GSU honors Constitution Day

By Robert Wolff
Editor

Most discussions about the American Constitution usually center on either the basics of our freedoms or the virtues of the system that guarantees liberties. However, as of late, there is a growing discussion of another issue surrounding the Constitution: whether or not our freedoms are being taken away from us.

As fulfilling a federal mandate requiring institutions of education that receive federal funds to hold a presentation on the Constitution, GSU discussed not a celebration of the freedoms we have, but those we might be slowly losing.

The Monday, Sept. 18 presentation, Challenges to the Constitution in the Post 9/11 Era, featured three panelists to discuss this issue.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, an attorney and deputy director for the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association, Mary Dixon, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, and Judge Ronald C. Riely, discussed to what extent the freedoms are being taken away from us.

The most important concept of the constitution is we the people...It is this generation that is beginning to question to what extent our freedoms are being threatened." Dixon began the discussion and discussed to what extent the current presidential administration is overstepping its bounds.

"We have a system of checks and balances and the presidency is the most susceptible to abuse," she said. Lamenting what she sees as an erosion of that system, Dixon mentions the current over-sight of President Bush's controversial warrantless wiretapping initiatives. "In the 1990's, Congress spent over 140 hours of investigation into White House use of the Christmas Card donor list...Congress has spent only 4 hours of investigation into the National Security Agency's wire-tapping program."

The ACLU attorney presented this is only one symptom of the larger, and in her view, more troubling problem of an "expansive view of executive authority."

Other issues reflecting this brought up by Dixon were what she claims was Bush's attempts to undermine judicial review and congressional checks. Critics of the Bush administration point to signing statements as the current administration's attempts to limit the power of Congress. Bush has signed over 800 signing statements, more than the last three previous presidents combined.

"In the past, signing statements were usually postscripts thanking a sponsor for a bill or something similar, but Bush has used them to determine how the See Constitution page 3

Investing in Botswana

By Robert Wolff
Editor

Mention Botswana to the average American and they probably won't conjure up many images. Some may not even know what continent the nation is located on. Some may not know it's even a country.

But this small African republic of over 1.6 million people has attracted the interest and attention of many Western entrepreneurs, including GSU's Professor Anthony Andrews. Andrews made it a point to visit the country again in the future and continue his research. "We have over 25 years of experience in a large way."

With so much work already invested, Andrews plans to visit the country again in the future and continue his research. "We have over 25 years of research," he said.

GSU's Constitution Day forum featured (left to right) professor Larry Levinson, moderator, Judge Ronald C. Riely, ACLU attorney Mary Dixon, and American library Association attorney Deborah Caldwell-Stone.

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Despite Botswana's problems with the AIDS epidemic, Andrews says the financial market is very stable for investment, following America's capitalist, market oriented model.

"Diamonds and mining are the main engines of growth for the whole economy, but now the economy needs diversification," said Andrews. "You'd like to have services, manufacturing and technology in your economy so you're not depending on one thing... and slack in one sector won't affect your economy in a large way."

With so much work already invested, Andrews plans to visit the country again in the future and continue his research. "We have over 25 years of research," he said.
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If you are interested, please contact the Phoenix office at 708-353-4517 or phoenix@govst.edu.

Last summer's MGMT 550 class poses at the Great Wall during their tour through China.

PHOENIX

The Phoenix is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

By John Conrad
Contributing Writer

Imagine taking a field trip through 12 time zones and across more than 6,600 miles of land and ocean.

This is exactly what occurred last summer as students from Professor Jun Zhao's Management 550 class, ditched the traditional "school-bus-approach" to field trips and boarded a Boeing 747 bound for Beijing, China.

Zhao was accompanied by nine of her students on their 12-day trip through China, which began June 11, 2006. GSU President Dr. Stuart Fagan and his wife, as well as several other faculty members, also took part in the trip.

Throughout the trip the group soaked in the scenery, as they visited such locations as the Great Wall, The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and Ming's Tomb.

Although the students enjoyed site-seeing, they also had work to do. They were given tours of companies such as Motorola, Wal-Mart, and General Motors, and also visited The Guangdong University.

"The most beneficial aspect of the trip for me, as an instructor, was seeing how the students responded to the "reality" of China, after hearing so much about its people, culture, and economic development in the classroom," said Zhao, who was born in China. "You cannot really learn about a culture without experiencing it first hand."

Students enrolled in the course, raised money for the trip through various on-campus fundraisers, such as bake sales and selling Smelly Jellies (scented gel candles).

