GSU Bids a Fond Farewell to Geoff Bates, Director of Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

By Donnica Gordon
Associate Editor

Geoff Bates, Director and Curator of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP) at GSU, will be retiring at the end of April. Hired in April 2007, Geoff has tirelessly dedicated the last decade to cultivating the NMSP into an award-winning internationally recognized sculpture park.

As Director, Bates said he has had the wonderful opportunity to create educational programming to promote the park as well as promote understanding of contemporary sculpture both within the university and beyond. As Curator, Bates said his aim was to “create exhibitions that would offer our students and the region the chance to experience cutting edge contemporary sculpture on a rotating exhibition schedule.”

Bate’s overall goal has been to elevate the profile of the park and the university through programs, new exhibition works, and other cultural activities so that people would “recognize the importance of what we have,” he said.

When asked his favorite part of the job, Bate’s said it has actually been walking outside in the park, and working with the NMSP board and Facilities to site and install new artwork that’s come to the campus. He’s also thoroughly enjoyed sitting and installing the exhibitions that the University has had. NMSP is the region’s leading park of outdoor contemporary sculpture. It is comprised of 29 pieces spread across nearly 100 acres of land.

When asked which of the park’s pieces is his favorite, Bates said he doesn’t have a favorite sculpture, but his favorite place in the park is “Bodark Arc” by African-American artist Martin Puryear.

“It’s a splendid idea, it’s a wonderfully proportioned space. He’s put the emphasis on the landscape, and not the art. So the art is there, but it’s so effectively incorporated into the landscape that there’s this seamless orchestration of space and art…It’s a very poetic place,” Bates enthused. Upon his retirement, Bates and his wife will be relocating to Maine. Bates says he looks forward to trying his hand at building some New England rock walls on his property with rocks that were formed while blasting to lay their home’s foundation — an exercise in functional sculpture. He’s also looking forward to becoming an avid bicyclist.

Bates says, “Having the opportunity to work with GSU at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park has offered me the chance to work with a wonderful group of people to grow the reputation and the recognition of this important collection of sculpture.” He said one of the most rewarding aspects of his experience has been the relationships he’s built, and the level of recognition they’ve achieved for the park.

Bates says, “I’m sure the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will continue to grow, and it’s been great to have been given the opportunity and the freedom to direct its development to this point.”

By Fredrick Tremble
Intern Reporter

A person should not be judged by their sexual preference or the gender of the person they choose to be in a relationship with. But some people in this world hate the fact that people choose to be with the same gender.

On April 12th, 2017, two men were sharing their own personal information outside of Governors State University which turned out to be anti-gay literature. Students quickly gathered outside to protest. Many of them were confused and outraged.

Suddenly students brought out a gay pride flag and surrounded the two men. They started to ask them questions about why they were against gay rights.

Students Protest Hate

Representatives from Student Life brought out “Hate has no home here” flyers for the students to hand out.

I spoke with the Dean of Students, Dr. Aurelio Valente about the incident, and he had some interesting things to say. He explained the term, “Hate has no home here,” implies that students of all sexual preferences are entitled to be shown the same respect as everyone else.

Valente also said that GSU has a very high commitment to student rights. We as human beings should all be treated with the same respect no matter if we are straight, LGBT, etc.

Instead of judging other people, we as people should unite. Hate has no home here at GSU.

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

The Phoenix has done wonders for me. It made me meet awesome and genuine people from whom I learned. This will be my last issue for as Editor-in-Chief for The Phoenix, which is a bittersweet moment. The Phoenix has opened up many opportunities. It made me change majors, from Elementary Education to becoming an English Major. Knowing that the campus looks forward to picking up a new edition, is a wonderful feeling, especially when we get congratulated in the corridors.

I’ve had loads of support from becoming Online Editor, Associate Editor, to Editor-in-Chief. Starting with Dr. Deborah James, my first supporter for the newspaper. Dr. James guided and worked with me closely when I first began, and still advised me after she left her role as The Phoenix advisor and professor.

