Phoenix, November 6, 2017

Student Life

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Governors State University

November 6, 2017 • Volume 20 • Issue 16

The Phoenix

Respond to Violence: The Importance of Mental Health

At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

Governors State hosted the 5th installment of Respond to Violence on November 1st. This year’s topic focused on the connotations mental health carries and the treatment of mental health in the United States prison system.

While the conversation spoke about how negatively mental health is portrayed in crime and the prison system on a national level, every positive change starts locally. Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart and Licensed Clinical Psychologist & Executive Director of the Cook County Department of Corrections Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia spoke about the changes they are implementing into the Cook County Jail.

While the conversation was lead by Correspondent of Chicago Tonight WTTW Brandis Friedman in a newsroom style interview, the audience was extremely engaged.

The 50 minute long conversation discussed how many inmates suffer from a mental illness, how a crime status is being thrust upon mentally ill people for nonviolent offenses, what programs are being initiated to help mentally ill convicts, and how they are going forward.

Most interestingly enough, Sheriff Dart mentioned how mentally ill people will commit nonviolent offenses such as not leaving the bus, trying to stay the night at O’Hare because the shelters are full or have shut down, yet, they are prosecuted and convicted. He mentioned how mental illness is an illness. He asked the question akin to “What’s next? Are we going to start convicting people with diabetes because they’re sick too?”. When speaking about locking up mentally ill people in a concrete cell among many other questionable decisions the jail enforces, the sheriff would often say “my eight year old comes up with better solutions”.

Dr. Jones talked about the lasting effects of mental health treatment and why it is so critical for inmates to continue treatment once they are discharged. She mentioned how crime has lowered in areas where the county has opened mental health clinics. She talked about how inmates are encouraged to reach out to the county jail if they need to continue their treatment or need transportation to their preferred clinic.

Respond to Violence creator Yvette Brown said this particular topic was chosen because “Cook County Jail has become the LARGEST mental health facility in the country. This has occurred because of the lack of readily available treatment facilities for our citizens struggling with mental health. If we properly treated those with mental issues, many of those incarcerated would not be there. I felt it was important to bring attention and understanding to this crisis, so as a society we could work on solutions to assist and destigmatize those with mental illness”.

She continued with how she wants Respond to Violence to progress. “Respond to Violence is an ongoing multimedia initiative of the university with a website designed to be the face of the project and to give voice to those impacted by violence,” Brown said. She elaborated, “It is my hope that we will continue to explore the many important topics associated with violence by working across programs, with our students, and with our surrounding community. I would also like to see the Respond to Violence website grow with content accessible to those working on the violence issue”.

Students can visit the Respond to Violence website at respondtoviolence.com where they can rewatch previous Respond to Violence talks or the newest one.
Editorial

In Observance of LGBT History Month

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

The LGBT+ community has been ragged on for years. Stonewall, the HIV and AIDS crisis during Regan’s presidency, the gay marriage debate, the fight for proper transgender healthcare, and much much more contribute to making the LGBT+ community what it is today.

LGBT+ people must have been devastated when they heard the president of the United States “joke” about how the vice president “wants to hang them all”. While this is nothing new for Pence (Time.com has an excellent timeline about his stance on LGBT issues), it is still a horrible comment. This is absolutely not what the LGBT+ community fought for.

Time after time, they fought. They fought the police at Stonewall, fought the Regan administration during the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, fought for the right to love, and are still fighting for transgender healthcare on top of so many other issues like people in the community discriminating each other. They fight for their rights and even after all that they are told the vice president of the United States they do not deserve to live.

However, there is hope. Governors State held a plethora of events for LGBT history month. We even established a gender support group. I was fortunate to attend the GLAAD Media Workshop where we mostly discussed trans visibility in media. While Number 45’s obscene comment is frightening, the rest of the world can take a note from the LGBT+ community. And they have certainly responded. A judge recently ruled 45’s ban on transgender people in the military as unconstitutional. When elected, 45 drafted an executive order that would legalize discrimination of gay and lesbian couples. It has since disappeared, but we as a nation must still be cautious. When life spits you in the eye, is out to kill you, resist and retaliate. Change doesn’t come as quickly as we hope it does, but it does come one way or another.

