International Students Find Home at GSU

By Jean Biba-Brown
Sr. Staff Writer

Pointing to the colorful map that adorns his wall, a bit of nostalgia sweeps over his face as he finds Neiva, his hometown of two million that is located on the foot of the Andes in Columbia. Diego Macias goes on to describe the rest of the country; the plantations, the delectable food, the tight family ties that reach across the oceans.

Macias is one of the increasing numbers of international students that GSU has attracted in recent years. In 1996 there were only 12 students from foreign countries on the GSU campus. Today there are 260 students representing 25 countries from South America, Africa, and Asia. India has the highest number of international students with 50 students currently enrolled.

According to Vreni Mendosa, coordinator of the Office of International Students, GSU uses a “grass roots” approach to recruit students from abroad. Many of the students hear about GSU from friends; however, Mendosa also sends information to college counselors and embassies.

“Having international students on campus allows us to study and learn from each other and gain strength by combining the unfamiliar with the familiar,” said Mendosa. International students benefit both the campus and the students. While GSU becomes more diverse, the international students get to study at an affordable university that maintains smaller class sizes.

In addition to attending classes for a master’s degree in English and secondary education, Macias teaches Spanish as a paid graduate assistant. Although the pay is meager, Macias considered the position a benefit while attending the university. Since the students are here on F-1 student visas, they may only work at the university.

“I was very excited about coming here and getting involved in American culture,” said Macias. The location of the campus was a major obstacle at first. Living with a family in Park Forest, Macias rode a bicycle to school and found it difficult to adjust to the commuter atmosphere on campus.

What you see on TV is what you expect to see here,” Macias said, referring to the foreign perception of college life.

Macias has since adjusted by purchasing a car and making friends through classes and social events. He enjoys playing soccer and frequenting dance clubs in Chicago.

Laura Vetrinaite, a Lithuanian student studying criminal justice, commutes from Lincoln Park. Vetrinaite enjoys the independence of living on her own in the United States. In her native country, students depend more on their parents.

“I feel good about supporting myself, choosing the school I want, not feeling any pressure from my family or friends. People are more relaxed (here),” said Vetrinaite.

Indian computer science major Nilesh Aurangabadkar also enjoys the independence he has in the United States. Aurangabadkar lives in an apartment in nearby Brittney

"International" Continued on Page 7

Stanley Fish Speaks at Lecture Series

Stanley Fish, a top scholar of the University of Illinois, gave a lecture on Why Milton matters, on Sept. 10, in Engrebston Hall. In front of a packed audience, Fish said that Milton matters because poetry matters. “He is a poet that sets out to write.”

Fish is currently dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois where he also teaches literature and law. His work includes books and essays such as There’s no such thing as free Speech: and it’s a good thing, too and The Trouble with the Principle.

The distinguished Lectures Series is presented by the College of Arts and Sciences. For more information, call 708-235-3956.
Retreat Voted A Success by Senate

Sonia E. Gutierrez
Student Senator

Working and playing together builds a strong team and this is so true. On Aug. 15 and 16, the GSU Student Senate headed to The Abbey Resort in Wisconsin for the Student Senate Retreat. The retreat started with the first workshop presented by Dr. Elizabeth Ogunsola from the University of Wisconsin. She had the audience analyze and interpret their personality type then share it with the group. This enabled the audience to become self-aware of personality differences and the ability to work with those differences.

The senate also heard from Viola Gray, director of Access and Upward Bound Programs. She enlightened the audience with the realization and the importance of leadership. Her favorite interpretation of leadership is, “Leadership is an ethic, a gift of oneself and one’s spirit.”

The First Soccer Tournament to Be Held at GSU

By: Shadi Dawwas
Club Treasurer

Soccer has finally found its way among the clubs at GSU. The university soccer players have been playing a long time without any formality. Last week was a happy one for the soccer players, since the university officially approved the club. The club’s first activity is to hold an indoor soccer tournament. Soccer clubs from five community colleges will be invited to the tournament, to be held in mid-November at GSU.

The club members urge every student who plays soccer or is a fan of the sport to join their colleagues in the club. The club’s team plays twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, at 3:00 p.m. in the GSU gym. All are welcome. Club members come from all parts of the world, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

“GSU Soccer Club
Mission: Promote the most popular sport in the world, Soccer, throughout the GSU campus and its surrounding communities. Celebrate the diversity of soccer fans and players. Give the opportunity to GSU students to display their soccer skills and develop new friendships with fellow students.” the club advisor, Jose Reyes stated.