Unfortunately, The Phoenix lost their advisor in the summer of 2016, Dr. Tammara W. Winn, to cancer. She guided us with her expertise in ethics in journalism. The current The Phoenix advisor, Professor Randall Weissmann, started with The Phoenix as an Industry Professional Guest Mentor. He as shown a great deal of about how the journalism industry works. For that I am truly grateful.

The GSU departments, including the Library, Career Services, Student Life, the Office of International Services, Marketing, the Office of Institutional Advancement, Digital Media, and many more, have been very supportive of the newspaper. Professors, staff, and students, thank you for always pitching ideas to the newspaper. Keep on creating so that people like me can record and make history of your excellence.

I have no doubt or worries that both Associate Editor and doctoral student, Donnica Gordon is going to do a fantastic job as Editor-in-Chief. She has helped me become a better writer, and has taught me to be confident and proud of my writing.

I wish the best of luck to Donnica Solatka and Melanie Fitch, our Staff Reporters. They have done a phenomenal job with their reporting.

Something that I want to leave you with is that I have gained a lot of awareness and understanding while being at The Phoenix. Working for a student newspaper has taught me how to view the news.

I ask you to keep your eyes open. The news may be depressing at times, but we have to keep up with it and keep our eyes open. We are living in an era where the term “fake news” has become popular. Politicos in this era want people to stay away from certain news sources because they are stating the truth.

Don’t let that keep you away from being informed about the current state of politics. Also sometimes the news may portray situations in a negative way. The media may influence people’s attitudes and beliefs. Be cautious from where you are getting your news.

With that, thank you, for being an ongoing supportive of The Phoenix.

Sincerely,

Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

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**Library Jam**

**By Dana Solatka**

Are you in a bit of a jam this finals season and don’t have any toast to help? Well then head on down to the Library Jam. Maybe a little role reversal is just what students need. Get out of the jam and become the toast. Because unlike jam, toast can be served on its own and is complemented by various condiments (com’on, the stress looks good on you).

Library Jam is held the week of April 24th and includes activities to destress and revert back to the jam state, including therapy dogs, free massages, and tutoring. The Library will also be a poetry reading on April 26th from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Lydia Morrow Ruten, library dean, writes “The GSU Library is dedicated to supporting our students. Library Jam was created in response to students’ requests.”

Library Jam is brought in part by the Psychology Club.

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**Grad Column**

**Congratulations Class of 2017**

By Brittany Godsey

Congratulations graduates!

You have gone above and beyond to achieve graduate level success! All the sleepless nights while you worked on papers and studied for exams are over, and it’s time to begin your next endeavor.

When heading out to your first interviews it’s important to go to each with an open mind and positive attitude. Even if you are not serious about the position or decide during the interview that this is not the place for you, it can be great practice for your dream job interview.

You want to leave every interview with the employer anxious to call you with a job offer or for a second interview. Maintaining an attitude of humility and humanity during interviews will be essential. Prove to each potential employer that you are the right fit for his or her company. This will require some preparation, but is well worth it in the end.

If you are looking for an automatic entry into a position, internships or client experiences may be just what you are looking for. This is the time and place to prove to a potential employer that you are the perfect fit for their company.

If you do not get a position with the company where you completed your internship, inquire about other companies in the area and see if your supervisor will write you a letter of recommendation. If an internship is out of the question for you, networking should be your focus. Now is the time to get your curriculum vitae out to past employers, professionals in your field, and professional networking sites such as LinkedIn. Remember you can check out the Graduate Success Blackboard course to review past workshops on creating your curriculum vitae and how to navigate LinkedIn.

Another great resource is the Career Services office. You can make an appointment for a resume review or practice interview by calling 708-235-3974. The Career Services office is open all summer for appointments with students and alumni!

For the rest of us graduate students who will be returning for summer and fall semester, keep your hard earned break and take some time to recharge and relax!

