Generating Hope: Raises Awareness & Calls GSU to Action at “13th” Movie Screening

By Donnica Gordon
Associate Editor

On Tuesday, Mar. 28, Generating Hope hosted a standing-room-only screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary, “13th”, followed by an expert panel discussion on the connection between the 13th Amendment and mass incarceration in America.

For those unaware, the 13th Amendment declares, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to its jurisdiction.” “13th” traces the excessive application of the “slavery/involuntary servitude allowable as criminal punishment” caveat contained in the 13th Amendment as a tool to perpetuate the rapid growth and expansion of the prison-industrial complex consisting of both private and government-owned prisons and the sale of corrections related products and services.

Under cover of constitutional law, punishment is used as a commodity to boost the overall economy through the provision of free prison labor across many industries including retail, furniture, agriculture, IT, aerospace, food, and countless others.

The documentary highlights the fact that those who are convicted as criminals in the US in the highest numbers are people of color, especially black and Latino peoples, poor people, and immigrants. Overcriminalization, wrongful conviction, and the National scourge of false imprisonment of people of color are pressing themes explored in “13th”.

Such issues were analyzed by an excellent panel discussion hosted by Dr. Lori Glass, GSU Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the Social Work program as well as Faculty Advisor for Generating Hope.

Panel presenters consisted of Dr. Joseph Strickland, Associate Director and Senior Researcher in the Jane Addams Center for Social Policy and Research at UIC and managing editor of the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation; Dr. Vickii Coffey, GSU Assistant Professor in the Social Work Department, Dr. Giesela Grumbach, GSU Assistant Professor of Social Work, and Mr. Johnnie Savory.

Mr. Savory, from Peoria, IL, is an example of the exact issues uncovered in the documentary. Wrongly convicted at age 14 of a crime he did not commit, Savory was incarcerated for 30 years until exonerated by DNA evidence and released on parole in 2006. He was later pardoned by Gov. Pat Quinn in 2015.

Whether through direct experience, scholarly research, or Social Work practice, all the panelists were well-versed on the issues of mass incarceration, convictions, and their affects upon those convicted as well as the families, and communities of those imprisoned. Generating Hope president, Ameenah Rashid, lead organizer and host of the event, spoke with the Phoenix about the organization’s goals and outcomes:

Phoenix: What would Generating Hope like to see happen next in terms of student or community action around the issues raised by the documentary?

Rashid: Generating Hope would like to see students, staff, faculty, and the community get in close proximity to the groups of people that mass incarceration affects most and address policies on and off campus that exacerbate social problems like poverty, violence, lack of education, and unemployement. If one person is affected by injustice, we are all affected and those closest to the problems are more likely to have the solutions. We also wish to have people seek knowledge that will strengthen their understanding of how capitalism uses bodies for profit and what the social, emotional, and economic ramifications are for doing so.

Phoenix: There was a bill/petition passed out at the event. What is it, and how can students support it?

Rashid: We are supporting “The Equal Justice for All Act” (House Bill 3421) which supports elimination of monetary bail in Illinois. If passed, the law will significantly reduce the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jails and free up tax payer dollars for programs that can empower individuals and communities. Currently, over 95% of people are awaiting trial at Cook County Jail and approximately 60% of them cannot afford bail for non-violent offenses. Housing one inmate, according to Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, costs $150 per day and that does not take into account special medical needs or mental healthcare. This bill can be supported by first checking www.ilga.gov to see if your legislator sponsors the bill and if not, write and/or call your legislator and urge them to support it.

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PHOENIX

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Laughter has become a coping mechanism for many during these two months of the new administration. The SNL skits parodying the new administration have offended the president. Many of us feel we need some sort of comic relief. Sometimes the administration does it to themselves. For example, Spicer on March 27, speaking during a press conference, had lettuce stuck in his bottom teeth. Twitter had a field day with this incident. Some Tweeters stating, “The rotting food in @PressSec Sean Spicer’s teeth is distracting and makes it hard to absorb today’s WH [White House] misinformation,” or “Russian dressing joke from Sean Spicer. Lettuce Pray for him.” People cannot help but point out the absurd realities.

Let’s not forget Forrest Gump as Jeff Sessions on SNL. That perhaps was an insult to the movie because Gump was actually a genuine, kind-hearted person. Still, it was a funny portrayal of Sessions. Alright, so yes, we do get good laughs from the new administration. But what good is that doing? Okay, we are able to laugh at their interpretation by comedians, and laugh at the administration’s reaction. But are we really making a difference? Probably not. All of this ridiculousness is a distraction from the dangers of the Trump administration. Don’t confuse comic relief with actual relief. Don’t think that just by laughing at the daily shenanigans, that any difference is being made: “Hah! We got them!” NO! We did not!

