By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

Located on the third floor and the far west end of the C building is one of the newest additions to campus: The Undergraduate Academic Advising Center.

As many students have expressed confusion or complete apathy about it, there is a lot of information about the center that students should know.

At first, my general quest for information started with a question: why does my advisor keep changing?

Hoping I wasn’t the only one going through these advisor changes, I began speaking with my peers in the Communication program. As it turns out, we had all been changing advisors each year for the past three years, at least.

With many questions to ask, but no idea who to ask them to, I first spoke with Latonya Holmes, Co-Hort Advisor and Coordinator for New Student Programs.

Her job as a cohort advisor entails that she is an advisor for freshman and sophomore students who are admitted as general education students.

She advises them closely for their first three semesters until they pick their major and can transfer to their major advisor, some time during their third term.

After switching to that major advisor, it should not change for the duration of their time spent at the university unless there was a structure change for the program—a change the Communications program recently underwent.

The Communications program went through a structural change where the advisors went from faculty advisors to professional advisors.

List Helm, Director of the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center, said the initial change was because the faculty needed to get back into the classroom.

Faculty assignments consisted of both advising and teaching. Advising became more and more of the case load, meaning less teaching—which is why the Communication program was in the works of transitioning to professional advising.

While the Communication program advising has changed, it was not the only program. All of the undergraduate programs have transitioned from any kind of faculty advising to all professional advising.

In fact, the Communication program advising was not even the first program to transition, it was the History program this past August.

The Advising Center is for all undergraduate students and it houses all professional advisors for every undergraduate program.

“The center is here to provide one common place where students can come and get all of the advising they need... professional advisors will provide more information for students and have the ability to answer questions that are cross-disciplinary,” said Helm.

In addition to providing “unified coverage” for all undergraduate students, the office has longer hours in order to assist more students.

The center is open 8:30 A.M. – 7 P.M. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. Friday, and the Saturday before each term begins for students who may have trouble registering for classes or need to get any feedback shown a lack of continuity, not being able to see their advisor on a regular basis, and during the summer, having no contact with a faculty advisor because they were on contract.

Bordelon said about five years ago, a consultant was brought in to see the advising structure, who interviewed faculty and students about their advising experiences, which is where the goal of a central advising location came in to play.

At the time, many students complained about coming in to see their advisor, but no one would be there. This will no longer be the case now that the Advising Center is here.

The process in opening the center was simple because it was all about relocation.

There were already advisors all over campus; they are simply just in one location now.

“This is a step in the right direction, we will no longer have students come to campus and not have anyone to speak with about their education,” said Bordelon.

Her advice for students is to just go to the center and see what it’s all about, ask questions, and get more information.

For any questions regarding the center, reach out to your advisor, Director Lisa Helm, lbendrickson@govst.edu, or Assistant Director Pamela Stipanich, pstipanich@govst.edu.
Editorial
End of the Year 2017

Photo provided by pixbay

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

Well everyone, the fall semester and year are dwindling down. And while it has not been the best year (nothing will ever beat the days when we didn’t know what “tax season” was), it is certainly an improvement from last year.

Being totally honest, 2016 felt like it would never end. Classes seemed to drag on one after another, it felt like I was in an eternal echo chamber about how bad Hillary’s presidency is. It felt like I was in yet another. Bowie died, Carrie Fisher died. It felt like it would never end. Classes seemed to be phased through the class. After all, an A doesn’t mean much if you just passed through the class. A C with struggles and hardships is much more valuable.

Violence and Fear

By Melanie Fitch
Contributing Writer

It might not be the best, it is most certainly better than the last. I can actually look back and reflect on where I was and what happened last year whereas years before I felt like one big blur.

Don’t get me wrong, I can pick out key moments from years past (like when gay marriage was legalized nationally in 2015). But since becoming more aware of myself and my surroundings, things have gotten better. And I don’t just mean in the me sense.

