GSU got its film on last weekend September 6th-8th, GSU hosted the Chicago Southland International Film Festival in the Center of Performing Arts. A lot of great unique films were shown split into three parts ranging from Comedy, Thriller on Friday, and then Real Cinema, Life Happens, and Riveting Relationships Saturday along with an Award Ceremony. Many of GSU students were in attendance enjoying the wide variety of movies being showcased. Nekia Driver stated how they “Really enjoyed the films that were shown, especially the comedy, although I don’t really remember the names of them. I also enjoyed the thrillers, surprisingly since I don’t like thrillers, but I did like “The Cold Season but I didn’t like Quiver”. Aaron West explained how even though he “Didn’t get to see all that was shown, but from I had seen of the thrillers, I really enjoyed “Quiver because I feel like if it continued it would be a really good movie to watch”. On the evening of the Award Ceremony for the talented directors of each film, it was very difficult in choosing which films won in each category. Although some of the winners were not able to attend the Award Ceremony, they did give their thanks via video, even GSU’s President Maimon, along with her husband, were there to encourage the participating directors in their efforts in making such amazing films and even was given a surprise award herself followed by the main awards to be given out starting with the Funny Bone Award, the top winner being Famous in Michigan directed by Nick Rasmussen, for the Night Time Thrills Award the winner was Quiver directed by Shayna Connelly, for the Real Cinema Award, the winner was Fraser Syndrome & Me directed by Kyle Anne Grendys, for the Life Happens Award the top winner was I am Zal directed by Hooman Naderi, and lastly the winner for Riveting Relationships was The Update directed by Mor Hanay. There were also many more awards given for the other talented directors to honor them in their efforts. On the final day of Festival on Sunday, GSU closes out with three more non-competition films the Banana Season directed by Sanghoon Lee, The Feeling of Being Watched directed by Assia Bounouaou, and Who Will Write Our History directed by Roberta Grossman. In the end the Film Festival was a big success, filled with amazing and talented films and sure to be looked forward to next year.
FEATURE

HAPPY 50th GOVERNOR’S STATE

Dana Solatka
Contributing Writer

“A half century of innovation and continuity is significant to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The 50th anniversary is a time to reflect and celebrate,” President Elaine Maimon stated. Indeed, we as students have a vast catalog of peers and educators serving as inspiration for our academic career. Founded in 1969, GSU educated many innovative, progressive thinkers. Zion Banks notes, “many local and state lawmakers representing the region started right here at Governors State, including State Rep. Will Davis, Matteson Mayor Sheila Chalmers Currin, and Hazel Crest Mayor Sheila Chalmers Currin, and Hazel Crest Mayor Vernard Alsberry”. Banks also notes Chicago Police Chief Eddie Johnson as “one of our more distinguished alumni”.

However, for many years, GSU served its students as an upper-division university. GSU transitioned into a four-year, or full-service university, in 2014 where the university began to see significant growth. Additionally, the opening of Prairie Place and a plethora of sports teams for the students lead to a growth of involvement. Banks commemorates the men’s basketball team winning a CCAC dual championship in its second season. With the addition of lower-division students, the school found an influx of programs being founded, such as The Male Success Initiative started to serve as a support group for men of color and the Center for Student Engagement and Intercultural Programs grew from its origins as “Student Life”.

In addition to a host of alumni and more to come with the four-year university status, GSU strives for academic success as demonstrated with the current Vision 2020 plan. The plan aims for students to achieve self-efficacy and determination, personal and professional success, multicultural competence, and leadership, and civic engagement. However, as 2020 draws near, the university intends to shift to Strategy 2025. President Maimon commented “Faculty, staff, students, and trustees have been working on Strategy 2025 to continue the accomplishments identified in previous five-year strategic plans, including Vision 2020”. According to Zion Banks, students can “expect to see more programs and initiatives that meet their educational and social needs, as well as programs that promote academic excellence, attract and retain high quality faculty and staff while maintaining a financially sound institution”.

While the university continues to grow, President Maimon insists “GSU’s greatest accomplishment is the high-quality education we provide to a diverse student body”. The statement in conglomeration with various anniversary events shows GSU’s priority always has been and will continue to be its students. Zion Banks mentions “we celebrated our actual 50th birthday party on July 17, with the entire community with trucks, and other family friendly activities”. President Maimon mentions events such as “Convocation was of importance because “it was the first time a governor had visited Governors State University in more than a decade”.