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**OpEd**

**Mels Corner**

By Melanie Fitch

Staff Reporter

I have heard many people talk about the evils of addiction and the dangers of alcohol. All of our lives, our parents and guardians have had a mile long list of the things we shouldn’t, or couldn’t do from playing in the street to playing our music too loud. Then as parents we do the same thing. The real kicker is, unlike playing in the street, which is dangerous for anyone, older people tell younger ones not to drink while they laugh and toss them back.

Maybe not right then, and it may be another person or a movie, but images of people having fun while drinking have always been part of many cultures. Ever since Jesus turned water into wine, many people have felt the need for strong drink to accompany celebration, so why would we expect younger adults to feel differently?

We don’t. Or at least I don’t. I get it. When done responsibly, having a few drinks with friends can be very enjoyable. But here is the catch-- and I have to hurry and get to it before someone thinks I’m promoting under-aged drinking! There is a very real possibility that you can do permanent damage to your brain if you drink alcohol regularly before you’ve finished adolescence.

There are certain portions of the brain that develop as late as 21 to 23 years of age. Now I’m past 21, but even at that time, I’d always been very particular about my brain.

Even now, my position is, I have too much to do to mess around and damage my grey matter. I’m going to go out on a limb here and assume that in a school full of students betting their future and that of their families on their brains, I’m not the only one.

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**The PHOENIX**

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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or call

1(708) 534 - 4517 / 1(708) 534 - 3068

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**Digital Media**

Mel’s Corner

The University Park, IL 60466

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**Library Jam is**

**As created in response to**

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Feature

Dr. John Sowa Travels to Dubai

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. John Sowa from the College of Arts and Sciences Division of Chemistry, traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for a week.

Dr. Sowa is a part of a review panel that is run by the Ministry of Higher Education for the United Arab Emirates. The review was at the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain.

The United Arab Emirates started its higher education program in the 1970s. “They wanted to make sure that they had the highest possible quality program for their higher education,” expressed Dr. Sowa. Therefore, they decided the best way to have a high quality program was to have standards and “invite reviewers from internationally recognized nations, especially those who are recognized well for their university education, and have them review new programs.”

Dr. Sowa was on a 5-year reaccreditation review. He was a part of the External Review Team (ERT) that consisted of 11 professors from around the world. They worked from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm everyday. They had meetings with students and faculty, and received tours of the university.

The reviews that Dr. Sowa participated in were similar to the HLC review that GSU has gone through, “There are specific reviews on academic programs, student environment, the administrative structure, reviews on the campus facilities and an opportunity to talk to faculty, staff and students to hear what some of their concerns are,” said Dr. Sowa.

Dr. Sowa found the university’s gender-based educational system to be an interesting reflection of how UAE society works, “That’s actually one of the most interesting cultural differences that I see and I’m impressed on how well they have that cultural and religious aspect of their country integrated into their education system,” stated Dr. Sowa.

United Arab Emirates “is an Islamic country and they obey the rules and guidelines of the Muslim religion. Young men and young women are not suppose to be together in public places,” said Dr. Sowa. He continued, “In Chemistry, there are two buildings, chemistry building for the males and chemistry building for the females. All of the courses that are taught are taught twice.”

Dr. Sowa has reviewed other universities in the United Arab Emirates system in the past years in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. “For me this is a really exciting professional development experience where I can use my expertise and experience in higher education, and work with other very prestigious faculty from around the world . . . Maybe someday I can imagine having an exchange. Have a contingent of students from Governors State go to some university in the UAE, and vice versa have some of the students from the UAE come here,” said Dr. Sowa.

Club Spotlight

Male Success Initiative

By Dana Solatka
Staff Reporter

Look! It’s a club! An organization? No, It’s GSU’s Male Success Initiative (MSI)!

Robert Clay founded MSI in 2015. Clay said the initiative was “created to aid in addressing the low retention and graduation rates of men of color, specifically African American and Latino males regardless of entry into GSU.”