2017 has had its fair share of tragedies, but need we not forget the positive outcomes. Australia’s public just recently supported same-sex marriage in a nationwide poll, Moonlight won an Academy Award for best picture, Get Out was released, a plethora of good video games were released, South Korea impeached Park Geun-hye for being corrupt. Things are not as bad as they seem. Our media is getting more diverse. Our worldview is increasing.

That being said, take a breather. Finals are here and immediately after testing don’t just frantically refresh the page to see if your professor posted grades yet. Sit back, relax, and reflect on what you truly learned in the class. After all, an A doesn’t mean much if you just phased through the class. A C with struggles and hardships is much more valuable.

I have been pretty low-key lately.

I admit that, while usually I tend to be a somewhat fearless person (not always a good thing), I’ve been really uncomfortable these last few months. Everywhere that I look there seems to be some type of abuse happening. Every week at least one new story of some man harassing or abusing women comes out. Adults are hurting children and targeting elders for muggings. So much crazy comes out of the White House that the actual standard for unacceptable behavior in public office has reached an all-time low. In some circles, such as what Vox reports, the president’s mental health is heavily discussed because of “his lack of empathy, pathological lying, bullying and impulsiveness” showcase several symptoms of a mental illness.

No one is shocked. By either Trump’s issues or local issues.

The police are terrified when doing their job and they are terrifying everyone else. Black boys and men dying has become common and unremarkable. It pains me deeply to voice that. According to a female police officer I recently spoke to, Chicago is one of the main hubs for Human Trafficking in the country and yet, this doesn’t lead the news every night. The fact that there are thousands of homeless people about to experience a Chicago winter with no shelter is understood and accepted. We just observed Veterans day and while thanking them for their service on one hand, no one has explained why Sgt. La David Johnson was able to be caught, allegedly tortured, and killed but not have his name remembered by his commander-in-chief. The fact that Staff Sergeants Dustin Wright, Jeremiah Johnson and Bryan Black were killed as well was practically overshadowed by the magnitude of that insult, compounding it. Meanwhile, people are still tuning in to keep up with the Kardashians or the housewives of some Godforsaken place or other.

For better or worse, this is where we live. I don’t mean to be alarmist, but it’s time for us to stop being idle consumers of social media content. Find out why Congress and the Senate can secure job security for themselves but not the people. They have excellent healthcare and pensions that we, the citizens do not and will not have. How does this just get past us? They talk about prices rising but they allow companies to arbitrarily set whatever prices they choose for resources, products and services with no cap in site.

It is time for the people, as citizens, to really see the world that we are being handed as it is, because if we do not, one day we might wake up and find that the changes that we wish for are no longer even possible to make.

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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Midterms seemed to come around quickly this semester, and the holidays are right around the corner!

It’s been busy, But I just want to take the opportunity to remind everyone about signing up for health insurance! There are a lot of misconceptions about healthcare, but it’s very important that everyone find out what their options are and if needed, sign up. You don’t have to be old or sick to need a pair of glasses, and they can be expensive when you’re paying out of pocket for them. Another thing to keep in mind is the dentist. One thing you don’t want to do is find yourself needing one and you can’t afford it! Just the fact that so many people are trying to shut down the program makes me think it’s more important than ever to sign up.

One important thing to know is, The Affordable Care Act and Obamacare are the same thing. They called it Obamacare as an attempt to show the program makes me think it’s more important than ever to sign up.

The bottom line is, a degree won’t matter if we’re too sick, or aren’t here to use it. So take a few minutes and go to www.healthcare.gov.
Feature

Why Do You Wear That Letter?

By Taylor Smith
Contributing Writer

Throughout history, women have been shamed for their sexuality while their male counterparts are revered for their promiscuity. In the event of unwanted pregnancy, women have to physically carry that burden and public shame while the father can walk away if they choose with little to no repercussions. The Theatre and Performance Studies program performed a spectacular and enthralling production of a literary classic during the first weekend of November. Sarah Saltwick’s adaptation of the Scarlet Letter works beautifully to showcase Hester Prynne’s journey as a single mother and Pearl’s unprecedented childhood.

