Each year for the past five years, Governors State University holds a course titled Model Illinois Government during the spring semester that focuses on preparing students through debate, knowledge of state government, communications skills, and how both to read and understand government legislation in preparation for the Model Illinois Government Simulation in Springfield during the first weekend of March each year. The Model Illinois Government Simulation features 16 different university's across the state of Illinois, even Purdue University Northwest from Indiana, and consistently around 250 to 275 participants converging onto Springfield each spring to debate legislation, become a lobbyist, be a lawyer in moot court, report on the proceedings as a journalist, and more through those four days within the Old State House & the Capitol while being inside the actual committee rooms, chambers halls, and everywhere else that are used by our real-life leaders.

Due to being sister schools with Prairie State, located in Chicago Heights, both GSU and PSU meet together for class to practice before simulation, travel together, and prepare together as one delegation, even though they are technically two. This year's Model Illinois Government consisted of the largest & most successful group ever to come out of both GSU and PSU tallying 15 for GSU and 11 for PSU with a total 26 total delegates between the two sister schools. Along with this, between Governors State University and Prairie State University, we walked away with three e-board positions for next year, comptroller, treasurer, and president of the senate, in addition to other participants in GSU and PSU winning the positions of vice-chairperson and committee spokesperson in their respective committees.

MIG veteran & President of the Senate for next simulation Isaiah Moore describes this simulation as "...quite phenomenal. I think we had a lot of great fiery debates on the floors. This year there was a lot of partisan and hot topic bills [therefore] debate was a lot more point.

He believes GSU and PSU was one of the best groups we've had ever. That they "...really embraced not knowing what they were doing, but going for it anyway. I think that that is something that is really important is not being afraid to do things you may not know how to do all the because the only way you'll learn something is if you experience it". From this success came the reward of "other schools outside of our region talking about what Prairie State and Governors State were doing [at simulation]. Overall, Isaiah Moore believes we "...did a phenomenal job representing ourselves, representing the school, and representing the organization".

For the future of the course here at GSU, Isaiah Moore wants to see "a delegation of more than 25 or more people... by next year...or the year after next" for both GSU and PSU because he "does not see why we cannot have a delegation as big as NIU's...getting it to be a rather large size delegation as well as a well-informed delegation". With this in mind, Isaiah Moore and the Political Science Club at GSU will be having an April practice simulation the second week of April so on the look-out for more information regarding that. All are welcome.
An Adventure of C2E2 with the Editor in Chief

By RJ Dusek
Editor in Chief

Comic Cons come and go, but one of the cons comes back to Chicago. That con is C2E2.

The Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2) is a con that the city of Chicago waits for. It is held at the McCormick Place. This year it fell under the weekend of March 22nd to the 24th. This con is one I go to every year. People dress up as their favorite comic, or video game characters. This is known as cosplaying. Cosplaying is a tradition for most comic cons. I saw more comic book characters than video game characters.

I was one of the cosplayers with my friend Kat Farrell. We went as the iconic duo, Leon North was fun to talk to, and he is a fan of our school paper. It was an honor to be beside this amazing voice actor. David Tennant from Doctor Who was there this year. Fans from all over the Chicago Area were there to see him. My eyes were set on someone else that was from Doctor Who. John Barrowman aka Captain Jack Harkness was there. Barrowman has a long list of an actor. We talked about the forbidden movie Shark Attack 3 Megalodon.

Overall C2E2 gets better every year. They add new people to the guest list every year. I was happy to attend this con. This year I was able to cosplay as my favorite video game character along side my best friend Kat. The next C2E2 comes early next year. Be sure to check out next years, you never know what you can see or find out. Next years C2E2 is February 28th to March 1st.

I took pictures with them. One of the people taking our picture said, “I am happy you two are using the original (1998) than the remake (2019).”

This con is also home to shops and vendors. The people who run the con rent out the entire space in the McCormick Place. You can find anything in the shops. Artists show off their talent every year. They sell their art to make a profit. They reserve the space and are there the entire week every year. The shops are also home to collectables such as toys, models, and rare games.

I bought new artwork for my room from the shops there. One of the posters I bought was Cloud from Final Fantasy VII. Part of the shops is one author that I met 2 years ago. His name is E.A. Channon. He writes the Flesh of the Blood series. Channon is a talented writer.

Artist Alley is home to all of the artists in Chicago. There are talented people here at C2E2. The Alley has some of the most creative artwork. I saw people's take on many comic book characters. There was some Walking Dead art throughout the alley. There were more Negans than any other character. The Alley also shows off people's original characters. The people who create these visions are amazing. They're also fun to talk to. Every artist puts time and effort into what they do.