We need to do more than laugh. Perhaps writing your opinion in an editorial, or serving as a watchdog by keeping track of what is promised by the administration and whether or not those promises are fulfilled. Find a way to act on behalf of our collective best interest. But whatever we do, we mustn’t get carried to hell in a handbasket, laughing all the way.

Grad Column

Spotlight on Communication Disorders

By Brittany Godsey

For this issue the GPN is spotlighting the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA), an organization for students in the Communication Disorders program.

The Master of Health Science in Communication Disorders prepares its students to enter the Speech and Language Pathology profession with the background and experiences needed to step into real-world employment.

When students complete the program, they will have met all academic and practicum requirements for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology, the Illinois license in Speech Language Pathology, and the Illinois State Board of Educators’ licensure requirements for working in Illinois public schools. A pre-professional association for students interested in communication sciences and disorders is the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA). The NSSLHA has a strong focus on creating student awareness of what is going on in the communities they are going to be serving in the profession.

Students are able to connect their academic studies to the real-world needs in surrounding communities and become advocates for their profession. The organization has been involved in many community outreach services and has participated in service initiatives at Feed My Starving Children, My Joyful Heart, and the Child’s Hunger Fund.

This past fall, the members of the NSSLHA, learned about Laurie Kauzlaric, M.S., CCC-SLP from their faculty advisor, Nicole Koince, PhD, CCC-SLP. Kauzlaric is a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) serving in a Dominican Republic orphanage.

The student’s organized a fundraiser for materials needed at the orphanage, Nuestras Pequeños Hermanos in San Marcos, Dominican Republic. Nuestras Pequeños Hermanos International organization has orphanages in nine Latin American countries.

Casa San Marcos in the Dominican Republic is a special needs home that can house up to 20 children and their caregivers. It has multiple therapy rooms and is designed to fit the needs of all children.

Members of the NSSLHA donated games, picture cards, books, Velcro strips, light up toys, batteries and many other supplies and therapy materials to the orphanage.

Laurie Kauzlaric was on a brief visit to the States when the fundraiser wrap-event was held in November. She spoke at the event about her journey to becoming a bilingual SLP and choosing to serve as an SLP abroad.

Editorial

Laughing Our Way to Hell

By Brenda Torres

Editor-in-Chief

“So I’d like to begin with today by apologizing on behalf of you to me! For how you treated me in the last two weeks. And that apology is not accepted! Because I’m not here to be your buddy, I’m here to swallow gum, and take names!”

These are the words of Melissa McCarthy imitating Sean Spicer, or as McCarthy refers to her character: “Spicy.” Many people have been looking forward to Saturday nights because of Saturday Night Live (SNL)’s treatment of the White House. Their ratings have gone up since Donald J. Trump was elected president.

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OpEd

Mel’s Corner

By Melanie Fitch

Staff Reporter

One of the biggest challenges people face in the workplace, home and in school, is stress. It’s a small word, but stress can do a huge amount of damage to your life and wellness.

From lost jobs to broken relationships, many people don’t realize just how great a role stress plays in many of the negative events in our lives. We are often quick to blame pressure for our emotional state.

What many don’t realize is, not only are we still responsible for our emotional state, but we are fully in control of it as well.

In True Refuge: Finding Peace and Freedom In Your Own Awakened Heart, written by Tara Brach, the author explains that a painful emotional mindset is often fed by one’s own obsessive thoughts.

The time that it takes for an emotion to move through the nervous system and body is only a minute and a half. What that means is, any emotional state that you entertain longer than two minutes, is pretty much a choice.

Initially you were angry, now you may be just keeping the anger alive by dwelling on it. There are occasions when this is appropriate, like the death of a loved one or the birth of a child, but in situations when the emotion is actually detrimental to your health and wellness, it really is a good idea to just let it go.

Our brains are actually trainable. They can develop patterns of thought, based on habit. If you make it a habit to immediately react to things in a positive way, your brain will just do it out of habit.

I’m thinking that if we focus on solutions instead of problems, our brains may learn to do that as well.
In this week’s OIS feature, two students focus on their experiences on the recent Study Abroad trip to India with the College of Business.

Interviewed
By Hannah Carol
Contributing Writer

OIS: What was your favorite part/least favorite part of the COB Business and Culture of India program?