Taking place outside of Boston in the same historical context as Nathaniel Hawthorne’s original novel, Pearl is growing up away from the peering eyes of society. However, it is clear that this was not by choice. Despite Pearl growing into a young woman, the townspeople have not reclaimed Hester as one of their own. Hester continues to wear the scarlet “A” as a symbol of love and betrayal. In return, that red and gold letter allows Hester to reclaim her identity. This symbolism is misunderstood by the townspeople as they believe she continues to wear the “A” as a means to throw her promiscuity in their faces.

The actors’ incredible performances left the audience yearning for the Prynne women’s acceptance. However, this need is never fulfilled. Instead, the townspeople continue to ridicule them and eventually accuse Pearl of being a witch. This shines a bright light on the power of fear and lack of understanding. While women are no longer accused of witchcraft for being unusual or having opinions, there are still powers that try to silence them and use similar tactics to discredit their claims. This very notion makes the performance of this classic both relevant and necessary. The marginalization of women is nowhere near over, and their voices need to be heard. Hester and Pearl reinforce this need by remaining strong in spite of the piercing gazes and hurtful banter.

The Prynne women will not allow labels to define who they are and the identities they make for themselves. However, Pearl is a growing girl with a lot of questions. Out of everything in the world that she has yet to understand, the most important to her is why her mother wears that letter. Hester most likely trying to shield her young girl from the truth, gives a variety of different answers throughout the performance. Magali Soufrant’s adorable performance of Pearl captivates the audience and her innocence excuses her constant questioning. Hester, played by Maya Shetlon, never loses her composure when telling her daughter, who has become her source of happiness, all of the reasons why she wears the “A”. It is not until the very end of the performance that Hester finally opens up and shares the truth about why she wears that letter.

In January:

Everything will be revealed.

RELS 2115/HIST 4003
Religious Scriptures and Sacred Texts
Spring 2018

Don’t be left in the outer darkness.

Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education

By Briyana Kelly
Staff Writer

On Friday November 3, GSU hosted a Drive-In Conference and Workshops tailored to Black Students who have concerns in Higher Education Institutions. The event was held Engbreston Hall. This was a drop-in event, and I wasn’t present for the entire conference, but I wish I was to gain insight on many of the subjects listed in the program such as: #BlackHairMatters, Why Aren’t the Faculty and Staff Sitting Together in the Cafeteria—OR Elsewhere on Campus? Strategies for Student Activism (Power and Influence), TIPS for First Generation Students, etc. I came in at the tail end, but I took away some great key points.

The Illinois State Legislatures and Black Caucus Members were present, and they closed the conversation turning the conversation highlighting the concerns of financial resources for black students who are transfers and unprepared students. They made suggestions about how they can help them and reasons of students who fit the description that are dropping off because they don’t have the resources to finish. These are great concerns that BSU can address on campus. One thing they mentioned was the Faculty and Staff knowing of programs to assist black students because they have the access to research, but they just aren’t doing anything.
Jaguar Career Closet Opens

By Arnesha Barlow
Associate Editor

The Jaguar Career Closet is now open as of November 15th. It is available to the entire GSU student body. The Career Closet was created to help provide professional attire to the students here at GSU. Donations from students, staff, and foundations helped make this possible. Student Life and peer mentors brought the idea to life. The closet is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am-3pm.

As mentioned in Volume 20 Issue 13, the career closet was established to help students who cannot afford professional attire or are homeless. However, students who need professional attire for more than just job interviews can utilize this service. For example, upcoming presentations and important meetings may qualify for a visit to the Jaguar Career Closet.

In addition to having access to this formal wear, students are paired with someone to help pick an outfit. Student Activities Director Konya Sledge and Male Success Initiative Coordinator Sean Smith gave some helpful tips on how to dress elegantly and appropriately for formal situations. "Your shoes should always match your belt," Smith advises. Students should wear light cologne, keep your shirt tucked in, and no flashy jewelry. Sledge mentioned how dangly jewelry and big bracelets are a no-go for the ladies. Scarves, however, get a free pass.