The big comic book producers show up every year to show off their new stuff. Marvel and DC have their own booths. I was able to see both of their booths went I went. The Marvel booth was showing off their newest movies. The Avengers: Endgame trailer was played constantly. Over at the DC booth they were showing off action figures. I was looking more at the DC booth because they had post- ers for their original shows such as Arrow and the new show Titans.

C2E2 also has celebrity guests every year. This year my favorite voice actor/host was there. He was featured in the Phoenix in Retro

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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Who Let The Dogs Out
By: Kyle Bergfors
Associates Editor

Sandy the Therapy Dog has quickly become a GSU celebrity where students and faculty ask for a picture or simply to have a moment with Sandy while she walks around campus or to and from the library. Sandy the Therapy Dog originally began as a once a week event in the library allowing students to come visit her in order to destress and relax from a busy school, work, and life schedule. In addition, interacting to Sandy is not just a quick five-minute head scratch, but rather a relaxation time of your choosing while you work on school work, play games with friends, or anything…the whole time Sandy being at your side. Due to her popularity, Sandy now finds herself coming in some-times multiple times a week to interact with the GSU student body. Sandy has become so well-loved that, similar to last year, the library and GSU hosts a birthday party for Sandy allowing all of her friends and supporters to come celebrate with her. This year her birthday party will be taking place on April 1st from 2-4 p.m. in the library for her sixth birthday.
Us Movie Review

By Kyle Bergfors
Associates Editor

During the last few years, I’ve been re-visiting and even viewing for the first time, a plethora of classic horror films ranging from the Friday the 13th series to The Texas Chainsaw Massacre to Halloween and The Evil Dead and more. I often feel like I’m one of the only people who just can’t seem to get into any newer horror movie mostly because they all revolve around the same premise of possessed dolls or some sort terrifying nun, caretaker, or whatever else. In addition, not finding these characters interesting at all, I also found myself wondering what it was that makes these classic horror/slasher films so engaging and great, for the most part I won’t nit-pick. After watching The Texas Chainsaw Massacre for the first time, it finally clicked what I felt mainstream horror movies were missing, the fear of the unknown; Whether until the very end the audience is kept in the dark or maybe we never even find out the reasoning for the events unfolding and seemingly normal aspects of life quickly become abnormal, for example we were never really given explanation as to why Leatherface and his family were cannibals and hunting innocent passerby’s down in addition to a typical, usual day for a group of friends would quickly turn un-normal and horrifying. It is this fear of the unknown and the usage of ordinary parts to everyday life that truly keeps the audience in a state of suspense slowly instilling fear and anxiety from the beginning to the very end while feeling genuine. This is where I believe that Jordan Peele succeed in Get Out and now Us.

Us follows a family during a seemingly normal vacation to the lake house that quickly turns into a frightening night for everyone as they become terrorized, attacked, and tormented by doppelganger look-alikes of themselves wielding large scissors, wearing red jump suits, and only speaking in animal-esq noises, other than Lupita Nyongő character’s evil dop- pelganger. Peele takes the audience for a ride of sheer anxiety and stress driven by the outstanding cast performances making the audience actually care about the protagonists, a perfectly composed and matched score, and cinematography that drives the scenes home. All three of these aspects in hand with Peele’s understanding that makes horror movies great is that not everything has to have logic behind or that logic does not have to address right away, rather he holds the audience in a state of unease, wonder, and tension until either you choose to allow them to understand or the credits roll because, as humans, we have to assign reasoning and logic to every decision and action, therefore if you are able to control this within a horror movie then you have control of the audience. Peele’s ability to craft a story does not end here for both Get Out and Us. Both of Peele’s films doubled as commentaries on metaphors for class and race conflict, the worshipping of wealth and technology, and the critique of the “forgotten”, marginalized groups, the poor, etc., as being forgotten and pushed down similar to how the doppelgangers were rising up in order to take their rightful place within society, because they know, if given the opportunity, they can succeed and flourish just like everyone else similar to how the “forgotten” in the real world can succeed if given the chance. Where the reason why they are left behind and forgotten is simply because they never had the opportunity to succeed, in addition to external motives and purposes. This is personally what I found to be Peele’s main point in Us. That Us is a film representation of class struggles mixed with race relations between the elite and “forgotten”.