Robinson: My favorite part was the overall realism of the trip itself. Seeing the poverty from the outside is completely different than witnessing it firsthand. For instance, the tour inside the Dharavi slums was an eye opening experience where I felt saddened at first, then understood the matter of how the people maintained a peaceful lifestyle which actually brought me to a humbling astonishment.

What really struck my heart was when the guide said that there were millionaires inside the slums. I enjoyed learning of their multiple businesses inside one small area, and how they managed them.

Also, seeing the many children at play made me feel welcome, and showed that a playful and positive spirit overrides any problems one could be having. It goes along with the saying, “Seeing children at play can make even the bluest day brighter.”

I also enjoyed learning the way India operates a few of their businesses, especially the ones who aren’t afraid to get their hands dirty to make a meaningful difference.

OIS: What were the biggest challenges you faced abroad?

Robinson: Nothing too major, but I would say learning from mistakes. I say this because on the earlier days of the trip, I was getting a feel for the place and was truly learning the value of the dollar versus the Indian Rupee. I feel like my very first night in a shop, I was a rookie and felt slightly ripped off for one of the items I purchased.

Having a background in sales in Chicago, I thought it would be a piece of cake until I picked up on body language, tone, and other foreign mannerisms. The practice of negotiating was integral to getting the best deals available. I feel that the barrier of communication was a challenge at first, but I grew much more comfortable as I spent more time spent in the country. Understanding that there was a learning curve to adhere to, made the markets and purchasing power simpler.

OIS: What were the biggest lessons learned abroad?

Robinson: The biggest lessons I learned involved the notion that fear is an illusion. Sure, some parts may have created a sense of heightened awareness, but I generally consider myself to be a fearless person all the time. It is better to walk in with a feeling of great confidence, despite being in an unknown place or out of one’s comfort zone.

I enjoyed and embraced the unknown. I felt the best ways to overcome fear were figuring out how other places operate and trying new things out. Being raised right makes me believe that judging someone is wrong unless circumstances cause me to believe otherwise.

I enjoyed standing out in places where people knew I looked unfamiliar, yet the people were still very friendly to want to meet and greet.

Continued on p. 3

Nate Robinson: Jaguars View On India

Nate Robinson in front of the Taj Mahal. Photo courtesy of Nate Robinson.

SPRING 2017 CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR AT GSU

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

2–5 p.m. • Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts Lobby

Students, alumni, and community members are welcome. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumés!

Focusing on — Communications, Technology, Business, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, Addictions Studies, Community Health, and Education

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Stack up on Savings!

By Dana Solatka  Staff Reporter

I, much like many other undergraduate students, have a very, very, very small amount of money I’m hoarding in an attempt to not be completely broke when I’m out of college. Does that mean that students should give up their hobbies or not treat themselves to a little something every now and then? No. Here’s how you can enjoy where you are without breaking the bank.

1. Amazon Prime is free for students—ok for the most part. The first six months are free, and after that students are offered a 50% discount on a subscription. Hey, $50 for 20% off all videogames within 2 weeks of release and free two-day shipping and unlimited streaming on Amazon video and the ability to share kindle books? For six months for free.99? I would consider studying abroad again, and I would recommend any students considering to study abroad to be cooperative and flexible as possible to make the trip even more fantastic as long as everyone maintains.

Robinson: I would recommend studying abroad again, and I would recommend any students considering to study abroad to be cooperative and flexible as possible to make the trip even more fantastic as long as everyone maintains.

2. Streaming services are your best friend—Speaking of Amazon Video, do you ever just really, really want to hear a certain song but ever just really, really want to hear a certain song but... Wanna travel within the US but don’t wanna break the bank? Amtrak tickets are 15% off with an Amtrak Student Advantage Card. Now go on. Get out there and have a good time!

3. Try out a new hobby or go exploring! Joann crafts and fabrics offers a 10% discount for any students with an ID. Want to mail stuff back home or make a pen pal, but don’t want shipping costs to kill you? FedEx offers a 20%-30% discount to students. The Art Institute of Chicago offers discounted tickets for college students. Wanna travel within the US but don’t wanna break the bank? Amtrak tickets are 15% off with an Amtrak Student Advantage Card.

The conversations that we had with the students were wonderful. My only wish would be to have had more time for interaction with them. In addition, the visit to the IT company, “CHATONGO” was especially great. Sagar Nagda, it’s owner, had many business principles on Entrepreneurship to share. The biggest challenge for me was to convince my wife to leave the country. This was her first attempt after watching me go abroad 6 times, three of which were with our children.

