepare the best soul food dishes. Participants are asked to prepare a dish that will serve 50 people. Register at https://gsyst.college/(email)form/stand/004 by Friday, February 17, 2017 to participate.

UNLEARN, RELEARN, LEARN: BLACK IS...
Featuring Dr. Lasana Kazembe
3:30 p.m., Lakeside Lounge
The purpose of this program is to contribute to the bridging cultural divides in the campus community. Participants will be exposed to current cultural issues as well as challenge the GSU community to recognize the benefits of living in a multicultural world.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
OPEN MIC
6 p.m., Lakeside Lounge
Share Black history through spoken word, song, and other performing arts.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
EBONY BALL
6 p.m., Hall of Governors
$20/person, $35/couple
This program celebrates Black excellence by acknowledging the accomplishments of African Americans and their legacy. There will be dinner, entertainment, and a keynote speaker. This event is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased by emailing bsu@gsyst.edu.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN
6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Hall of Honor
Join over a million readers from all ethnic backgrounds in celebration of Black History Month. Select a poem, excerpt from a book, or other literary work to read written by an African American author. Please email Dr. Rashidah Muhammad at rhm744@gsvst.edu or call 708.534.6794 to sign up or receive additional information. All are invited to participate. The African American Read-in, which celebrates literacy as a significant part of Black History Month, is endorsed by the International Reading Association.

Please email diversity@gsyst.edu or visit www.gsyst.edu/diversity for updates.