Overall, Us is a stellar home run for Peele’s sophomore release further showcasing Peele’s ability to craft both a great story with relatable characters while also utilizing his story as a means to tell another story, a story political, social, and cultural in nature. Even though there were some logistics questions or plot-holes that were created and the humor wasn’t utilized as well compared to Get Out, to not enjoy this film one would really have to nit-pick and dig deep. I can personally attest that I was stuck in a sense of non-stop anxiety and tension, even while other people in the theater felt compelled to laugh obnoxiously at scenes in the film that weren’t supposed to funny (nice try, everyone knows those who laugh at horror movies are, in actuality, the most scared). Regardless, Us is one of those movies that you must experience in theaters as soon as you can.
By Kayla Lloyd  
Staff Writer

Hey GSU! Happy March! I just wanted to take some time to talk about Women’s History Month. Every March, we celebrate the amazing women of the world from the bada** women making history to the everyday women working the 9 to 5. It’s important to take the time to look back and honor the many achievements of women throughout history and the vast strides made by women today.

A lot of women we don’t even know have done the bravest things for us women to have the opportunities we have today. Let’s celebrate the power of being a woman! #theforceisfemale

We have come a long way. And we still have some ways to go but it’s all about progress.

Below I’ve listed some important women you should know:

1) Marie Curie founded the science of radioactivity and her discoveries launched effective cures for cancer. And she was also the first woman to win a Nobel prize for her achievements in science.

2) Ada Lovelace is considered to be the first computer programmer. In an industry still dominated by men, it’s particularly striking that the first programmer was a woman.

3) A woman named Rosalind Franklin discovered the evidence of the DNA helix spiral.

4) Florence Nightingale is the founder of modern nursing.

5) Sarah Breedlove (Madam C.J. Walker) was the first female self-made millionaire.

6) Sarah Rector was the first black billionaire girl.

7) Susan B. Anthony was the first woman on an American coin.

8) Aretha Franklin was the first female inducted into the hall of fame.

9) Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.

10) As of January 2019, there are 102 women in the U.S. House of Representatives, making women 23.4% of the total of U.S. Representatives
Governors State’s African American Read-In

by Keely De-Loache
Staff Writer

With white nationalism on the rise and colliding with the unstoppable Trump circus train, spreading awareness of culture and racial identity has never been more imperative at this very moment. Now more than ever, we as a nation need to unite against the oppressive fear-mongering administrations that squeezing its clutches around the windpipes of Americans. I recently attended Governors State University’s annual African American Read-In hosted by Dr. Rashida Mahammad, coordinator of Governors State’s English department, and professor of African American studies, and Merri Wilkerson, coordinator of the arts and sciences, student life, and Black Caucus. Readers of all races, and genders came together to celebrate and remember the people who paid for future generations’ freedom with their lives. I personally feel it necessary to have these events in the wake of a rise in hate crimes, gentrification, and workplace discrimination against people of color and innocent young minority people whose lives are cut short by trigger happy police officers. One of the few poems that got to me was one told about a young girl growing around cultural and generational molestation inflicted on black girls from within what is supposed to be the sanctuary of church. The reader further elaborated on her feelings of battling suicidal thoughts and her lapse in faith or God himself. Through self-reflection and maternal support, she eventually found herself back on God’s path. Another poem entitled, “America was never America to me” dealt with America’s current political and racial climate. Children and families are being ripped apart from each other’s arms, while our president sits back in his chair eating hamburgers, watching with glee. Probably the most heart-warming event of the evening was a father allowing his two youngest daughters the chance to share their Black History Month inspired poems of peace and unity. This is one of the aspects I love about Governors State University, which is the diversity, and I hope we as students can carry that aspect after graduation. I personally want to thank Dr. Mahammad and Dr. Wilkerson for allowing me to sit and listen to the readers, and I want to thank the readers for gracing the audience with reading from their poems and stories. I encourage anyone to attend the next African American read-in to feel inspired and maybe reexamine their problematic behavior and attitudes towards people are different.
Tech Savvy College Corner & American Association of University Women From Saturday, March 23, 2019 (12pm to 4pm) Lewis University, Science Center - Parking Lot D, One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446-220

Jedi is the Governor’s State Robotics Team. They are becoming popular in the campus. Jedi is now going to make Submerines and Drones.
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
**Spotlight:**

**Nick Apostolides aka Leon S. Kennedy Interview**

Hello everyone at Governor's State, we are starting a new segment called Spotlight. The Spotlight segment in the Phoenix is used for Interviews with everyone. This issue’s Spotlight is with Nick Apostolides. He is a voice and motion capture actor for ADR and video games. Recently, he was in the hit remake Resident Evil 2. This interview is mainly on his role for the production.