She adapted very well as I expected, but not without much apprehension. She has learned to ignore the fears that have held her back for so long. We had an excellent time together on this new adventure. Now I think she is ready for China! My biggest lesson during this trip was developing an understanding of India’s diversity and it’s challenges on the rise to economic strength and stability. The notion of two economies thriving at the same time is very intriguing. Much of its recent growth and media attention is due to technological advances and its use thereof. Still, for millions of people, the old ways of doing things take precedence. India is maximizing the 80/20 rule in a rich and daring way. I am committed to at least one Study Abroad journey each year for as long as I am eligible. There is so much to learn concerning Globalization and its affects worldwide.

There are many wonderful opportunities to interact with persons from different cultures. It is insanity to not venture out in order to grow with the world around us.

Every student needs this [multicultural] experience as a part of their growth and development in understanding the world in which we live.
Road Construction Update

By Dana Solatka
Staff Reporter

Ahh Spring. It’s the lovely time of year when the rare and elusive orange construction flowers come into bloom.

GSU has had road construction going on since March 10th of 2016. According to Louis C. Schultz, construction is “scheduled to resume on May 1, 2017.” However, construction could start back up as early as the second or third week of April.

Schultz wrote this project is lead by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Schultz simply “ the liaison between GSU and IDOT”. Prompted about why the project was taking so long, Schultz replied, “The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) gave the contractor a total of 145 working days to complete the contract. They have used 125 working days thus far. This leaves 20 working days remaining.”

When asked about goals, Schultz replied, “They (IDOT) defined the goals and scope of the project, not me, based on engineering studies and community feedback.”

But he did mention the project will improve GSU.

“The deteriorated roadway that was removed last year was unsafe. The new pavement is smoother and more level. A new traffic light at the main entrance to GSU will provide a safer means of entry to, and egress from the GSU campus. There should be shorter wait-times to exit campus during heavy traffic periods. New street lighting will illuminate the road and traffic, enhancing safety,” he said.

Schultz further provided that a new multi-use path south of Stuenkel/University Parkway will provide separation between pedestrians and vehicles leading to improved safety. Additionally, new turf and landscaping will be conducted within the project limits to improve the appearance of the campus.

Gender Inclusive Restroom

By Dana Solatka
Staff Reporter

“IT was renamed in consideration of non-gender conforming students and anyone else who may require the assistance of someone of another gender,” stated Keisha Dyson Director of Marketing. She continued, “Parents who wish to accompany their children to the washroom are also encouraged to use this space.”

There is no policy on the restroom. Dyson said “the university will consider adding more gender inclusive bathrooms in the future.”

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CARRY-OUT - DELIVERY - ONLINE ORDERS begin April 4th - CATERING
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Two Critical Reviews of The Scottsboro Boys

By Danielle Terry
Contributing Writer

If we think about our American ideals, the one that regularly comes to mind is “Freedom”. In our beloved Declaration of Independence, it states, “...all men are created equal..." with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It is unfortunate that the appalling tale of the Scottsboro Boys, which also happens to be an American tragedy, denies nine young men of that declaration.

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, the Porchlight Theatre players harrowed the stage in GSU’s Center for Performing Arts, presenting us with all the haunting and heartbreaking “cake walking” one audience could handle.

Although the musical presented the audience with lively, harmonized song and synchronized, upbeat dance, which are all the makings of a “good ole’ minstrel show”, there was a very present undertone of tension and despair that the players displayed beautifully.

To understand, one must first be familiarized with the story of the “Scottsboro nine.” As it goes, there was a group of nine young black males, with no relation and ranging in age from 12-19, who grabbed a ride on a freighted boxcar.

They were in pursuit of what we today would call freedom, looking for jobs and essentially a way to make a better life for themselves during the Great Depression of the 1930’s.

They got into a scuffle with some white boys on the train and by the time they reached Scottsboro, AL, the entire town heard of the fiasco and were ready to lynch the nine teenagers.

To everyone’s surprise, two white females, who were known prostitutes, emerged from the boxcar and claimed they had been raped by the nine. The problem with this case was that the boys were immediately placed in jail, even the one who was 12 years old, without any “due process of law”.

During this time, Civil Rights activists were protesting the treatment African American people were receiving in the South. While they waited many years in jail, the boys received many trials. Two trails landed in the Supreme Court, but to no avail, they remained imprisoned.

Ultimately, four of them were released, but five of them spent many more years in prison, including Haywood Patterson, who died in prison after twenty-one long years.

