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Generating Hope, Healing and Restoration

By Donnica Gordon
Contributing Writer

October 23, 2017.
Join Generating Hope today from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Engbrecht Hall for a Fishbowl conversation and Healing Justice practice led by special guests Dr. Kirk A. James, Clinical Assistant Professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work and Catherine Ashton, Founder of Yoga to Transform Trauma™.

Six Generating Hope members will share the trauma and triumphs of their experiences of being imprisoned, serving their time, restoring their lives and returning to society as contributing citizens.

Fishbowl participants Jerry Davis-El, Darryl Cooke, and Terry Baines, founding members of Generating Hope, along with fellow members Marse Vinesvac, Darwin Gordon, and Mark Dupree will be led in an open and engaging dialogue with audience members followed by a community yoga session focused on healing trauma.

A Fishbowl Conversation is one open forum in which audiences discuss and share their thoughts about critical social issues with presenting participants. The facilitator for this fishbowl, NYU Professor Dr. Kirk A. James, a noted educator, clinician, writer, and speaker.

James is an expert in mass incarceration and the intersection of race, class, power, and privilege; as well as immigration and critical pedagogy, human rights, and social justice frameworks. James also focuses on Trauma and healing modalities for impacted people. Courses developed from James’ dissertation, which examined the complex phenomena of mass incarceration through a historical and contemporary lens, have been implemented at Columbia University, Temple University, City College of New York, and the University of Pennsylvania amongst others.

Joining James in the second half of the program will be Catherine Ashton, Expert Yoga Instructor and board certified Trauma Specialist. Along with teaching and training others in the healing art of yoga, Ashton has been an activist for many years with a private practice dedicated to trauma recovery. She has also served as an Administrator in large mental health agencies and hospitals serving marginalized populations.

In speaking to the role yoga will play in the event, Ashton said, “At the heart of trauma is terror, an inability to self-regulate or soothe, a loss of control or the ability to stay present in our own bodies or experiences”. Ashton further explained, “Yoga and other embodied practices gift us with the means to feel safe, empowered and present so that we may begin to heal both as individuals as well as communities”.

Dr. Lori Glass, Founding Advisor of Generating Hope, spoke of the organization’s intentions for the event, “We want to continue to bring awareness to the issue of mass incarceration, and to give others a deeper understanding of how it impacts people and their families”.

Noting that this is Generating Hope’s fifth event, Glass shared, “We want to move beyond the issue of incarceration, and talk about healing and restoration. We want to bear witness to the triumphs, and give people an understanding of how others made it through to the other side”.

Glass says she wants people to have a deeper understanding of mass incarceration, and to be able to connect faces to the issue, and not just think in terms of statistics. “I want the audience to be moved by real people’s stories. I want the GSU community to become active. I want them to become aware, but also to become involved about issues regarding social justice,” said Glass.

While Generating Hope is concerned about mass incarceration, Glass notes, “We can’t separate one issue from another.”

“We want people to get active about all issues that impact our communities including Immigration, Violence, and Poverty. Get involved. Use your voice... Especially those of us who have been privileged through education,” said Glass. “We have a responsibility to get involved”.

One of the greatest things that Glass is excited about is the personal triumphs and accomplishments of the members. “I am so excited to see the founding members of Generating Hope, achieve their Master’s Degrees. They’ve gone out into the field as social workers. They’re reaching back to impact the men, women, and children, the communities that have been adversely affected by mass incarceration. It’s a full-circle moment. They are walking testimonies to the mission of Generating Hope. They are doing amazing work, getting involved and trying to make a difference.”

Glass continued, “These men were once in jail. Now they’re going back into the jails as therapists. They are living testimonies to the transformation of lives. The power of connection. The power of someone believing in you. The power of accountability”.

These are the values of “Generating Hope, Healing, and Restoration” that will be in full display tonight in Engbrecht Hall. Generating Hope invites everyone to join in its mission to work for social justice, to support anyone impacted by mass incarceration to heal and restore their lives and livelihood through higher education to join in their efforts.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the organization may contact President Jerry Davis-El at jdvaisel@student.govst.edu or Vice-President Falisa Byers at flyers@student.govst.edu. You can also join through Jaguar Connection.
Issue 14 Corrections

GSU's 80+ Organizations

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

The Phoenix acknowledges there were errors in our last editorial published in Issue 14. The Editorial titled “GSU’s Promise of Over 60 Organizations” contains several inaccurate statements. We here at the Phoenix retract the editorial and apologize for our errors.