**RJ:** What character do you voice/ motion capture for?
**NA:** Leon S. Kennedy

**RJ:** What was the process of getting this role?
**NA:** I saw a casting call - it was just one in a sea of millions. Upon quick glance, it said Resident Evil 2; now sometimes they cast for fan projects and short films. I submitted because I was a huge fan and when I got the audition notice, I read into it more carefully. I realized at that point that they were casting motion capture/voice for the ACTUAL game. I had to read it 3 times until it hit me. They were remaking the second one. I wanted the role. Badly. After the 3 auditions I got the part. The rest is history.

**RJ:** Was there a lot of pressure?
**NA:** I put a lot of pressure on myself for these things. The original RE2 (98’) made me the fan of the franchise. So yes, I took it VERY seriously. I knew nothing about MoCap and so I sought advice from trusted friends. I had to get that job.

**RJ:** Did you have fun playing Leon?
**NA:** That is a no brainer. He is an iconic character in my life. I have been playing the games as him for 20 years now. The whole process was an out of body experience. Every time I was on set, I had to remind myself that "you are playing this guy...": Truly surreal. Still is I think! It'll hit me one day.

**RJ:** How do fans respond to you?
**NA:** The feedback's been 99% positive and I am INCREDIBLY grateful for that. Couldn't be happier.

**RJ:** How long have you been voicing acting?
**NA:** Yes, I have seen them. Maybe all but one? I thought the first 2 were interesting but I sort of lost interest after those. I wasn't a fan of the edit style. I felt they stopped truly honoring the characters from the games; they just threw them in there. They were remaking the second one. I wanted the role. Badly. After the 3 auditions I got the part. The rest is history.

**RJ:** Did you use your training for this role?
**NA:** Yes, I used my dramatic/movement and weapons training. My friend James is the one who trained me with firearms. In the audition process, they were looking for a person that could move like a cop. General gun movements. Regarding the MoCap aspect - this was my first gig. I had no clue what to expect. I reached out to the community and began MoCap training throughout the next 2 years. It helped me out along the way and enriched my performance.

**RJ:** Did you look at the past voice actors of Leon?
**NA:** I had watched and played all the games and was overly familiar with the past performances. I grew up on them so no, I didn't have to revisit. Having said that, I am a HUGE fan of the former VO actors who portrayed Leon. When CAPCOM hired me, they assured me that I embodied their re-imagining of a young of Leon, instructing me to be myself. So, I didn't think too hard about it.

**RJ:** Did you play the game?
**NA:** No. I have to honor a tradition with my younger brother and cousin and wait to play it with them. Late March/early April I’ll get to dive in. I know I am going to like it...its an RE game!!! When Resident Evil 7 came out, I had to wait 11 months to play. Patience is tough!

**RJ:** What can you say about Resident Evil 2 to Governor’s State University?
**NA:** If you like tension and anxiety in your games, you are going to like this one. That is the whole reason I fell in love with the franchise, back in the day with the original titles.

**RJ:** When did the tradition start with your brother?
**NA:** I got him into it when RE4 came out. He was 9 yrs old. He loved it so much and so I introduced him into the other games shortly after.

**RJ:** Besides Leon, who is your favorite character?
**NA:** I gotta say I’ve played 5 of the games because of the co-op feature. It dived more into an action style of game-play, but it was REALLY fun! Chris Redfield would have to be my other favorite.

**RJ:** Do you think you’ve seen the live action RE movies and what did you think of them?
**NA:** Yes, I have seen them. Maybe all but one! I thought the first 2 were interesting but I sort of lost interest after those. I wasn’t a fan of the editing style. I felt they stopped truly honoring the characters from the games; they just threw them in there. Didn’t have the depth that they have in the games.

**RJ:** Did you get along with everyone on the mocap team?
**NA:** Totally. There was no drama. It was a great experience all around. Every day. Every minute.

**RJ:** Did you get along with everyone on the mocap team?
**NA:** No, I went into the hospitality – had no real idea of what I wanted.

**RJ:** Did you have another favorite scene besides Kendo?
**NA:** The final confrontation with Ada. It was a great scene.

Apostolides was amazing to talk to. The way he explained everything to me was interesting. Apostolides also explained to me the difference between in game and cinematic scenes. He is huge fan of the Resident Evil franchise. Apostolides said, “The message I want to send out to fans is mostly I am just happy that they accept me in the RE universe. This character has been voiced by really talented people, and my goal is not to better or worse. It is to be able to sit at the same table as them.”