The musical, complete with an interlocutor and end men, Mr. Tambo and Mr. Bones, as well as black-faced players, stops the cycle of the mockery and farce, we know as the “Minstrel Show”, or mass incarceration, if you please, in the culmination of this facetiously fraught performance.

The musical truly calls attention to our American culture, in which this epidemic is still affecting the African American community today.

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Reporter

Let me begin by saying, I have seen many live performances in my life, yet none of them had the effect on the audience that The Scottsboro Boys did.

For those who may not know, the play was based on a true story about nine young African American men who are falsely accused of rape. The year was 1931, and the women were White and threatened with arrest for prostitution.

Considering the time and the people involved, you would think that the outcome would be a no-brainer. The boys would be murdered horrifyingly, and in most cases, you would be correct.

The fact is, fate and many factors conspired to have the boys ultimately found innocent. But only after many years, and in a manner that would help to spark the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

I have digressed somewhat from the original point. The subject matter was extremely serious, made more so by the current political climate. The idea of Black boys being framed for murder by the police is not something many people find funny.

Yet, Porchlight Productions chose to tell the story in the form of a minstrel show. The singing, the dancing, the drama, the jokes and yes, the blackface too. I can’t remember the last time I ever, IF ever, felt so conflicted.

I was frozen in my seat for most of the two hours, there was no intermission. But while I was horrified at the story being told, I actually “got” what was being said. The actors were wonderful, but I could see that while they smiled, they showed that anger simmering under the surface.

Those of us too young to know, don’t realize how many times our parents and grandparents had to smile when they wanted to slit someone’s throat. The only reason some of us are here is because someone years ago thought “Just smile, just let it go and live for the kids.”

The minstrels were a perfect example of the way the public preferred to see Black men. Smiling, joking and happy. But there was a terrible reality happening behind those jokes and it kept its presence seen and felt throughout the performance.

The most difficult scene for me was when 13 year-old Leroy Wright was being teased by some policemen because he wanted to go home, he didn’t want to die in the electric chair. As the Leroy character cried, the others laughed and began to do a song and dance about dying in the electric chair.

The lights were very low and the dancers wore metal hats and tiny lights outlining their bodies. As they did their macabre routine I realized that the dancers were moving, but somewhat listlessly. Their faces had no expression. Like marionettes from Hell, they looked like some sick puppet master tried to animate the dead.

I was horrified and I wasn’t alone, and yet it was brilliant! They made everyone in that audience cringe inside of the horror those boys experienced. Just like nothing is all bad or all good, there were jokes and light moments, but we never forgot where we were.

After the standing ovation was finished, some of the cast and audience members remained for a talk about the show. Some audience members, while they appreciated the talent of the artists, felt the humor was inappropriate. One lady that spoke was the step-sister of Emmett Till, and she said that every day of her life.

Interestingly, a gentleman referred to the style of the show as “satire.” He said they do it so often on TV and hear it on the radio, that it’s become what people are used to. For many people, that’s how they connect.

There were many different ideas about the production. Some got it. Some didn’t. But, everyone acknowledged the talent. However, I think the most important thing is, that there was constructive, thoughtful, dialogue.

The dream of every artist, I believe, is to have people walk away still contemplating their work.

Art is the creator’s language, you might say, and they hope that others will understand it. Yes, I was very disturbed by The Scottsboro Boys. But, I “got it.” I attended the performance with my daughter who is eighteen. I didn’t tell her what the play was about, so she didn’t know it was based on fact until the end.

At that point, she said it reminded her of the TV series, American Horror Story. It made me wonder if there is such a thing as “Horror-Satire.”
Models, Entertainers and Volunteers Needed

For the
Multicultural Fashion Show on April 10\textsuperscript{th}, 2017

\textit{The Rehearsal will take place on April 3\textsuperscript{rd} from 3:30 to 4:30pm in the CPA Lobby.}

The International Culture Organization (ICO) is hosting their annual signature event, which is The Multicultural Fashion Show! The Show will take place in the CPA Lobby from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ICO is looking for models/entertainers who would love to represent their country or another country!

If you would like to participate, please attend the information session or email Brenda Rock @ brock@student.govst.edu.
The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies presents

Shakespeare's

The Tempest

Directed by Erica Vannon

April 6
at 6 p.m.

April 8 & 9
at 2 p.m.
and 6 p.m.

Join us in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park as it is transformed into a remote island for Shakespeare's tale of magic, deception, revenge, and romance.

Tickets $15/$10 (Student with valid ID)

CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222