To sign up, students should go visit Student Life or Civic Engagement Center to fill out a form. From there, you can meet with someone who will help you put together a portfolio, resume, or anything you need to give you a boost for your big day. The student will even be assisted by someone to help them put together the perfect look. Best of all, the outfits are free. Students can keep anything they pick out. Have any professional attire you don't wear anymore? Donate to the GSU Career Closet today! So what are you waiting for? Go get your new look right now.

For more information contact the Student Life Civic Engagement Center in room A2132 or at civicengagement@govst.edu.

Gender Support Group

By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief

GSU recently founded a Support Group for transgender, non-binary, and questioning individuals. "This support group started for a few reasons," MA and Licensed Professional Counselor support group founder Ethan Swift said, "Throughout my interactions with students and staff on campus, I was able to identify a need for such a space for transgender, non-binary, and gender questioning students and staff". He continued, "Having a transgender identity puts us more at risk for life struggles across the board. My passion and love for my community helped me to attend to these needs and put them into action. Thanks to the support of everyone at the health and wellness center, GNSX, and various faculty and staff members, the Counseling Center and I were able to begin the group.

He went on to emphasize the importance of a support group as opposed to group therapy "We chose a group specific to gender identity rather than a broader LGBT group because of the distinct differences of needs and experiences between minorities of gender identity and minorities of sexual orientation". He continued, "although the transgender population seems small, we are quickly becoming more and more visible in our society and at GSU".

"We chose a group specific to gender identity rather than a broader LGBT group because of the distinct differences of needs and experiences between minorities of gender identity and minorities of sexual orientation," Swift added, "Although the transgender population seems small, we are quickly becoming more and more visible in our society and at GSU. Despite this, my community lacks resources". He hopes to provide enough support and resources to "declare GSU more resourceful for the transgender community".

The group meets every Wednesday at 2pm in D34090. If you are interested, contact Ethan Swift at eswift@govst.edu.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to join. Please let it be known participants are required to sign a confidentiality agreement in order to participate. "Allies are welcome to the group especially when accompanied by a transgender, non-binary, or gender questioning loved one," Swift says. "It is important for allies to speak out against instances of transphobia and cissexism when they feel safe to do so. Above all, love us like you would anyone else".

"The T in LGBT is not silent," Swift says. "The group hopes to not only provide a space for those who attend but to declare GSU more resourceful for the transgender community".
The S.A.S.C. Taking Steps to “End the Epidemic”

By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

This story was first published online on November 13th.

On Wednesday, November 8, the Students of Addiction Studies Club (S.A.S.C.) hosted “Ending the Epidemic”, an event that featured guest speakers and a showing of the Netflix Original documentary “Heroin(e).”

The Hall of Honors was standing room only as S.A.S.C. President Jessica Love Jordan started the three-hour seminar with a statistic. “Opioid and heroin overdose affects 91 lives daily in America,” said Jordan, who then went on to introduce the first speaker of the day, Jamelia Hand, MHS, CADC, MISA I, CEO of Vantage Clinical Consulting, LLC, and GSU alum.

“Opioid and heroin overdose affects 91 lives daily in America,” said Jordan, who then went on to introduce the first speaker of the day, Jamelia Hand, MHS, CADC, MISA I, CEO of Vantage Clinical Consulting, LLC, and GSU alum.

Hand delivered the "state of the State", specifics about the opioid crisis in Illinois.

Most people do not know that opioid addiction is considered a “National Epidemic” by the Center for Disease Control and the White House and in 2016 alone, there were 2,278 drug overdose deaths and 80% of those were opioid related.

Opioid overdose, and death by drug overdose, is closer to home than most may think, as there were 944 cases of overdose documented in Cook County last year, accounting for 50% of the state’s cases.