For more information contact Jose Reyes, club advisor, at 708-534-6972 or e-mail j-reyes@govstgovst.edu.

Campus Briefs

Senior Elizabeth Green, enrolled in the BOG Program has been named the Pringle Scholarship Award winner for 2003-4. Green is the President of the Black Students Union, and has served on many extracurricular activities since 2002. She also plans to pursue her Master's Degree.

Student Life Upcoming Activities “Real Women have Curves” will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2003 from 12pm – 3pm in Engbreton Hall. Cancer Awareness week is Oct. 6 – 10. Activities from 8am–11pm in Hall of Governors. Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 20 – 24. Activities from 8am–11pm in Hall of Governors.

The School Psychology Council will be meeting this trimester the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm in the cafeteria annex. (Oct. 2nd, Nov 3rd, and Dec 1st). Anyone interested in the school psychology program is invited to attend. For membership information, please contact Sandy at shoffman193@hotmail.com

Introduction to Microsoft EXCEL XP. Ref. No. 107375, MIS320 QA. October 11 & 18, 9am until 5pm (1 credit hour). Textbook required. Instructor: Nancy Kaczmarczyk Site: GSU/JJC Education Center, Lincoln-Way East H.S., Frankfort, IL

Introduction to Microsoft ACCESS XP. Ref. No. 107394, MIS330 QA. November 15 & 22, 9am until 5pm (1 credit hour). Textbook required. Instructor: Nancy Kaczmarczyk Site: GSU/JJC Education Center, Lincoln-Way East H.S., Frankfort, IL

The Retention Committee held a phone-a-thon to help resolve the current student retention issue during Sept.6 - 8. Four hundred newly admitted students were called. Students were also questioned about the problems they have faced ranging from problems with book availability to financial aid assistance.

Lincoln Laureate Award - If you are an undergraduate senior status student you are eligible to be a candidate to receive the prestigious Lincoln Laureate Award. To learn more about this annual award, visit the website at: http://www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org. We need at least (2) student nominations from each college/program by Friday Oct. 3, 2003. Please forward the nomination forms to Student Life A2131. For questions call (708) 534-4555.

PROVOST FORUM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2003 1:00 P. M. – 3:00 P. M. STUDENT COMMONS A2140 PIZZA & POP WILL BE SERVED. YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ONE-ON-ONE WITH STUDENT LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS. PLEASE RSVP TO THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE, 708-534-4553 BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003.

Phoenix deadline for the October 2003 is October 20th. Please have all articles, or campus brief information into the Phoenix office by this date. No late submissions will be accepted.

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How to Fit? Office of International Students

By: Laura Casal
Assistant Editor

If you happen to be an international student in GSU, how many times did you have the need to talk in private with Vreni Mendoza, the coordinator of International office? How many times did you feel overwhelmed and need her piece of advice? For sure, much more often than you remember. However, it is difficult to have a private meeting with her and talk freely if there isn't a private place to sit. The International office is small and uncomfortable; too small for so many students from different countries and cultures that need the office's services every day. Visas, passports, I-20 forms, academic transcripts, together with other international paperwork could be pretty daunting without Mendoza's expertise and help. Students need Mendoza's opinion about visa's status, trips abroad, or even to talk about their feelings and experiences away from home.

However, it is almost impossible to talk to her in the International office without having a person or two step in and eavesdrop on what you are saying. Why? Because the International office is so small that three people fit just enough.

GSU prides itself in having approximately 170 international students together with international Fulbright scholars studying and working here.

It is time to have an international office whose size matches the quality of its employees. One big office where students feel they can talk and exchange opinions freely and in private.

Students React to “How to Fit?”

“Mendoza needs an individual space in order to talk to students one to one, she also seems to need more storage space,” said David Collins, from Australia.

“It is small, uncomfortable and each time I go there I have to talk to Mrs. Mendoza outside her office. She really needs a bigger room,” says Deren Akman, a Fulbright scholar from Turkey.

“It seems that the school wants to promote international students but if they are serious about it, they really need a decent-sized office,” said Dale Clarke, also from Australia.

“When you entered the office, you wonder where you are going to sit down. At one time she had to come out to talk to me,” exclaims Poonam Punjabi, also a Fulbright scholar, from India.