Sean Smith was hired as MSI’s coordinator in the Spring 2017 semester. According to Smith, the initiative started “after 2014 when President Barack Obama launched the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative to address ‘persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color.’” Smith continued, “Governors State University began to look into what could be done with our own population of males of color, both transfer and incoming freshmen.”

Going hand-in-hand with Obama’s Initiative, MSI aims to heighten men of color’s success, particularly by “strategies to assist them in... progressing from their first year in college.” Whether a transfer student, pervious community college student, or someone looking to enroll into GSU, MSI wants to make sure men of color graduate.

The Initiative is not a club, but is a branch under student life. Smith hopes that “all males of color on this campus will see the benefit of participating in the initiative.” He confirmed there were 20 students taking advantage of the initiative. He continued, “those who get more actively involved tend to benefit from specialized services.”

Smith notes that the meetings are not traditional. They will meet once or twice a month to “share and exchange information critical to student success.” He also made note of the events MSI has conducted on campus, “a community service event, a workshop on financial literacy, and we fellowshiped by taking some students to the Bulls game as an incentive for their participation in MSI activities.”

According to Smith, “MSI helps connect males of color at community colleges, specifically those with a [Dual Degree Program] presence...to increase the awareness of GSU as well as various opportunities and events.”

Smith said that “MSI events will be taken to higher heights with its official Fall 2017 rollout.” In order to learn more about MSI and take advantage of its benefits, contact Sean Smith at ssmith5@govst.edu.
Multicultural Fashion Show 2017

By Anastasija Jurisic
Contributing Writer

On Monday, April 10th, International Culture Organization (ICO) organized a Multicultural Fashion Show, that took place in the CPA lobby, from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The goal of this event was to show GSU students the diversity that exists at GSU while each participant enlightened us with their own traditional clothing.

We had students and participants presenting India, China, Mexico, Philippines, Japan, Serbia, Native American, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Palestine.

The event started off with an Introduction followed by the the U.S. Anthem, the Mexican Anthem, and a certain not least, the Indian Anthem.

Participants wore astounding designs, breathtaking make-up, and performed beautiful choreographies. They played their national music, performed national dances, and some even provided a brief history of their home-country.

We had a chance to watch traditional Indian dance, followed by Ukrainian “kolo”, while many, perhaps decided to put the “spark” on their fashion-walk through the crowd.

GSU students had a chance to see other cultures, explore distinct fashion styles, and taste different cuisines.

During the event, students also had the privilege to meet Miss Illinois 2016, Miss Northern Illinois and Miss GSU who kindly honored us with their appearance.

After the show, ICO served fresh tamales, rice and beans, cake for dessert, and cookies to top it off! The experience is amazing! We had so much fun participating! Having the opportunity to tell more about our homeland to our classmates is priceless!” said one of the participants from Serbia.

Multicultural Fashion Show had an objective to join together domestic and international students, by helping International students-- at least for one day-- to feel like home by sharing information about their own culture and customs.

On the other hand, domestic students got a chance to learn more about different cultures and engage deeper in the GSU community.

Interfaith Prayer Service for Non-Violence

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On April 11, the Interfaith Prayer Service for Non-Violence was held in the new mediation room, located in A1115. People from the Jewish, Muslim, Hebrew- Israeliite, and Non-Denominational Christian faiths were present.

Robert Clay expressed that a number of students wanted and had emailed him about doing a prayer to promote faith and peace considering everything that’s going on in the world, “It’s our hope that we can see that reflected in our prayer chain today,” stated Clay.

Clay stated that the Interfaith Prayer Service was organized through student efforts. Therefore he introduced Ashton Richie, a student from GSU. Richie, stated that she usually did not join clubs or organizations. “I noticed a lot hostility in our news lately and how its affecting my friends and family and even me.”

Richie continued, stating that she wanted to initiate something, “Where everybody could come together and worship the one creator that we all believe in.”