While I was walking down the A-wing hall, I saw that mural everyone sees—the one where there are a whole bunch of people having fun at GSU. It struck me as a bit strange because although the sign says “over 60 organizations,” it had always seemed to me that there were far fewer truly active clubs.

I was swiftly proven wrong. To set the record straight, Student Life recognizes over 80 active clubs and organizations. No fraternities or sororities are recognized as a part of GSU. Over 55 clubs and organizations appeared at the fair along the GSU Lake.

In response to the editorial, Assistant Director of Student Programing and Campus Involvement Konya Sledge said this regarding who governs the clubs and whether there is money to support all of them: “The Student Fees/Finance Committee (SFSC) of the Student Senate is responsible for recommending fee distributions for the Student Activity Fees and the Student Center Fees to the Assistant Dean of Students. The Assistant Dean of Students as the designated fee administrator serves as a resource/information source to the Committee. The budget for the next fiscal year is developed by the Committee and recommended to the Assistant Dean of Students. The Assistant Dean of Students makes the final recommendation to the Vice President, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Dean of Students. Student Activity Fees facilitate the development and maintenance of extra and co-curricular activities on and off-campus which increase the ability of students to enrich/enhance their educational goals. The development of a ‘sense of community’ is a key ingredient in attempts to create a sense of belonging among the student population. Student Activity Fees help support clubs and organizations, including the Student Senate and the Phoenix. Any student club or organization, which has been recognized by Student Life Center of Governors State University (GSU) is eligible for funding throughout any present fiscal year and for the following fiscal years to come. These groups are referred to as Recognized Organizations or ROs. To become a RO, an organization must complete and submit a New Club/Organization Packet to the Student Life Unit for approval, and maintain annual registry in Jaguar Connection.”

Editorial

#MeToo

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer

I've been watching the hashtag #MeToo has become almost ubiquitous. For the past week, or more, women (and some men) have been posting #MeToo in acknowledgement of their experiencing sexual abuse. As you might expect, people have disagreed about what qualifies as abuse, as well as who classifies as having experienced it.

This is my view.

If you feel that you have been sexually abused, you probably have. There are some people who have an exaggerated sense of victimhood, but most don’t, and no one can determine how someone else should experience things. It took years for me to realize that some things that I have experienced were abuse. You see it as something so common, you feel guilty for being the one to make a big deal out of “nothing”. It’s easy for some people to brush off sexual aggression as if it’s, at worst, bad behavior, but the reality is those experiences are almost always traumatizing for many people. (something saying sexual aggression is unacceptable)

The point is, if someone asks you for a sip of your drink and you say no, you expect them to respect that. If they ask you if you would like a glass of juice, you might say yes and you might say no, but whatever you say, you don’t expect them to take a glass of juice and shove it in your face. Even if you drink juice on occasion, you still don’t want someone forcing it down your throat, even if it’s the kind you normally like.

Sometimes people want juice, but sometimes they don’t and it is a ways their right to choose. Remember that, if anyone ever tells you no.

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OpEd

An Interview with an ‘80s Actor

By Keely Deloache
Contributing Writer

Keely Deloache: So, I am doing an interview for my school newspaper on people from the 80s generation and what it was like for you growing up in the 80s Hollywood scene. A lot of things have also changed since that time, and I was wondering if that is a culture shock for you now?

Clark Brandon: Well I mean right now television is super exciting to me, and you call it television but I don’t know what you call it because everyone watches on their iPad, or the phone, or their TV computer. But when I was in television there were three networks, and there were probably 50-60 hours of television a week produced, now there are actually 400 scripted shows out there so I think television is amazing right now and obviously the quality is a little different because but back then we were really limited by our advertisers, right? And so you couldn’t be really provocative ya know? You couldn’t push any envelopes and you had all these incredible restrictions, so you kinda got these bland maybe at ten o clock, if you were a Hillstreet blues or something like that. You could kind of touch on the social issues or push buttons with the things that I think that television does so wonderfully, but now, nowadays it’s really an enormous fertile ground for actors, writers, and directors to have access to amazing audiences so, I’m actually thinking of re-entering on a sort of informal level on television because there’s so much work available, there’s so many neat shows. Look at the difference between Facts of Life which was actually pretty forward thinking back then.