Other experts that spoke at the event included Dr. Kathleen Burke, Will County Director of Substance Abuse Initiatives, Dr. Cheryl Mejta, GSU Chair of Addictions Studies & Behavioral Health Department, Dr. Joseph Day, GSU Coordinator of the Community Health, BHS Program, Jill Havlin Klee, a recovery advocate, and Chief James R. McGee, current GSU Chief of Police & Director of Public Safety.

The Students of Addiction Studies Club’s mission is to spread awareness and stop the cycle.

For more information about the S.A.S.C., visit Jaguar Connection or their Facebook page.
Campus

War and Trauma: The Making History Project

By Devyn Forquer
Newspaper Practicum

Patrick Russell is a "lawyered by trade" but is preserving history, one interview at a time.

Russell has interviewed over 30 veterans, from World War II Veterans, Korean War Veterans, to Afghanistan War Veterans as part of The Making History Project.

The project is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, documenting combat trauma, and comparing trauma across conflicts.

Russell's inspiration for the project was his grandfather Wilbert H. Russell, who was a WWII veteran in the United States Army Air Corps. He was a bomber mechanic stationed in Brazil.

He first started when he spoke with Carl Buckler from the 101st Airborne at the D-Day Anniversary event at Omaha Beach on June 6th, 2010. There he met Carl Buckler, a WWII Veteran from the 101st Airborne, who stormed the beaches.

"This has to be preserved; they so openly and willingly talk about it, other people need to hear this," Russell said.

Photo of Patrick Russell taken by Devyn Forquer

He believes that video taping the interview is much more important, as you cannot capture trauma with audio and that there is a different meaning if you can see it.

The method to his madness includes a digital interview, burning a copy for the veteran and the veteran's family, creating a record, and sending to archives at the Library of Congress.

Russell presented three interviews, two with WWII Veterans and another veteran from the Afghanistan War.

His current research consists of combat trauma as the silent injury—most veterans do not talk about it unless they are asked, and even to this day, some will not admit, or do not think, they ever suffered from any kind of war-related trauma or PTSD.

The interviews with these veterans hold a lot of powerful memories. Some veterans admit a lot of the memories and thoughts they express in the interviews are the first time they've shared them.

To check out some of Patrick Russell's interviews and for more information about the Making History Project, visit http://making-history-project.com.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

By Tim Benson
Contributing Writer

On November 13th, GSU hosted an event called Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. It was a Pride Action Tank lunch discussion. This lunch discussed how someone can become homeless. It started off with a woman named Laura Stempel. She asked for our names and our pronouns. These pronouns identify what gender we identified with (male, female, nonbinary, and so on). This lunch was heavily based on the LGBTQ community and the struggles that are a part of it. A lot of people from that community suffer from homelessness, especially at college campuses.

Laura explained how Pride Action Tank is an organization that is meant to help homelessness among everyone, regardless of gender and self-identification.

Linda Coleman was the one to speak and she explained what were some of the things that GSU was doing to fight against homeless students. At this point, we started to discuss things like financial aid. For example, there are three questions based on homelessness. If you qualify for that, you will get extra room and board money for school. The school has dorm rooms to combat the homelessness situation; however, they only provide 24-48 hours per week for a potentially homeless friend to stay over. Everyone that sat at the table discussed how they want to change that in some way. Whether it is to give more time to people in need or to try and get a scholarship or two to help acquiring housing easier. It got a little emotional at this point. They all explained how they met a student that was unable to keep a home but choose to still go to school.

The best part was the information on where to go for help. For instance, going to www.govst.edu was helpful. For instance, going to www.govst.edu has information about what kind of help is out there. The phone number is 708-235-2845 or in room C1310. There is also www.govst.edu/jaguarden. Information about things like D.E.N Bags (Distributing Emergency Necessities) from that page. These provide toilet essentials if you are in need. Or if you like to call, the number is 708-235-7362. If there is any more information you need, please contact them.
Upcoming Sports
By Arnesh Barlow
Associate Editor
As we all know the Fall/Winter 2017 Sports has begun! The Jaguars are off to a wonderful start this season. Best H:Home
As we all know the Fall/Winter of all, conferences will begin soon. Here is a schedule including all the upcoming games for this week.
Women’s Basketball
H: Home
A: Away
5pm (H) 21 Nov. Governors State vs. St. Francis (Joilet, IL)
Men’s Basketball
H: Home
A: Away
7pm (A) 21 Nov. Governors State vs. St. Francis (Joilet, IL)
7pm (A) 24 Nov. Governors State vs. Waldorf (Forest City, IA)
1pm (A) 25 Nov. Governors State vs. Graceland (Forest City, IA)