Dr. Rashida Muhammad said a few remarks, “Faith is a part of all our individual social, cultural, and political identity. Therefore, we must be committed to equity and justice for all religions. It is through compassion and civility that our work moves and gains its meaning.”

Afterwards the individuals from various faiths recited prayers. Imam Elam J Muhammad, from The Mosque Cares of Hazel Crest, recited a Muslim prayer in Arabic and then in English.

Brian Zaken from B’nai Yehuda Beth Sholom in Homewood stated that they were in the second day of observing the Jewish Passover, and he was not there to recite appropriate prayers from their Seder because they take place from very early to midnight.

However, Zaken wanted the attendees to reflect on how students, faculty and community can find the ability to form greater communities to explore the many models of antiviolence, relationship building and conflict resolution.

Rev. Dr. James Hunt, from New Hope Christian Community Church offered a prayer reflecting on peace for everyone, referring to Dr. Martin Luther King in his prayer.

Brother Bural Wilkerson Sr., from The Israel of God located in Riverdale also recited a prayer. He recommended that to, “Turn your real trust and belief inward’ rather than looking forward to the government being the help you are in need of.”

At the end of the prayer chain, Clay thanked everyone for coming and extending the invitation for anyone interested in donating artifacts to the mediation room, to contact him in Room A2100 or at relay@govst.edu.

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Thank God It’s Summer

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Reporter

Finally, we have come to the end of the semester. Special assignments are due, and final tests are being studied for and taken. Everyone on campus is probably draining the last of their reserve energy just to get these assignments done and prayerfully keep that GPA up.

Instructors have papers up to their ears to grade and administrators already have to begin preparing for the fall semester. But with all of this stress and energy being exhausted, students and staff seem to be in good spirits.

“I’m guessing it’s because no matter what happens, we all know that at the end of these next few days, the semester will end and Summer break will begin, and no one will be happier than me.”

Everyone, I’m sure, has plans, be they looking for a job, going on a trip or just sitting in front of their favorite screen and sprouting roots.

I want to make just one suggestion: REFRESH! Don’t just rest, don’t just rejuvenate, do or find something that will really spark your shine! Being a student isn’t easy, and there is a lot of work still to be done.

But, life is what we experience on the way to accomplishing our goals. So, rest and chill, but also try something that is fascinating and will grow you. Go hiking. Go bungee jumping. Find and explore a rare bookstore. Learn to cook. Fall in love. Travel somewhere you’ve never been.

Make friends with someone who speaks a different language or whose family has a different culture. Go to a concert featuring an artist you would normally never go see (One that’s considered good), or try some food you’ve never tasted.

Enjoy your summer, and make it a goal to make plenty of good stories and plenty more good memories.
Nancy Gallegos: World Traveler

By Donnica Gordon
Associate Editor

Nancy Gallegos is a graduate student in the Communication Disorders program studying Speech and Language Pathology. She’s also an employee at the GSU Library.

Nancy is a dedicated student, having received the Graduate Leadership Scholars award in the Spring of 2015, and inducted into Lambda Pi Eta Honors Society in Spring 2016. Gallegos is also a world traveler.

Nancy has traveled to Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, England, France, Italy, Prague, and Israel independently. She has also taken advantage of GSU's Study Abroad program to travel to four additional countries.

As an undergraduate student, Gallegos participated in her first GSU Study Abroad trip to China in 2006, a trip sponsored by the College of Business. As a graduate Student, Gallegos has participated in three more study abroad programs to Brazil in 2015, South Africa in 2016, and most recently to India earlier this month.

The Phoenix spoke to Gallegos about her impressive travel record:

Phoenix: What has been your favorite trip?

Nancy Gallegos: I always claim that my favorite trip is the trip from which I recently returned but upon reflection, each trip has been special. I have wonderful memories and moments from each trip: visiting the Great Wall in China, trekking to Machu Picchu with my family in Peru, seeing “The Lion King” for the first time in London, buying my favorite earrings on the Charles Bridge in Prague, meeting a tour group in Jerusalem from my family’s hometown in Mexico, standing on a beach in South Africa and being told that I was standing on the “edge of Africa”, zip lining in Costa Rica – the list is endless.