The PHOENIX is published sixteen 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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Diwali: The Festival of Lights

By Hannah Carrol
Contributing Writer

This past Monday, October 16th, GSU celebrated Diwali in Sherman Hall. Diwali is a traditional Hindu festival of lights, celebrating new beginnings, light over darkness, and good over evil. It also celebrates the ancient legend of Lord Rama and his wife Sita returning to their kingdom in northern India from exile after defeating the demon king Ravanna in the 15th century B.C. The Office of International Services (OIS) put lots of time and effort in preparing this celebration so that our international students, particularly from India, could have a memorable Diwali while studying here in the U.S. Along with OIS, Mohammad Khalid Ali, a GSU student, hosted the event.

I interviewed a few people from the OIS staff, including Mili Maras, a student worker, Amy Schonenberg, the Study Abroad Coordinator, and Shelley Tekeste, the Foreign Credential Evaluator, to hear about their thoughts and/or experience at GSU’s Diwali 2017.

Mili: “It was bright, colorful, and very cheerful. For those two hours, I felt like I was in India, instead of on GSU’s campus. The decorations were beautiful; flowers and lights were everywhere. The atmosphere brought back the meaning of Diwali. Prior to the beginning of the festival, we had a Henna tattoo contest, where Evelina Galiliute won first place. She further proved her artistic ability by donating a hand-drawn picture of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and beauty. I was very impressed with the decorations for this event.”

Amy: “As important as it is for international students to understand American culture, it’s just as important for them to continue celebrating their own culture and to share it with the GSU community. I know that when I lived abroad, I still wanted to celebrate Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July. Celebrating Diwali is a way for our international students to bring a piece of home to us and for us to make them feel at home at GSU.”

Shelley: “We began the celebration by decorating with all the handmade flowers and Rangoli that the whole OIS was a part of making. Several volunteers, including Geya Malika Mothe, Premalatha Paga, and Bhavya Saxena helped to set up the event. We had the GSU Dance Company perform and a few ESL students, Bhavana Gosangi and Shakira Saleh danced and sang as well. We also had delicious food, both savory and sweet: Chicken biryani, vegetable pakora, samosa, and gulab jamun.”

The Office of International Services hosts the Diwali festival annually, so be sure to check it out next year! Lights, music, and food for all!

Club Spotlight

Cyber Defense Club

By Arnesha Barlow
Associate Editor

The Cyber Defense Club is a club that provides information about cyber security to the student body. According to Karen Grgurich, "The Cyber Defense Club provides an environment for students to get involved in cyber security outside of the classroom to enhance their experience at GSU. This a place for students prepare for careers in the cyber security community in a competitive environment. "The teaching here is excellent," Thomas A. Fagan reported. "I really enjoy being in the club and learning about the different aspects on cyber security. Especially, the security portion."

The Cyber Defense Club currently has twenty-eight members and is growing. "The group positively impacts GSU by creating a place where students can develop critical skills and gain practical experience, which is necessary for today’s cyber security workforce," says Grgurich. "The CDC encourages teamwork and provides its members the opportunity to network with Information Technology and Computer Science professionals. The Club itself meets once or twice a week depending on club members’ schedules.

In terms of events, the club competed at the CYBERSEED 2017 Social Engineering competition at the University of Connecticut on October 19th and 20th. "Five members of the CDC recently attended the SASEHackathon and Career Fair in Schaumberg, Illinois. Additional members participated in the SASE Career Fair," Grgurich reports. She also mentioned the club is "also preparing for the 2018 Midwest Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (MWCCDC) at Moraine Valley Community College in February 2018."

Interested? Contact President of the Club Marse Vishevac, by email at mvishevac@student.govst.edu or check them out on jaguar connection for more information.
Stomping Grounds Festival Review

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer

On Saturday night, October 7th, the GSU Center for Performing Arts welcomed a unique and exciting production to its stage for an evening of power, passion and entertainment. The sensational Stomping Grounds Festival is a collaboration between four very intense, very diverse dance companies. At first glance, each group seemed different. They represented the traditional dance of Ireland, African influenced choreography, Flamenco and classical Spanish dance, and Tap dance, which while influenced by African traditions, has grown and evolved into a distinctly American cultural style of dance.

Muntu Dance Theater, Ensemble Espanol (Spanish Dance Theater), Trinity Irish Dance and Chicago Human Rhythm Project perform different styles of dance but they all have a passion and skill that kept Saturdays audience engaged. Chicago Human Rhythm Project performed several tap numbers. Their black background and clothing was as simple as their footwork was complicated and stylish. Trinity Irish Dance did, what appeared to be Irish Step Dancing, popularized by the world-famous Riverdance production, and they seemed to have feet of lightening! Muntu Dance Theater combined the robust rhythms of drumming with call and response style singing, and powerful African dance moves that made them seem ready to fly off the stage at any moment. However, the Spanish Dance Theater is a production in and of itself. The passion and sensuality of the dancers, combined with the creative lighting and elaborate costumes was almost enough to make one feel transported to another place and time.