Campus

Generating Hope Fishbowl: Initial Thoughts

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer

This past Monday, I was present for a very rare event which occurred here at GSU. 7 gentlemen, 6 participants and one facilitator, sat down together and in a room full of silent witnesses, revealed what was in their hearts. In my experience, getting any man to bear his soul to his family members is almost unheard of, but in front of a group of strangers…? The campus organization Generating Hope has been fighting to have the question “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” removed from Governors State University’s orientation forms. As it stands now, any...

College Versus High School

By Arnesha Barlow
Associate Editor

Yes, we are freshman now. This is year we have all been waiting for. Or is it?

When we were in high school we were counting down the days until graduation day. Today, we are searching our calendars for any possible break that we may have. College life is way different from high school. Depending on your point of view the magnitude of pros and cons may be exceedingly high. Shall we talk about some of those pros and cons?

College life differs from high school in so many ways. Let’s start with an easy one: homework. In high school we had some leisure when it came to homework and classwork. Every assignment given was important, but most of the time we weren’t overwhelmed with lots of homework. College, on the other hand is a different story. Depending on the number of classes, you could end up with about 1-2 assignments from every class. That includes both homework and classwork. This can lead to stress and other things that students shouldn’t deal with.

Time and organization is another thing. In high school, you had the same classes everyday so around the 3rd or 4th day of school you knew exactly where your classes are. Depending on what type of college you chose to attend (community or university), it can be really difficult to find your class. In addition, during the first week of school it may be hard keeping up with which classes you have on a which day. If your time and organization are not together, things can just fall apart.

Lastly, with all the bad comes the good. In high school, most of us were forced to go to school by our parent(s) or guardian(s). College is different. If we feel as if we need a break we can take one whenever we want. We have the choice to ease our minds and return to school with relaxed, empty minds. That is very important.

As we all know college life and high school life have their differences. Even though college may be tough, it is not impossible.
Study Abroad: Business and Culture in Eastern Europe

By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

The College of Business is accepting applications for their sixth study abroad trip to Eastern Europe in spring 2018.

This trip includes three destinations: Budapest, Prague, and Bratislava. The focus of the trip is to gain an understanding of the economic, political, legal and informal characteristics overseas.

Students will spend 11 days between the three countries. They will partake in class discussions, visits to country businesses and institutions, and lectures at Corvinus University.

Tentative site visits include the Castle District in Prague, the Museum of Communism, Buda Castle, Fisherman Bastian, Andrassya Avenue, and many more.

The course for the trip is MGMT 3000-01/5000-01 (Special Topics in Management) and PADM 8000 (Advanced Topics in Public Administration). It will be directed by Dr. Natalia Ermasova.

Tentative site visits include the Castle District in Prague, the Museum of Communism, Buda Castle, Fisherman Bastian, Andrassya Avenue, and many more.

The course for the trip is MGMT 3000-

The overall cost of the trip is $3,500. Cost includes international flight, accommodations, breakfasts and dinners, tours, business and university visits, and international health insurance.

The application and first payment of $500 is due by November 10th. The first 15 students that make their first two payments will receive the IU CIBER (Indiana University Center for International Business and Research) Grant for $600.

Financial aid and scholarships are available and for more information, students can visit http://www.govst.edu/study-abroad-programs/ or contact Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator, at aoschonb@gmail.com, or contact Dr. Ermasova at nermasova@govst.edu.
By Maryam Abuissa
Contributing Writer

Throughout the Fall semester, the students of GSU’s Performance Art class are displaying weekly interactive art installations in the Library’s Skylight Gallery. The second of these interactive exhibits is currently being displayed. Created by Simone Thomas, the theme of this piece explores diversity. Students are encouraged to make their own contributions to her artwork by “adding to the pattern.” With printed out images and the provided materials, students may add their own shapes to the geometric pattern. Simone tells a message through this piece, that through the differences in people, we can create a diverse and unified community. The exhibit is entitled “The Real World”; and was displayed until Friday, November 3rd.