Gallegos: Why not?? There’s so much more to this world than just me and my personal sphere. I’m always keen to explore new adventures, experience different cultures, taste local cuisines, learn new words in different languages, establish new relationships, strengthen old relationships, broaden my world view, gain new perspectives, push myself out of my comfort zone, and expand my bubble. I will always want to travel!

Phoenix: How were you able to afford so many study abroad trips?

Gallegos: The GSU Study Abroad programs sponsored through the College of Business are open to all university students. The College of Business received a CIBER grant from Indiana University that has provided a small grant to each study abroad participant to help subsidize the cost of the trip. Current GSU students can also apply for a study abroad scholarship that awards additional funds to help with the cost. The cost of the trip is significantly reduced with these resources and makes the cost of these trips more affordable for students. I have also applied financial aid/ student loan funds to help pay for a trip.

Phoenix: What advice would you offer students thinking about studying abroad?

Gallegos: Do it!!! The GSU Study Abroad programs are a good way to get your feet wet with international travel because it is a structured trip with a pre-planned itinerary. All you have to do is show up and enjoy the journey. Phoenix: I understand your uncle accompanied you on your most recent study abroad trip to India. How did that come about, and how did you enjoy traveling with family?

Gallegos: My uncle expressed interest in India when I shared information about the upcoming GSU Study Abroad programs. His participation was dependent on the number of people who committed to traveling to India, since current students have priority.

Luckily, it all worked out with the help of Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator and Dr. Jun Zhao, Interim Dean of College of Business. Ms. Schoenberg was very helpful with guiding my uncle through the process. I enjoyed the trip to India but it was better to share it with my uncle. It was a wonderful experience for both of us.

Statewide Teach Out

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On April 27, all public universities in Illinois are participating in a statewide teach-out in Springfield.

The purpose of the teach-out is to show the importance of the teaching staff at universities, and the affect of their absence due to positions being eliminated as a result of the budget crisis.

Many professors, and possibly employees and students from the university will be taking the journey to Springfield.

Some of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) union members held informational tables in the Hall of Governors to inform the campus about the upcoming teach-out.

Professor Michael Hart from the Art department shared thoughts on the teach-out, “The Teach Out is to bring a message directly to Springfield, we need a budget, an actual working fair budget. We need higher education funded. The message needs to be brought there. It’s been quietly mumbled about.”

Liam Smietanski, a graduate student in the Art department shared his perspective as a student for the teach out, “It needs to happen. We need as many people as possible to go to show it’s not just the teachers but students too that [the budget crisis] is affecting. We need it to stop.”

Students, families of students and professors are welcomed to participate in the teach out on April 27. The UPI will be providing transportation to Springfield. Anyone who is interested in going with UPI should contact Dr. Elizabeth Essex, at Essex@govst.edu.

Promotion flyer for the teach out on April 27.
The Four Hijabs: Film and Discussion

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The Office of International Services hosted a film screening of “The Four Hijabs” followed by a discussion with the film writers, Jamil Khoury and Dr. Manal Hamzeh.

Khoury, is the founding artistic director of Silk Road Rising. According to Amy Schoenberg, Khoury received a grant from the Chicago Foundation for Women to be able to show the film and have a panel.

Dr. Hamzeh is a professor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Gender & Sexuality Studies at New Mexico State University. She is the author of Pedagogies of DeVeiling: Muslim Girls and the Hijab Discourse. It was through her book that Khoury found inspiration for the film.

“The Four Hijabs” is a short twelve-minute film about the myths that surround the Hijab and what Hijab actually means. The film begins with three friends discussing the word Hijab.