I couldn't help but notice that while Stomping Grounds is a great show it's also a perfect illustration of how people can be different and powerful, while still working together and maintaining their original identities. Food for thought I suppose.

As one of the first shows of the semester, if Stomping Grounds is a sample of what we have to look forward to, then I recommend setting aside a few weekends, because going to some of the up and coming performances will be a very worthwhile way to spend the evening.

Men's Golf is Put on Hold

By Arnesha Barlow
Associate Editor

On October, 16th The GSU's Men's Golf Team played at the NAIA Preview. They started off the opening round with a score of 320. Matt Conteoy, a member of the golf team recorded GSU's lowest score with 5-over-par 76 placing him in 29th place. As well as Casey Domike, with a score of 78 who earned 48th place. The Jaguars recorded their lowest round ever in Deere Run that afternoon. "This is our second time playing here," explained Mark Haines, Head Coach. "The guys are getting a good feel for the course. At the same time, we get to see where we stand against some of the nation's top teams."

On the next day, Governors State played once again, but this time finished 16th out of 23. The Jaguars compiled a two round score of 640 on the par-71, 6538 yard TPC Deere Run Course. GSU, played ahead of five CCAC teams. Matt Contley, finished in the top 50. Shooting 156 (76-80) and finished 2 shot backs to tie for 54th place overall. John Orowick, (82-79—161) scored a 79 finishing four shots ahead of Jack Calderone. Freshman Sam Billman, (103-93—198) shaved eight strokes off of his score in the opening round. "Our goal coming in was to prepare for the challenge tournament against the toughest field we've ever faced." Said Mark Haines, Head Coach. "The course conditions were challenging with the wind, but we learned a lot and continue to progress as a young program." This round brought the Jaguars to the end of the fall campaign. They will resume the 2017-18 season in March.
The GLAAD Media Institute Work Shop

By Devyn Forquer & Dana Solatka
Newspaper Practicum & Editor-In-Chief

This story was originally published online at phoenixgsu.com

On October 6th, The GLAAD Media Institute presented a workshop at DePaul University for aspiring journalism students from Governors State University and DePaul University. The workshop had a small audience of three students and two professors, but the intimate conversation showed all our passions.

GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) was founded in 1985 by a group of journalists and writers in response to the New York Post's defamatory coverage of the HIV and AIDS.

According to the GLAAD Media Institute's website, the organization's goal is to provide activist, spokesperson, and media engagement training and education for LGBTQ+ and allied community members and organizations desiring to deepen their media impact.

The workshop at DePaul was lead by Monica Trasandes, Director of Programs, Spanish-Language, and Latinx Media at GLAAD. She was able to provide examples from her own life as a lesbian Latina. For example, she noted how Latinx families tend to have more extended family than white families. Because of a large family, they are more likely to know a family member who is LGBTQ+ and in turn be more accepting.

This workshop aimed to provide appropriate terminology for writers to use when reporting on the LGBTQ+ community. Resource books were plentiful. The group identified proper ways LGBTQ+ characters, especially trans characters, are handled in the media. Examples include Sofia from Orange is the New Black, the 2016 film Moonlight, and how journalism portrays LGBTQ+ people.

A large chunk of the discussion was dedicated to how future media people can help. Trasandes mentioned journalists, scriptwriters, novelists, and anyone else falling under the writer umbrella should contact GLAAD to make sure they are writing properly of LGBTQ+ people.

Many writers are either misinformed or do not understand the importance of making sure the correct terminology is used when writing these stories, but using the appropriate language can truly make or break a story, or even a writer's credibility.

The presence of the LGBTQ+ community in the media is prominent, so using the correct terminology and language is crucial.

For more information about the GLAAD Media Institute, visit www.glaad.org/institute. We here at The Phoenix have a set of LGBTQ+ terminology writing guides and encourage students to reach out to either us and/or GLAAD.

Leaders at GSU

By Christie Carrasco
Newspaper Practicum

"We created a CEO leadership program for all the leaders of the organizations, to give them those transferable skills that they will need such as organizational development, personal development, financial development and navigating systems," said Governor State University's Assistant Dean of Students Sheeree Sanderson.