Simone’s artist statement on the piece is as follows.

“The world is made up of different cultures and ethnicities. This work focuses on diversity, encouraging people to interact with others different from them, to recognize the importance of accepting others, and to learn from others’ differences. This is, after all, what makes the world go round. Isn’t it?”

The director of the Visual Arts Gallery had this to say.

“I’m happy when any of the art spaces on campus, including the Skylight Gallery, are used to connect with curriculum in the classrooms and academic inter-
est from all areas of study. We are living in the midst of art and understand the importance of a Liberal Arts Education for the success of our students,” Jeff Stevenson, Director of Visual Arts Gallery.

Students are very much encouraged to visit the Skylight Gallery in the Library and take part in the Performance Art student’s works. There will be more new exhibits every week, so check in frequently to see what’s new, and to support the hardworking and artistic students of Governors State.

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By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer

A little over a week ago, I was present for a very rare event which occurred here at GSU. 7 gentlemen, 6 participants and one facilitator, sat down together and in a room full of silent witnesses, revealed what was in their hearts. In my experience, getting any man to bear his soul to his family members is almost unheard of, but in front of a group of strangers...? The campus organization, Generating Hope, has been fighting to have the question “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” removed from Governors State University’s orientation forms. This is important for those who have been incarcerated as well as those who care for them because, as it stands now, anyone who has been convicted of a crime must not only serve time in prison, but they must continue to be labeled as a felon by society. What disturbs me about this, more than anything, is that once you have that label, they don’t differentiate between a murderer, a car thief and someone selling weed.

As a citizen I feel that everyone should have at least the same basic rights. At least some of us agree that everyone able to handle being in an adult relationship should be able to legally bond in a marriage. It’s also true that anyone who can afford, or come up with, tuition is able to continue their education. Why then, should students of GSU not be able to study without our history and private lives coming in to play? When we enter the front doors of this institution we do so with the expectation that no one will judge us because we spank our kids. If we cheat on a significant other or steal from our parents, while these things are shameful, in my opinion, we will never have to answer to anyone at GSU for them. I won’t compare how many people get arrested for possession of weed to how many people smoke it, but I will say, that question alone should make a person wonder how just it is for people who have been in prison to continue being labeled, years after paying their debt to society.

There were only 7 men in that group, but they were representative of the millions of men and women who have had the experience of being incarcerated. The prison system in America is designed not to rehabilitate but to punish. In this country, prisons don’t just hurt people. They go a long way towards trying to strip the very humanity from them. It’s difficult to imagine not being free unless you have had your freedom taken away, and being able to survive that and come out determined to be a better person is a major achievement.

I’m not saying that these people are innocent or的支持 by society in general which is what is heeded much to prison in the first place. If there is a reason that it is important for that question to be asked, I think that we, the students who are open to hearing it. As paying customers of this institution, the student body should be informed if there is a threat to our security. However, if there is no threat, maybe asking the question needs to be rethought.

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Interactive Art Exhibit: “The Real World”

By Maryam Abuissa

Photos of Interactive Art Exhibit taken by Maryam Abuissa

Generating Hope:
7 Men and a Talk About Healing

By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer

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Study Abroad in Spain: Land of Many Cultures

By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

The College of Arts and Sciences is offering a study abroad opportunity in Spain in May 2018. The course ART-2230 Sketchbook and Field Study Drawing will be directed by Professor Gretchen Jankowski and Professor Leanne Cambric. This course focuses on the creation of a sketchbook by drawing through contemplative observation of the Urban and Rural landscape. Students are free to use watercolor, collages, cartooning, and other art techniques.