The friends discuss that Hijab is not just about the headscarf, but also means “to cover, to protect, a bounty or headscarf, but also means “to that Hijab is not just about the modest dress of both Muslim men and women; the ethical hijab, ethical values/practices required of all Muslims; the spiritual hijab, the barrier that inhibits deep spiritual growth and new knowledge. The spiritual hijab, the barrier that inhibits deep spiritual growth and new knowledge. Next each hijab explained how many times they are mentioned in the Qur’an, which is a total of sixteen times.

The film takes a turn and the friends travel to a theater where and how many times they appear in the Qur’an. One of the hijabs states, “We have suffered and we have been wrongly accused of making others suffer … We’ve been misrepresented, distorted, contradicted, taken out of context and we have been co-opted by patriarchal politics. We are here to reclaim our Qur’anic verses, clarify leered meanings and speak for ourselves.”

Afterwards, each hijab introduced themselves. The spatial hijab, the separator between private and public spaces; the visual hijab-the modest dress of both Muslim men and women; the ethical hijab, ethical values/practices required of all Muslims; the spiritual hijab, the barrier that inhibits deep spiritual growth and new knowledge.

We are here to reclaim our Qur’anic verses, clarify leered meanings and speak for ourselves.” Each hijab expressed how they are interpreted negatively. For example, the spatial hijab explained, “I don’t like to see people in their homes, that’s creepy.” The film then broke down myths of the hijab with ethical hijab stating that it is up to people to interpret their verses and understand them for themselves.

When one of the friends expresses amazement at the hijabs talking with them, another friend explains that this is “Ijtihad”, the Islamic form of interpreting the scriptures.

Following the film, there was a discussion held with the filmmakers. Dr. Hamzeh was brought to the panel through Skype. The film was shown twice, once before the discussion and then again after.

Professional Etiquette Luncheon: Training for a Seat at the Table

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer and

By Danielle Terry
Contributing Writer

Imagine this. You’re on your way to becoming an accomplished college graduate. You’ve aced your classes and now you’re searching for the first “real” job or career. You’ve practiced your elevator speech, narrowed in on your strengths and weaknesses, as well as customized your resume. You finally land that interview with the perfect prospective employer and they ask you to have lunch with them. They want “to know you better.” You attend the lunch and enjoy the food and think you’ve made a great impression. There’s only one problem. They don’t call you back. What happened? One possible answer is that you may have needed a refresher on your professional dining etiquette.

On April 11th, Career Services hosted a Professional Etiquette Luncheon, providing African American students the opportunity to refine their business etiquette and social graces. Studies prove that an employer is more likely to choose a candidate based on rapport, rather than qualifications. Networking, such as introductions, business attire, and hand shaking, were addressed. It was held in the E-Lounge from 11:30a.m-2:00p.m and hosted by Career Counselor, Kristina Dangles.

Fine dining basics like table settings and napkin usage, but also, concealing personal items and condiment wrappers, properly eating soup, and passing items, such as bread and beverages around the table, were the focus.

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Library Archive Feature

GSU Police Officer Helps Save Woman in Cafeteria

The Innovator, Volume 26, Issue 10, discussing the GSU Police Officer.

Photo courtesy of OPUS GSU Library Archives.

GSU Police Officer Saves a Woman’s Life

By Matthew DiGrispino
Library Intern

The GSU police, like many police departments, are trained not only to protect our school if there is a shooting, but also are paramedics that help those who suffer from certain illnesses. This was the case for a rookie GSU cop named Jason Moitke, who saved the life of a 78-year-old woman on March 12, 1997. According to OPUS, Moitke was only in the department for 11 months when he responded to a call “that required life-saving measures.” After three minutes questioning the patient, the woman slipped into an unconscious state. Moitke then began to open the woman’s airway while calling for back up. Thankfully, the woman was taken to Olympia Fields Osteopathic Hospital, and survived thanks to Moitke’s efforts. It was later revealed that the woman suffered a stroke and had not Moitke intervened, the woman would have died. Soon after, Moitke was promoted to a prestigious group within the GSU police department known as the Blue Knights, which is given only to officers who save a life.