On October 5 2017, GSU held its first leadership workshop for on campus organizations. Leaders of GSU organizations are required to attend a series of workshops that allows them to gain critical skills that will be transferrable in the "real world." The first workshop focused on "strategic planning" and how to effectively plan for your vision/goals while leading others and your organization in a positive direction.

"At the end of the session they will do a reflective report to tell us what they gathered from the workshops and what new things they are doing with the organization and how they will implement some of the skills they learned. Then they will have an opportunity to sit down with a real CEO from a fortune 500 company and they will be able to ask them questions," said Sheeree Sanderson.

"I thought this workshop was excellent. I defiantly received some great information we can take back to our e-board members and members that will help us sustain our vision" said Falisa Byers.

Voices of Mass Incarceration

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

The Criminal Justice department is hosting an event titled "Voices of Mass Incarceration" on November 21st from 5pm-8pm in Engbretson hall. The event features author and radio talk show host Darryl Cooke along with international spoken word life artist, author, and activist Biaol Ic. T

The event is free and open to the public. It is sure to be an educational experience.

Questions can be directed to Caron Jacobson at cjacobson@govst.edu

An Interview with an '80s Actor (Continued)

KD: I'm sorry, could you define forward thinking?
CB: Well they did deal with things that you'd be surprised! They dealt with race they dealt with a whole bunch of things in a sitcom 80's style but at least they were talking on a simplistic level, but that's what I was saying, that was the norm in the 80s and as an actor, that was so much more frustrating for me to always sort of have these one dimensional characters and now I think the characters are so much more richer and complex story lines or original, crazy, across the board...

KD: Hmm

CB: So yeah, it's not a culture shock, it's really a pleasure to be an audience member now, at the same time I'm even thinking it may be fun to jump back, now that I'm old too, I play character parts, ya know?

I don't always have to be that guy with the letterman's jacket on.

KD: It was more of a pea coat most of the time (chuckles), but I get what you're saying. I think people back then, they had more values than they do now, like you see a lot of reality television, now we have the Kardashians to look up to. I'm just saying back then, everyone, it was just more...

CB: No you're absolutely right cause on some level, television has to be more supervised if you have families and all that because there's so much out there, same with the internet, and if... (trails off) oh yeah! There was a certain... It's funny because, within the industry, the 80s was crazy, (laughs) ya know what I mean?

KD: Yeah
New Sky Gallery Art Installment

By Maryam Abuissa
Contributing Writer

The students of GSU’s Performance Arts class have been hard at work creating their own original pieces to display in our library. Starting on October 23rd, five students will have the opportunity to set up their own gallery space to showcase their artistic talents. These four art installations will be displayed in the GSU Library’s Skylight Gallery. The theme of these pieces will be exploring the history of performance arts and will include interactive features to engage the audience and create a truly touching experience.

“Performance Art is a course designed as a survey of the origins, influences, and manifestations of the genre. There is a focus on political artwork from a multicultural, feminist, and sexuality perspective. Students are asked to apply the genre’s key ideas in the creation of their own performance work, including an installation to be staged for the public. The Skylight Gallery is an appropriate location to stage student work, especially of this kind, since the library is the intellectual center of a campus community. Our Skylight Gallery is a beautiful, open space that will nicely facilitate a dialogue between the student-artists and our GSU community,” says Patrick Santoro, the professor of Performance Arts class.

The first exhibit is up October 23rd through October 27th. Debbie Burk’s Reflection Her summary of the piece is as follows: "Whether it is a physical or an internal reflection, reflection speaks to, informs, hides, exposes, reveals, convolutes, conforts, confuses, exposes, illuminates, enlightens. How do you see yourself? How do you see others? How do you see how others see you? How do others see how others see themselves? It is in exploring these questions that this project was born."

The Jaguar L.E.A.D.: Making a Real Impact

By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

While GSU is home to many leadership programs, it is also home to the Jaguar L.E.A.D. (Leadership Experiences Applied and Demonstrated) Capstone, a Title-III funded program, charged by Director of New Student Programs and Leadership Development Initiatives Roshaunda Ross.

The Jaguar L.E.A.D. Capstone is for students who have completed two or more leadership development programs through Governors State and wish to apply and demonstrate the skills they learned and present them in a project.

Students must apply to be part of the grueling Capstone and if accepted, they are paired with a staff advisor to oversee and guide their progress with the project. Accepted students can complete the project in their area of study, whether it be in Communication, Interdisciplinary Studies, or Health Administration.