Upcoming events include Flashback Fridays hosted by the archives on select Fridays. The next Flashback Friday discusses the topic of “Innovations in Education” on September 27. Those interested meet for social time in the Hall of Honors at 4:30 then move to the Sherman Music Recital Hall (E1530) at 5:30. Business week is being hosted September 23-25. On September 23 in the Center for Performing Arts, Dr. Rita McGrath will host a TEDtalk style presentation on the topic “Seeing Around Corners”. September 24 will host a business career fair. The Odyssey Country Club will be hosting an Alumni Hall of Achievement Dinner on September 25. As always, students are encouraged to engage with the student senate. Meetings take place the first Thursday of every month in Engbretson Hall. The festivities will continue until June 2020.

PHOENIX

The PHOENIX is published twenty four times annually. We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the GSU community. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership. All submissions must be credited, and include the submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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PHOENIX

Women’s Soccer
Sep 25
2019 @ Olivet

Women’s Volleyball
Sep 24
2019 @ GSU

Men’s Soccer
Sep 25
2019 @ Olivet

Sports

Schedules
Angel has Fallen Review

RJ Dusek
Editor in Chief

“The president’s angel has fallen.”

Angel has Fallen was released on August 23rd, 2019. This film is part of the has Fallen series starring Gerard Butler. The first film focused on the White House, the second focused on London, and the third focused on Butler’s character Mike Banning. The film had a $40 million budget and broke over with the box office. The box office result was $115.5 million. The film was received positive results from the fans and critics.

President Allen Trumbull’s top agent Mike Banning was set up by a group of people to take the fall of an assassination attempt. This attempt was on Trumbull himself. It is up to Banning to clear his name, and save the president again. We are also introduced to people from Banning’s past such as his father Clay, and his old friend Wade Jennings. The film has more character development than the other movies.

The cast is amazing. Gerard Butler stars as Mike Banning. Banning is the top agent in the Secret Service. Butler is perfect for this role because of his roles before Banning. He was the lead in 300 and Phantom of the Opera. Morgan Freeman stars as President Allen Trumbull. Trumbull was the Speaker of the House in the other films. Freeman has a long list of acting roles such as the Shawshank Redemption and Bruce Almighty. Nick Nolte stars as Clay Banning. This is the first film to feature Clay. Nick Nolte was in films such as the Deep and Tropic Thunder. Danny Huston plays Wade Jennings. Jennings is Mike’s best friend and the leader of Salient Global. The cast goes on with Jada Pinkett Smith, and Tim Blake Nelson.

The film itself was amazing. Mike Banning being set up is the best idea in the series. He is known for saving everyone, this film is what happens when the hero becomes the hunted. The film also does a great job on keeping the viewer on the edge of their seats. Mike can be seen driving a semi truck and end up crashing it. Butler does an amazing job with this role. This role was meant for him.

There are pros and cons to this film. The pros are the cast. The cast has credits from amazing films in the past and this adds on to it. The other pro is the fight scenes. The fights are what sold it to me for an action film. The only con that I can say is the title. I thought it was going to focus on Air Force One.

I give Angel has Fallen 4/5.
PHOTOS
Photos taken by Mizani Brooks (Top 2) and Dana Solatka (Bottom 2)
Throwback Review: Megamind

With all these blockbuster superhero movies coming out seemingly endlessly, it's nice to go back to a simpler, humbler time in the superhero media conglomerate history. 2008 was a humbler, simpler time when Batman: The Dark Knight and Iron Man were the only two superhero movies that mattered because they were great films that could stand on their own. No one could have predicted the absolute explosion in popularity. That is, of course, unless you were Disney buying out Marvel in 2009 or Dreamworks making even more fun of Disney with their 2010 film Megamind.

Megamind in and of itself subverts all expectations. The first 20 minutes of the film are dedicated to showing our villain (or hero, depending on how you look at it) Megamind–voiced by Will Ferrell–growing up in a literal prison after falling from space while our superman-esque hero Metroman–voiced by Brad Pitt–has the good life in an upper middle class family after falling from space. Megamind decides he will only ever be good at being the loser. So, naturally, he decides to be a villain. Calamity ensues as Megamind “kills” Metroman publicly. The rest of the movie’s 87 minute runtime is preoccupied with Megamind trying to see the point of being a villain when there’s no hero to stop him, befriending and falling in love with Roxanne–voiced by Tina Fey–when he used to kidnap her for villainy’s sake, and finding/training up Roxanne’s coworker to become the next city’s big superhero (things go south fast with this plan, but it would be such a waste of your time to read me describing the movie without you actually seeing it).