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American and European dining styles were introduced as students were encouraged to practice both. Many questions arose like “When should you excuse yourself from the table?”; “What kinds of foods are appropriate to order?”; and “Is it ok to ask for additional condiments?”. Students are encouraged to stop by the Career Services Center for the answer to these and more professional dining questions.

Towards the end of the luncheon, two guest speakers shared their student and professional journeys. The first was, Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Cyrus Ellis. He mentioned earning a degree is “training” for a career. To become an asset to an employer, or worthy enough to have a “seat at the table”, one can overcome obstacles by obtaining and keeping a competitive edge.

Mr. Sean Smith, Male Success Initiative Program Coordinator, gave his testimony to the importance of college experiences. He inspired students to heed good advice and take advantage of every opportunity presented, as it may, and, often times will, benefit in landing the job of your dreams.

Dr. Ellis shared a bit of sage advice to wrap up the luncheon: “Prepare yourself, then you will be prepared to overcome obstacles.

1. Training: Study and preparation will help you to overcome obstacles
2. Be true: Disciplined, true to your chosen identity and field
3. Faith: Have faith in humanity and in something greater than you. Something meaningful to you.

Obstacles will always be there. The point is, always have 1, 2 and 3”.

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The BCS Division Congratulates our May AND AUGUST 2017 GRADUATES in Biology and chemistry*

### Biology
- Dalia Abdulraji, BS
- Diana Acosta, BS
- Megan Booth, BS
- Sarah Borgman, BS
- Scott Carlock, BS
- Michael Benami, BS
- Alexander Erhart, BS
- Melissa Franco, BS
- Ronald Hull, BS
- Alicia Irvine, BS
- Gregory Marconi, BS
- Andres Martinez, BS
- Anthony Mersiko, BS
- Ezra Rafat, BS
- Samantha Roderick, BS
- Michael Covarrubias, BS
- Hashim Mian, BS
- Hashim Mian, BS
- Blake Phillips, BS
- Nicole Lewis, BS, Sec Ed Cert.
- Caitlin Johnson, BS
- Neal Jankowski, MS

### Chemistry
- Chandler Moore, BS
- Joseph Quest, BS
- Vincent Schmitz, BS
- Alejandro Gonzalez, BS
- Daniel Kutchta, BS
- Brenda Torres, Honorary Chemist
- Sunmith Kumar Admala, MS
- Salvador Alcantar, MS
- Nareshkumar Kothapally, MS
- Joseph Zuklik, MS
- Abdul Saleem Mohd, MS
- Diana Demarchi, MS
- Charles Flemming, MS
- Naveen Kumar Gajji, MS
- Ibrahim Gbadebesin, MS
- Abdul Razzaq Mohammed, MS
- Umar Ranganaicham, MS
- Alex Kampner, MS

*Pending completion of University requirements.

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Professional Etiquette Luncheon: Training for a Seat at the Table

Passion of Life
By Safora Syeda

If I want to succeed,
The path on which I proceed,
Have to be my own,
Only then I will be known.

I have to enjoy my own path,
Just to distinguish myself in a mass,
I want to avoid borrowed robes,
I want to see how success comes.

I don’t want to follow fact steps,
I want to leave my own
I want to motivate others and see how
How history remembers me
With my name in gold

“A revolution is not
a dinner party.”

-the Chairman

PHIL 4254 Summer 2017
SPRINGFIELD ADVOCACY DAY

Wednesday, April 26

DEPARTING
5:30 AM: Logan Square Neighborhood Association
2840 N. Milwaukee Ave.
6:00 AM: Young Invincibles
234 S. Wabash Ave.

Transportation, training, and refreshments provided

Now more than ever, students must make their voices heard. Come out to talk to legislators about higher education funding, protecting immigrant communities, and more.

Questions? Contact Elena at 707-815-3917 or elena.sakopoulous@younginvincibles.org