MP3's Help Students be Stress Free

By: Ontrell Bush
Staff Writer

Many college students, including those at GSU, are very familiar with MP3 downloading sites. The latest software-trading trend is termed “illegal” by record companies.

Most music fans know the heavy metal band Metallica was the first to file a lawsuit which shut the original download source Napster down. Now the RIAA (Record Industry Association of America) and recording labels say a MP3.com service dubbed My.MP3.com violates their copyrights. My MP3.com allows Web surfers to gain access to full CDs online and to listen to them on any computer with Net access.

File sharing is very important to the existence of college students. We all need time to relax, watch a DVD, and enjoy a new CD. Sometimes that hard earned cash put into school as well as over priced gas can compel us to download free software from the Internet. Why not? It’s available to you and if you like one particular

“MP3” continued on Page 7

Does Fair Always Equal Justice?

By: Dale Clarke
Staff Writer

In January 2003, a man walked free from the Jackson County Circuit Court, after confessing to beating an 18-month-old Dalmatian Labrador to death. Judge Preston Dean handed Michael Welch a sentence of three years probation with anger management, forty hours of community service, and mental testing.

“If you don't get into any more trouble this won't even be on your record,” said Dean after sentencing Welch.

Angered by Judge Dean's decision, animal rights activist, Suzanne Hagan has launched a petition to remove Judge Dean from the bench. The petition, which is available to sign at http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/341804350 cites many reasons for Dean's removal.

Dean's decision does not reflect the values of society. His decision came in spite of a previous petition of 50,000 signatures calling for the maximum allowable sentence to be imposed on Welch.

“Justice” continued on Page 7
Cherishing Life through “My Life Without Me”

By: Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor-In-Chief

You wake one day with the realization that your time left on earth is short, and that there are so many of life’s activities that you want to experience. Which things do you do first? Now imagine you are 23 and faced with the same harsh reality. Who do you tell or do you tell at all?

Anne (Sarah Polley) suffers this same fate when a trip to the hospital reveals only a short time to live. She has only experienced a relationship with the one boy she’s ever kissed. Her two kids, husband, mom, and job as a janitor consume her every waking moment. You start to wonder if this woman has ever truly felt alive at all.

“My Life Without Me,” and independent film based on the short story “Turning the Bed into a Raft,” by Nancy Kincaid, gives so much more than the depressing, somber view of death. In some ways it helps you find those reasons for feeling alive. Emotionally you can sympathize with Anne’s life, feelings, and obstacles. Mentally you can identify with the movie’s dialogue.

Written and Directed by Spanish filmmaker, Isabel Coixet, My Life Without Me pools a variety of acting talent from Sarah Polley, Mark Ruffalo (The Last Castle) and Deborah Harry (Blondie). The movie also features Pulp Fiction’s Maria de Medeiros and Amanda Plummer.

In her last days, Ann’s list of “things to do before I die,” includes experiencing the love of another man. Anne and Lee (Ruffalo) meet in the Laundromat and blossom into an extramarital affair fueled with the hottest passion and the deepest sorrow that you can’t help but to empathize with.

“Certainly I have had those moments of despair and loneliness,” said Ruffalo. “I don’t feel that way anymore; but there have been times in my life where things are unbearable.”

Another notable portrayal is that of Anne’s mother, played by Deborah Harry. Harry has proven to be a versatile actress through the years and has starred in an array of films such as “Videodrome,” “Copland,” and “Deuces Wild.” Her character in this film, Anne’s mother, possesses both sarcasm and strength that Harry completes with the rough edges and flaws of a woman scorned by broken dreams.

“My Life Without Me” features a beautiful soundtrack of music by Alfonso De Villalonga.

Dragons Don’t Sing Opera Huge Success

By: Bev Barnes
Business Manager

Local children teamed with professional actors from the nationally renowned Child’s Play Touring Theatre at the GSU Center for Performing Arts on Friday, Aug. 1 for the stage play “Dragons Don’t Sing Opera.”

As the curtain rose, 50 children appeared on stage singing a lively “Cha-cha-cha” musical number immediately capturing the audience’s attention. Costumed as green dragons, pink rabbits, crowned kings and queens, petite princesses, and camouflage G.I. Joe’s this group gave a performance that would be envied by the most seasoned actor.