According to Kerry Dean, a graduate student working on his MBA in International Business and Finance, although their efforts nowhere near fully financed the trip, the class raised enough money to cover the cost of their visas, as well as some travel and meal related expenses.

"While visiting the university in China, there were very few differences between their business related curricula and those at GSU," said Dorthe Brown, a recent GSU graduate and current Academic Advisor for the College of Business.

The biggest difference observed between the two universities was the student population. The students at The Guangdong University were more traditional and lived on campus, while many of GSU's students are nontraditional (or older).

Brown noted another difference as she visited the Wal-Mart Training Center, also in Guangdong. This major difference was the vast size of the multi-level shopping facility.

"It was truly one-stop shopping," Brown said. "You can get anything there."

It is on this point that Dean agrees. He claims the Wal-Mart in China had much more "high-end" merchandise than Wal-Marts back in the U.S. In China, the Wal-Mart even had sections set off from the main store, carrying such brands as Bose, Kenwood, and Pioneer.

"The most important aspect of the trip was allowing students to see how this country is growing and developing into an economic powerhouse," claims Zhao. "It also gives students the opportunity to better understand how they can play a role in it."

Dean agrees, and was happy to be given the opportunity to recognize the business opportunities available in China.

Other aspects of the trip Dean enjoyed were seeing The Great Wall and establishing relationships with people in China (most of whom he still communicates with via Email).

"I was able to establish a less biased opinion of business, operations, and dealings outside the U.S. through our trip," states Dean. "Also, by the end of the trip I was able to use chopsticks like a pro."
Hispanic Heritage Month in full swing at GSU
By Laura Capetillo
Contributing Writer

Hispanic heritage month has started at Governor's State University and what better way to start it than with authentic mariachi and food.
The chairs were set, the stage was ready, and the food was all set to go for a one night performance by Mariachi Acero, sponsored by the Association for Latin American Students, or ALAS.
The event began at 5:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors, where the tables were promptly filled with traditional Mexican foods like rice, beans, chicken, and beef.

While students, faculty, and staff enjoyed their traditional meals, Mariachi Acero performed several traditional songs such as Mariachi Loco, Caminos De Michoacan, and Cu cu cu cu cu Paloma.

ALAS President Mildred Lopez said that she was very pleased with the performance and stated, "Considering it was the start of Hispanic Heritage month, not only was the food very tasteful, but the sound of Mariachi Acero made the evening worth the while!"

BSW student Priscilla Southern agreed, adding, "I thought that event was well planned, the music was great, and I also enjoyed the rice dish."

Mr. Reyes thanked all those who participated in making this event a success. In addition, he gave a special thanks to Sarah Apell, Director of Student Involvement, for her contribution to the event.

The new club was started with the help of Monica Miller, the BOG Student Services Coordinator.

"We want to put together a community of learners that would give BOG students some kind of bonding experience," Miller said.
She also said that students, in general, feel that BOG students don't have a voice in the school, and that being part of a BOG Student Union will give them an outlet to voice their opinions.

Miller said that the BOG office plans to work very closely with the Student Union.

Floyd Wilson, president of the BOG Student Union, said, "I am devoted to recruiting for the BOG Student Union because there is power in numbers."

He is also interested in hearing from BOG students to find out their needs as far as mentoring and networking.

He also said that the group will work to provide not only bonding between BOG degree seeking students, but also networking and career resources.

The difficulty seems to be in getting the adult learners, many of whom have work and family obligations, all together at one time.

Enthusiastic discussions, which centered on marketing of the group, included more strategic placement of notices as well as eye catching advertisements.

Yvonne Bailey, a BOG Student, who has worked for an accounting firm for 12 years, says that she's here to finish her degree.

Bailey said that she was pleased with the productivity of the meeting, particularly with suggestions for career services, resources, and forming a newsletter.

"By this club being here, that gives me a place to come for support," she said. "I'm being encouraged, and we can encourage each other to stay focused and finish school."

Students can get more information about the Student Union by contacting the BOG office at 708-534-4097.

Board of Governors introduces new Student Union
By Lana Bilyk
Contributing Writer

The Board of Governors new Student Union plans to help adult learners with networking and career resources.

The new club was started with the help of Monica Miller, the BOG Student Services Coordinator.

"We want to put together a community of learners that would give BOG students some kind of bonding experience," Miller said.

A college education doesn't come cheap, and UPS knows that. That's why they came up with the Earn and Learn® Program. As a student working part-time at UPS, I can get as much as $23,000 towards my college expenses and tuition.