The tour is directed by EF (Education First) College Study Tours and is exclusive to Governors State University students only. Students will spend 10 days in Spain where they will visit Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Costa Del Sol, Seville, Madrid, and Toledo. Students will be immersed completely within the Spanish culture - the art, architecture, cuisine, and religion.

The entire trip cost is $4,100. It includes flight, accommodations for 10 nights, breakfast, some dinners, cultural tours and visits, international travel insurance, and on-site transportation. Jankowski mentioned she believes the most important part of studying abroad is experiencing a completely different culture and becoming a global citizen.

For more information, students can visit www.govst.edu/study-abroad-programs, or contact Amy Schoenberg, Study Abroad Coordinator, at aschoenberg@govst.edu, Professor Jankowski at gjankowski@govst.edu, or Professor Cambric at leanne.cambric@govst.edu.

Lady Jaguars Are Off to A Great Start!

By Arnesha Barlow
Associate Editor

GSU's Women's Basketball Team started off with the season with a wonderful after taking a win against Mount Mercy on October 31th ending the game with a score of 56-51. Amber Brooks helped GSU with their winning streak against Mounty Mercy. Rachel Distor and Tyisha Worthy also did a fabulous job dropping a couple points to help GSU rise up and steal the win.

"We fought the whole game and were able to make plays when necessary to hold them off," Head Coach La Toshia reported.

The ladies' next game will be Thursday, November 2nd against UIC.

Lip Sync Battle

By Tarea Gandy
Contributing Writer

The lip sync battle held October 20th in Sherman Hall concluded with Tatiana Tapley lip syncing Can't Give Up Now by Mary Mary. Tapley moved to the beat with soulful movements, and showed a great deal of emotion during her performance.

Visit us online at gsuphoenix.com
Campus

Nontraditional Student Week

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

GSU is hosting International Student week from November 6th to November 10th. "According to The National Center for Education Statistics, a nontraditional student typically possess one of seven characteristics: over 25 years of age; part-time college student; works full time; is financially independent; has dependents other than a spouse; is a single parent; or does not have a high school diploma. In recent years, an increasing number of Universities have come to notice the shift in the types of students they enroll from largely traditional, to largely nontraditional," says Director of Student activities Konya Sledge. Sledge continued to say "Nontraditional Student Week is a weeklong celebration at colleges/universities across the country. Governors State is positively impacted by nontraditional students, so this is the perfect opportunity to recognize the phenomenal academic commitment of adult students to continue their education".

There will be a plethora of events celebrating Nontraditional Student Week such as the Jaguar Cafe, where nontraditional students will be able to talk to and network with other nontraditional students. Students can find a listing of events with details online on Jaguar Connection.

Please join nontraditional students and the Student Activities Council as GSU celebrates Nontraditional Student Week.

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Jaguar Cafe</td>
<td>Mon. 11/6</td>
<td>Hall of Governors, 4-6p</td>
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<td>Sculpture Park Tour</td>
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<td>Paint &amp; Sip, ELounge</td>
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<td>Live Theater Trip</td>
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<td>Chicago, 6-11p, Bus provided</td>
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<td>Staff vs. Students Basketball Game</td>
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Schedule of events provided by Konya Sledge

Introducing Mr. & Ms. GSU

By Contributing Writer

During Family and Friends Weekend held on October 6-7, 2017, The University celebrated all things GSU. The community enjoyed activities such as the Staff vs. Students Basketball game, Dusk on the Prairie, Student Talent Show and the crowning of our latest campus royalty, Mr. & Ms. Governors State University, Trauvell Crawford and Brianna Fabsits.