At one point, gangs of ghostly dragons, witchy-witches and a “Goosley” ghost haunted the stage. At times, a magical fruit tree talked, a princess demanded a dragon for a pet and a two-headed sea monster ran amuck. When the curtain fell, comments on the shows success resonated throughout GSU’s corridors.

“That was great,” said a man. “Mom, can I go to summer camp next year?” said a child. “What a wonderful production,” said one woman.

Ultimately, as melodrama was coupled with slapstick this show transcended the generation barrier thoroughly captivating its diverse 800 member audience. Rounds of applause and laughter resounded from playgoers as video cameras swung into action capturing the songs “Disco Dragon” and “Dragons Don’t Sing Opera.” Its up-tempo beat caused young and old alike to break into uproarious song.

Magdalene Sisters Raises Anti-Catholic Concerns

By: Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor-In-Chief

I was fortunate enough to participate in a multi-college interview on Sept. 8, 2003 with actress Nora Jane Noone, who recently starred in the Miramax film, “The Magdalene Sisters.”

Set in Ireland in the 1960’s, the movie focuses on the Magdalene Laundries, where young women were ‘imprisoned’ by their families for out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and any other behavior deemed shameful and sinful by the church and society.

“It was the story of terrible things that were done to these girls and what they had to go through,” said Noone. “A lot of psychological battering down as well.”

The film details the atrocities brought on by the Catholic Church authority figures in charge of running the laundries. The girls are tended to by nuns and priests whose cruel and unusual punishment methods add to the girls’ behavioral strife. The girls are psychologically, physically and mentally abused throughout their time at the laundries.

“If these people were acting by their beliefs or religion, this wouldn’t have happened at all,” Noone adds.

The Magdalene Sisters was directed by Peter Mullan and stars Geraldine McEwan, Dorothy Duffy, Eileen Walsh, Anne-Marie Duff and Nora Jane Noone (as Bernadette). Bernadette, dubbed the “pretty one,” has been sent to the Magdalene Laundries by the Catholic Church.
Rocking the Class with Jack Black

By: Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor-In-Chief

Movies like Shallow Hal, Saving Silverman, and Orange County are just a few of the movies credited with 34 year-old actor, Jack Black. Debuting on Oct. 1, 2003, Black will add another movie credit to his name with “School of Rock.”

School of rock features Black as a frustrated, failing band member who's passion for rock & roll can only be superceded by his dislike of society and conformity. Dewey, portrayed by Black, is unemployed and feeling rejected when his roommate (Ned) receives a phone call for a substitute teacher position. Strapped for cash, Dewey assumes his roommate's identity and takes on the role of teacher to a crowded classroom of fifth graders. The preppy, elite school is headed by Principal Mullins, played by Joan Cusack.

Dewey, while appearing to simply use “experimental” teaching methods, motivates the kids to participate in his band and compete in the local “Battle of the Bands” contest.

In a round-table interview, Black discussed his new movie everyone was talking over us. We were just so sucking and we stopped in the middle of the song,” recalls Black.

“That devastated me and I didn’t try to play in a band again until many years later with Kyle when we started Tenacious D,” Black said. “The key is not taking it seriously. Loving it but making fun of it at the same time.”

After “napping” through classes, Black found a sudden surge of energy in his 9th grade acting class. He credits his passion for it to his 9th grade teacher.

“I had this acting teacher, named Debbie Devine who was so awesome. She was really a little crazy and she obviously loved acting,” remembers Black. “She was my guru.”

Black was made for “School of Rock,” or rather it was made for him. Black meshes talents with actors Sarah Silverman, Mike White, and Joan Cusack. He has starred in films featuring both John (High Fidelity) and Joan and recalls working both.

“John kind of attacks it with a lot of energy; Joan kind of comes at it with her brain a little more,” says Black. He remembers watching Joan work out her scenes and “really concentrating in her mind.” Black’s overall impression of the Cusack's: “Awesome. I wish I was a Cusack. Jack Cusack.”

Black definitely has his own unique acting style bringing a lot of energy and intensity to his characters. “School of Rock” appears to be a mirror image of Black's own personality.

“This is definitely the closest to all the parts I've played to me, aside from Tenacious D,” Black confesses. “I bring a lot of me to all my parts.”


“Life” continued from Page 4

Entwined in this romantic soundscape are songs by 83 year old, Blossom Dearie. Together with the simplistic filming style, it meshes perfectly.