Campus
Trans Day of Rememberence
By Dana Solatka
Editor-In-Chief
Trans Day of Rememberance will be celebrated on Monday, November 20th at 12:00pm in room D2447.
Ethan Swift says "We will be remembering those who we have lost, celebrating trans lives, and talking about resilience in the community". Through this event, Swift hopes to "build community, to help us grieve, to celebrate the community, and to encourage others to feel safe in this environment”. He continued, "...I hope it makes a major impact on those who attend the event, yet I can be happy with a small scale impact or a large scale impact".
The website tfor.info states, "Day of Rememberance reminds non-transgender people that we are their sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers. Day of Rememberance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who've died by anti-transgender violence".
All students are welcome to come and participate in the event.

Campus Opinions
Not on Our Campus
By Melanie Fitch
Staff Writer
There is a display table and information board set up in the lobby. The Introduction to Social Work Class has been working on a project to discourage sexual assault from happening on and off campus, as well as inform the student body about the importance of respecting boundaries and understanding the meaning of consent. The table is covered with information for people who have been assaulted or know someone who has been. There are pamphlets from the YWCA and black and orange bows to pin on the board and show solidarity with survivors of abuse. #GSUtoo is written across the top and “Not on Our Campus”. I see by the number of ribbons that we are not the only ones on campus that feel the need to say something about this. What I don’t see, however, is any information for the people who are doing the as-

Photo of the table taken by Dana Solatka

You would think it was simple. You ask to borrow my book, I give consent, and you take it. If I say no, you go find a book somewhere else. Most people understand that, and even if it isn’t respected, it doesn’t have to be explained. People usually learn that it’s best to respect other people’s things in nursery school or kindergarten but for some reason there are those who become adults and want to act like they’re still two when it comes to sex. That sounds crazy, when I play it back in my head, but it’s even crazier when they do it. As I walk along the august halls of GSU, I hear whispers amongst the student body that not at all is as secure as it should be on our campus. I personally don’t believe this could be true. If there were any reason for the students of GSU to believe that there was a possibly dangerous person on campus, I just believe that we would be notified and that person or those people would be removed from campus. However, I made a few inquiries just to see where GSU ranked on the scale of responsiveness. To put it mildly, I was not encouraged. The school website doesn’t have an easy way to get information or assistance if you have been victimized. There are not many places where information is clearly visible to see and some of the inquiries that classmates made were met with confusion by volunteers and staff of offices that thought would at least be able to steer us in the right direction.

There is obviously much that needs to be done. In my view, the responsibility for handling this type of thing belongs to the school. However, we as students can assist in preventing any type of crime from happening by being proactive. Be observant. It’s not wrong to ask if someone is OK. Educate yourself about what sexual assault actually is so that you don’t find yourself in a crazy situation that could have been avoided. Finally, support educational sessions regarding sexual assault and abuse. They are for your protection and those of your peer. Campus should be a place for all people to come and feel safe as they work to educate themselves and improve their lives. Let’s all make sure that GSU is meeting that mark.

For any immediate emergency, dial 911. Alternative numbers for urgent assistance are listed below. GSU Police - (708) 534-4900 Rape Crisis Hotlines operate 24/7:
Chicago 888-293-2080 South Suburban 708-748-5670 West Suburban 630-9713927
NO MORE PRINT FOR THIS SEMESTER VISIT US ONLINE AT PHOENIXCGSU.COM CONTACT US WITH INFO ON PAGE 2 TO BE A WRITER