Trauvell Crawford is a proud member of the First-True Freshman class of Governors State University. "It's a great opportunity. I had the chance to be a part of something bigger than me. I will look back years from now and think, Wow, I helped to create a legacy in higher education. Being a First Class '14 student, is a lot to be grateful for". Trauvell is a Business Administration major and has been profoundly involved at Governors State since he stepped foot on campus. As an active member of Student Senate, he rallied students and alumni to 'Rock the Vote' and assisted with the Student Senate's Illinois United Student Senate Forum. Trauvell is a dedicated member of the Black Student Union and has held the position of Community Service Liaison for the GSU Civic Engagement and Community Service Center since 2016. Trauvell participated in the Emerging Leaders Program, Alternative Spring Break in Puerto Rico, served as president of the Community Service Council, is involved with the Male Success Initiative and was awarded the Student Leadership Rising Star award and President's Pendant. Trauvell is grateful to those who voted for him and as Mr. GSU, plans to advocate for the advancement of all students.

Brianna Fabsits is an Early Childhood Education major and serves as the public relations officer of the

scholarship committee between faculty, staff and students. "I love Governors State because it has beautiful scenery and an outstanding Performing Arts Center". Brianna enjoys learning amongst art. She is heavily involved with recruitment efforts for the Student Education Association and encourages members to "be proud of their school too". In her new role as Ms. Governors State University, Brianna seeks to uplift students by coordinat-

ing inspirational programs to motivate her peers. She aims to promote healthy eating and has a passion for helping children. Ms. GSU's favorite place on campus is the GSU Library.

Mr. & Ms. Governors State University are expected to follow through with high academic standards, philanthropic platforms and position as student leaders on campus. These students are destined for greatness! Follow their reign throughout the year in the Phoenix Student newspaper, on Jaguar Connection and across campus. First runner-

up for the title were Dwayne Bledsoe and Julianna Lolli.

Student Life handles requests for public appearance by Mr. & Ms. GSU. Requests are accepted online via Jaguar Connection, www.govst.edu/jaguarconnection.
CAN YOU DRAW?
THE PHOENIX NEEDS YOU!
YOUR NEWSPAPER IS IN
NEED OF ARTISTS
AND ILLUSTRATORS
TO BRING COMICS AND
CARTOONS TO ITS
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE!
FOR MORE INFORMATION
USE CONTACT INFO BELOW
National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week
November 13-19, 2017

GSU Shows Compassion...
GSU stands in solidarity with Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico as they rebuild from the wide spread devastation of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria. GSU supports efforts to aid in their recovery and anyone wanting to assist can make a donation to the American Red Cross www.redcross.org or OXFAM America www.oxfamerica.org (accepting donations for Puerto Rico).

Monday, November 13, 2017
Food Pantry Drive Kick-Off -- Donations will be accepted all week for the GSU Food Pantry. (Sponsored by the Community Service Council)
Hunger & Homelessness Discussion— Noon -1 pm, Lakeside Lounge, RSVP to civicengagement@govst.edu
Please join us as we discuss the scope and scale of hunger and homeless in higher education and the circumstances that lead to this paradox. Lunch will be provided.
Guest Speaker: Kim Hunt, Executive Director, Pride Action Tank
Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Campaign Competition – Clubs and organizations will create visual displays that examine the problems and causes of hunger and homelessness in America.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Hot Choppics – Open Mic 11:30 am –2 p.m., Lakeside Lounge
Present your poetry, prose, songs, and skits encompassing various topics of Hunger and Homelessness. Hot Chocolate will be served.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Career Closet “Grand Opening” – 2 - 3 p.m., The JAGUAR Den, Room A2140
GSU4U Ambassador Training – 3 p.m., TBD
Operation Healthy – 3:30 – 4:30 pm, D-Main Atrium
Fresh fruits and vegetables will be distributed to GSU students.

Thursday, November 16, 2017
Hunger and Homelessness Film Screening and Discussion – 5 p.m. –7 p.m., Hall of Honors
Robert Clay, Director of Intercultural Affairs will moderate the discussion.

Friday, November 17, 2017
Winners of the Clubs and Organizations Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Campaign Competition Announced.

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Day of Service – University Park, IL
Sign Up required. (708) 235-7454, civicengagement@govst.edu
GSU will participate in a day of service with the Restoration Ministries.