“I woke up one morning saying “What if she didn’t tell anyone,” professed Coixet. “There are a lot of movies about young people dying of cancer starting with Love Story and Terms of Endearment. I think this is the only one where the person knows they are going to die but doesn’t tell anyone.”

“My Life Without Me” possesses the emotional power that keeps you seeking answers throughout the film.

Fine Dining in Ancient Greece

By: Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor-In-Chief

A short walk across the old stone floor with visions of crackled glass and leafy vines can hardly sum up the ambience at Greek Islands Restaurant in Chicago. Once seating a magnificent wine list awaits you! On this visit to the isles; however, I did not sample the wine. I can tell you that past trips have found that their house wines are exquisite!

While awaiting your order, Greek Isles serves complimentary Italian bread and extra virgin olive oil. The bread is fresh and the olive oil adds a burst of flavor to it.

The appetizer choice for the evening included calamari, which was lightly breaded and carefully cooked and served without a hint of grease.

My dinner choice was lamb ala vegetable. A decent portion of lamb, practically served falling off the bone, is both tender and juicy. Accompanying this dish was an egg lemon sauce over carrots, celery, and potatoes.

Greek Isles has more of a formal atmosphere, but definitely not the formal price. Dinner cost $29.00 for two people, and with tip came to $40.00. Money well spent on delicious Greek cuisine. They are the perfect dinner choice for an evening at the Art Museum or after a show in the theater district.

To find out more about Greek Islands Restaurant phone (312) 782-9855 or visit them at 200 Halsted St. Chicago IL 60622.
A Man with Multiple Visions
Interview With Prof. Reino William Hakala

By: Agha Adeel Saadat
Staff Writer

During my years at GSU, I came across some great personalities; one of them is Dr. Reino William Hakala, professor in the computer science department. By the end of this September 2003, he would have been teaching for over 50 years. He had been a Dean twice, department chairperson twice, a faculty Senate President twice and environmental activist in two different states. He was a Fellow at Washington (D.C) Academy of Sciences and last but not least a fantastic human being. I had an opportunity to have a chat with this great man, which I am going to share with the GSU community.

Agha: Tell us about your childhood?
Reino: I was born in Albany, NY in 1923 but I never lived in Albany. I was raised in Brooklyn, NY in a place called Finntown. I lived in foster homes as my mother was out of town working as an acrobat and silent movies actress. I love my mom; she was a great lady, who died at the age of 98. I went to school when I was 7.5 years old because of a late vaccination as my mother was against of there in Quantum Mechanics, vaccination. I was an art major in high school, and learned chemistry while making pigments. In those days I didn't know anybody who goes to college. People around me were doing blue collar jobs. When I was 14, I had a serious accident. Doctor advised my mom to send me to college. At 17, I applied to Columbia University, got 50% scholarship from school and for rest 50% I was working in factories.

Agha: What were your ambitions in those days?

Agha: Why didn’t you choose to join chemical industry?

Reino: I wanted to become an artist and a chemist. Then I decided that I can become an artist at my own but not a chemist. In 1940 I started at Columbia University with two majors, Liberal Arts and Chemistry and a minor in Physics and Math. I was in the Army for short time, discharged due to severe illness and it took one year to recover. In 1946-47, I worked on master's degree Major in Organic Chemistry and with a minor in the Chemistry of Food and Nutrition. At the time I got offers for PhD in Theoretical Physical Chemistry.

Agha: How was your PhD experience in Syracuse?
Reino: I began there as an Inorganic Chemist; I took and passed my PhD comprehensive examination in inorganic chemistry. In studying foundations of inorganic chemistry at Syracuse, I noted that they lay in physical chemistry, whence I took courses there in Quantum Mechanics, Statistical Mechanics and X-Ray Crystallography. I found these utterly fascinating; I became a physical chemist. I took PhD comprehensive examinations in physical chemistry and pass them (with the highest scores). Thus I have two PhD majors: inorganic and physical chemistry.

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"International" continued from Page 1

Woods where many Indian students share rooms in apartments. Often they cook meals together and borrow each other’s cars. New students are guided through tasks such as registering for classes and opening a bank account.

"Because I was helped in the start, I think I should do the same," said Aurangabadkar, who works in the office for international students.

Shopping for Indian food and sundries on the north side of Chicago, the Indian students strive to maintain their culture while adjusting to American life style. This can be confusing and often leads to culture shock.