Linda Coleman was the inaugural participant to complete the Jaguar L.E.A.D. Capstone and presented her project on Monday, October 16.

Coleman’s project, “Minimizing Health Disparities & Barriers Amongst GSU Student Population”, derived from her studies as a Healthcare undergraduate student.

According to Coleman’s presentation, she had four objectives overall: identifying barriers for student healthcare access and internal and external resources to help GSU students with insecurities regarding food and shelter, healthcare, counseling, and wellness. She wished to “establish a centralized communication of holistic health resources for the student body, and overall, to minimize health disparities and barriers and to provide resources to assist students to continue and successfully complete their GSU program.”

Her diligent work over the past eight months has brought many programs. Some are completely life-changing for students, and surely, you have noticed a few around campus: GSU4U, GSU Food Pantry, Jaguar Career Close, and D.E.N. (Distributing Emergency Necessities) bags, just to name a few.

As director of such a prestigious capstone, Roshaunda Ross wasted to make sure the work was more rewarding and impactful above anything else.

“I’ve read about leadership programs at other schools but a lot of them are just planning a party, and while that does take leadership skills, that’s not what we are about here. I want you to do something that is going to make a real, positive impact on the GSU community,” said Ross.

The application for the capstone is online, then the applicant must go through a consultation with Ross. The applicant will then do a presentation about their project before a committee. They will then find out if they have been approved or not to participate in the capstone.

In the initial interview, she talks with the applicants about their passions and what they aspire to change and make a difference in, for example, Coleman’s passion for accessible healthcare within the student body.
Under The Same Moon: A DACA Story

By Christie Carrasco
Newspaper Practicum

On October 11th, 2017, ALAS and Lambda Pi Eta presented the film Under the Same Moon. The film was about a mother who leaves her son in Mexico in the care of his grandmother so she can seek work in the USA hoping to provide a better life for herself and her son. After a few years, the grandmother dies and the little boy travels to the USA to join his mother.

The intention of showing this film was to raise awareness on campus of the undocumented and DACA students at GSU. GSU is slowly starting to become more involved with DACA students on campus and wants students to know that there are people who are here to support them. Jason Vigone, a faculty member at GSU, is one of the people on campus passionate about protecting the DACA student and raising awareness about the issues that are affecting many DACA and undocumented students at GSU.

Sadly, the reality is there are many DACA and undocumented students on campus that are afraid of vocalizing their status for fear of others not accepting them as a DACA/undocumented student or fear that no one will understand them or help them. This pushes these students into the shadows. It is time as a campus we become more aware of these students and show our support. Like many US born students these DACA and undocumented students work and go to school. They know only hard work will grant them more opportunities to a better life for themselves and their families.

“We shouldn’t be afraid because we are not doing anything wrong. Our situation does not define who we are, it is us who define who we are and we should all stay united and be proud of our accomplishments. I am personally motivated by my status and I am thankful for it because if it wasn’t for it I wouldn’t be as strong as I am,” Saira Calderon, a DACA student at Governors State University. “As a DACA student, I feel alone sometimes and it’s nice to know that people care about us. The fact that people are here and are trying to hear our stories is really nice,” said Calderon.

“I work with [foreign] students at GSU along with others at some of the city colleges of Chicago and I have found that there are a lot of students... you can see the fear in their eyes.” said Michelle Sebasco, Director of Extended Learning Academic Partnerships.

“I’m not doing anything wrong. I’m just working and trying to get a degree for myself. There is no reason to be scared. It breaks my heart to know that the country I grew up in doesn’t want me here” said Calderon.

Advocates like Sebasco and Vigone want students to know that GSU is a safe place for the undocumented, DACA, and everything in between. “There is a place at GSU for the undocumented, DACA, and everything in between. My office is open, and I’ll support you however I can,” explained Sebasco. “I don’t have all the answers, I don’t know everything, but I am continually becoming an advocate each and every day and I’m bringing in my peers and trying to spread the word,” Said Sebasco.

If you are a Dreamer or undocumented student who is seeking support you can contact the Academic Resource Center or any faculty member that displays the “Dreamers Welcome” logo.
GSU Student Activities Council Presents...

Halloween Costume Party!

E Lounge 10/27 8pm-12am

Music by DJ Will the Thrill

Non-GSU $5 w/costume, $10 no costume
GSU Students free w/ID

1 University PKWY, University Park, IL

No Mask!