The sheer amount of thought put into the characters gives the modern superhero flick a run for its money. Metroman looks like Elvis and Superman’s fashion senses collided. The design’s effectiveness is only heightened when Metroman is seen in his hideout pursuing his music career. Brad Pitt’s easy-going almost honey voice adds to how trustworthy and non-dramatic this character is. He just wants to do good by the city and got caught in a mid-life crisis. Megamind presents himself with spikes on almost every garment of clothing he owns, even going as far to wear eyeliner for maximum “evil” factor at one point. Whenever he walks into frame, classic rock plays. Will Ferrell’s over-the-top performance only adds to the character. As Megamind says, “it’s all about presentation”.

If Metroman is Elvis, then Megamind is Kiss–both seen as “classic rock”. Even their inspirations play off the old comic book cliché line “we’re not so different, you and I”.

But being a kids’ movie at heart is what makes Megamind shine the most. The movie isn’t afraid to be straight up silly and go all-in on dumb ideas like Megamind being a villain just because it’s fun. It fully embraces the idea that villains might be so tired of being evil that they might one day be the good guy. It tells both the kids and adults watching, “hey, it’s ok to screw up. There’s always tomorrow”. 

Dana Solatka
Contributing Writer
Meet the 2019-2020 Staff of the Phoenix

My name is RJ Dusek and I'm the Editor in Chief for the GSU Phoenix and a senior this semester. I have one yellow lab named Maggie and I enjoy to cosplay, play video games, and write reviews on video games, movies, and television shows. In addition, I enjoy going to comic cons such as C2E2 and have even interviewed 4 voice actors, Troy Baker, Nolan North, Matthew Mercer, and Nick Apostolides. I hope to have an awesome year at GSU writing for he Phoenix.

RJ Dusek (Epic Photo Ops)

I am Kyle Bergfors, the associate editor for the GSU Phoenix. I recently earned my BA in political science and media studies this past spring and am currently working towards my MA in Communications, Media, and Performance where I aim to combine my interests in politics and government with communications and media post-graduation. Additionally, I am also currently interning in Congresswoman Robin Kelly’s district office in Matteson. I also enjoy photography and videography where I both freelance and work under a formal publication, New Noise Magazine, among others in the past, where I mostly focus on live music, but I also work with documentary, nature, landscapes, and more. Lastly, I am the President of the Political Science club on campus and am heavily involved in Model Illinois Government, where every spring we travel to Springfield to engage in the same political process as our real-life state government.

(Kyle Bergfors)

Hello, my name is Mizani Brooks, I am a senior graduating with an English Major and Psychology Minor in my final semester. After I graduate with my Bachelors, my plans are to get a masters’ degree in creative writing. My goals are to be a published author and a child counselor. I like to read, write and hangout with my friends. In addition, my favorite tv shows and movies are American Horror Story, Zombieland, Game of Thrones, Disney Movies, Anime, and Black Panther to name a few, and my favorite colors are purple, green, black, red, blue and white. I look forward to writing for Phoenix as well as the future with my writing.

(Mizani Brooks)

Howdy! I’m Dana, a Senior in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. I love writing and specialize in critical reviews about games and movies. I have a cat named Oops that I love dearly. At GSU, I received The Gilman Scholarship providing me the opportunity to study abroad during the summer 2014 term in South Korea. During my time abroad, I had the pleasure of taking a watercolor painting techniques class and a Korean Language class. After I graduate, I intend to apply to both the Japan Exchange and Teaching program and English Program in Korea so I can work as a teaching assistant in one of those countries.

(Dana Solatka)
CAN YOU DRAW?
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Hello everyone at GSU, welcome back from a long summer of fun in the sun.

We at the Phoenix are delighted to say we have a full staff to start off this year at GSU. You can check out our staff members on page…. to see who is working this year. It is also GSU’s 50th year anniversary for being open so everyone is delighted to be back.

The freshman class is the biggest class we have had in history. Governor J.B. Pritzker was able to attend the Convocation 2019-2020 for the 50th anniversary where President Maimon and Governor Pritzker gave speeches and staff awards were given out. GSU is one of the many schools that will be part of Pritzker’s back to school program for students that cannot afford school.

The GSU block party was hosted on August 29th, 2019 for students to look at what GSU has to offer including clubs, organizations, and more. This year, GSU will have events also going on around campus, check out what is going on at the GSU website or look at the next issue for the Phoenix for the schedule of events.

This year GSU is going to be better than ever, and we at the Phoenix want to cover as much as possible. If you have a story for us, email rdusek@student.govst.edu to be a contributing writer.