"We are confused whether to accept this culture or keep our own culture," said Aurangabadkar.

Adjusting to American life and dealing with culture shock are two problems Mendosa and her staff helps students overcome. Mendosa organizes many events to create a community among students. Ranging from seminars on tax information to field trips to Chicago, the office attempts to reduce the loneliness and isolation that can set in shortly after arrival. Using an open door policy to her small office, Mendosa has learned to identify the signs of culture shock that can lead to depression.

"I was a foreign student myself so I am aware of the signs," said Mendosa, who hails from Switzerland. "First you go through a honeymoon and everything is beautiful. Then you look around and everything is not so beautiful."

"Justice" continued from Page 3

Hagan also points out that Dean ignored a law that requires anyone who commits animal torture and/or abuse to be sent to jail. The decision, according to Hagan, could spark a 20-year setback to animal rights and welfare.

Given that Welch admitted to taking "beer breaks" during his premeditated attack, the terms "torture" and "abuse" almost seem too light to fit the hour-long beating with a baseball bat and a sledgehammer. Forty hours of community service might make a couple of streets look a little cleaner, but it won’t take the dirt out of society.

"MP3" continued from Page 3

The students all agree that the benefits to studying in the United States far outweigh the difficulties. Aurangabadkar contends that there is prestige in India from obtaining a degree from an American institution. Furthermore, with a 56 percent unemployment rate in his native country, Aurangabadkar and many others may choose to work for a year or more in the United States before returning to their native countries.

Macias admires the democratic approach that America has toward education. "Everyone has the chance to go to college in the US," said Macias.

In addition to high stakes entrance exams, there are 100 students waiting to take the seat of each college student in Columbia. This leads to a very competitive atmosphere, according to Macias.

"Too many people apply to public universities with too few seats," said Macias of his native country.

Arriving from India just two days ago, Preethi Mohan, a computer science student, is excited and nervous about the upcoming semester. "I don’t feel homesick," said Mohan, who is still feeling the effects of the twenty-two hour flight.

Aurangabadkar has assisted Mohan in securing an apartment and registering for classes. In India where Mohan said, "Mom does everything for you and everything is taken care of,” she’s in good hands.

"Sisters" continued from page 5

"I didn’t get to meet any of the women [portrayed in the film]," claims Noone. "I met a woman in Miami whose mother had been put in the asylum because she got pregnant."

The movie is based on the true accounts of life in the Magdalene Laundries, the last of which were closed in 1996 and were located in Dublin. Similar laundries were located throughout Ireland and Scotland.

According to Noone the movie’s message is too make people more aware of "what’s going on around them and to make sure this sort of thing doesn’t happen again."

"It really opened my eyes," confessed Noone.

The Magdalene Sisters is now playing in Chicago. Show times and theater locations are limited. In Chicago, "The Magdalene Sisters" is being shown at Piper's Alley and AMC River East 21. It is also being shown in Chicago Heights at Marcus Theater.
“Hakala” continued from Page 6
Reino: I considered going to industry, and was even accepted as a full-time, highly paid consultant at Lever Brothers, but I preferred to teach inorganic and physical chemistry at Howard University. I discovered that my heart really belonged to teaching and not to industry.

Agha: How is your experience in GSU?
Reino: In 1980, I was offered the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and I happily joined GSU because it had a strong environmental emphasis. As a Dean of CAS, I along with Dr. Ronald Brubaker and Dr “Skip” Roberts developed the initial proposal for the Computer Science program at GSU. I have returned with satisfaction to full time teaching. At GSU, I have taught mostly mathematics, as well as some chemistry, physics, statistics and computer science. My focus is now on mathematics and computer science.

Agha: Tell us about your family members?

Agha: What do you do other than science stuff?
Reino: This year is also the 50th anniversary of my serious involvement as an adult in creating works of art of various kinds. Most of the people who know me only at GSU may find it quite surprising to learn that I majored in art in high school. I still create geometric patterns.

Agha: Most Memorable event in life?
Reino: Getting a PhD. Because when I was young, I had no collegiate role models and never thought about going to college. We were too poor to consider it.

Agha: Any advice you want to give to student?
Reino: Always be honest and just, be courteous and considerate, work hard, focus and don’t hold any grudges. You will happier and live longer. When my children left home for college, I told them that the most important thing in life is to be a decent human being. Nothing else is as important.