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Constitution:
Continued from page 1

Jews are interpreted and how they should be executed." Following Dixon was Judge Riley, who touched more specifically on the NSA's wiretapping program. Riley pointed out the NSA, America's intelligence gathering agency, primarily targets those who make overseas calls for its wiretapping program as well as those suspected to have ties to terrorist organizations.

"The problem is, it may be illegal and I think it is illegal," Riley stated.

"Keep in mind we're talking about the federal government taking a position they're going to intercept telephone calls, they're going to dig into your private conversations and comments and you won't know anything about it. And the question becomes, in light of 2001, is this something that ought to be done?" Riley added in the past, the secret court that reviews warrant for wiretap proposals has been very lenient for requests and the rules surrounding wiretapping by law enforcement agencies were not stringent, but were tailored to foreign power, and not necessarily to American citizens.

"The Justice Department can obtain warrants up to 72 hours after the beginning of eavesdropping...can eavesdrop on a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power...and can conduct foreign surveillance up to one year without a court order, but exclusively for foreign powers."

The last panelist to speak, Caldwell-Stone, pointed to challenges to the Constitution that "encourages a pattern of activity that discourages oversight of executive power" and claims that government initiatives such as the Patriot Act "stifles dissent." Caldwell-Stone points to one example from a library in the state of Washington.

"In Washington state, someone checked out a book on (Oswald) bin Laden, wrote in the book a quote (bin Laden) had made, and then returned the book." She states someone then turned over the book to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "The FBI then targeted everyone else who checked the book out for investigation and demands the library records of all those who have previously checked the book out."

However, the initiatives meant to fight terrorism have also effected other aspects that have little to do with 9/11, according to Caldwell-Stone, arguing government information regarding commercial products or services has been changed to reflect political biases.

Furthermore, she states the government overreaching its authority has found its way into an "increasing intolerance for ideas that are out of the mainstream," adding there has been an increased surveillance for "anti-war activists, animal rights activists, labor activists and even gay-themed literature."
Artifacts and research materials tower around and over Professor Bourgeois in his office.

By Robert Wolff
Editor

Arthur Bourgeois says there are over 600 pieces of art in storage at Governors State University. "There's simply not enough room for all of them," he says. The GSU art history professor of 29 years has items from all over the world, some of which are nearly 80 years old.

African art is Bourgeois' specialty, having done research both at American universities and the former Zaire [now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo] in western Africa.

In Africa, he researched the art of two different ethnic tribes in Zaire, the Yaka and Suku. "My master's degree was in Native American art, but I switched over to African art when I went into the PhD program at Indiana," he said.

In Zaire, Bourgeois was able to learn a great deal about the art of the two groups and was even taken in as a brother by one of the village chiefs. Much of Bourgeois' research centered on legends, mythology and how the art of a group reflects their view of death through things such as death masks.

Even so, Bourgeois does not only work with art from Africa. The lounge on the first floor of the E-wing has an exotic display of art, most of which is not from Africa, but from New Guinea.

One of the most striking works of art is the Sepak house posts, tied to the pillars of the lounge. Bourgeois says they stand around 17 feet tall and were made some time before World War II.

"Some of the art in the lounge is from John Edler, a contact from grad school and dealer in New Guinea art," he explains.

In fact, one of the posts is from Mr. Edler while the other is on an "indefinite loan" from a friend of professor Bourgeois. The other items were also gifted or loaned to GSU.

So much art is being offered to GSU that it is becoming hard to find room for all of it.

"We've been offered some very valuable and important pieces, but we're short on storage space," said Bourgeois.

"We can't take all of it in, but we're hoping the administration might help us out with that."

If you interested in learning more, contact professor Bourgeois at 708-534-4012.

(Left and right) Some of the wood carvings in the GSU collection on display in the E-wing lounge.
Directed by Brian De Palma
Written by Josh Friedman
(screenplay) & James Ellroy
(novel)

The Black Dahlia follows the life of Officer Dwight Bleichert as he tries to unravel one of the most notorious and gruesome murders in Hollywood history. Unfortunately, this movie needed to focus more on the identity of itself than the identity of the murderer.

As the movie progresses, it is hard to gauge where the movie is trying to take you. Sometimes it feels like a standard suspense murder mystery, then it will change over to a love triangle, then it would throw some come­-down before you switch from layer to layer and did nothing more than add Madeleine into the mix. It was very superficial and witty and the actors made it work, but couldn’t save this movie from being a disappointment.

The love triangle bothered me the most. It consisted of the three stars of the film: Bleichert, his partner Leland Blanchard, and Kay, and technically it could even be considered a square if you add Madeleine into the mix.

At one point, the movie switches to a first person view when Bleichert meets Madeleine’s quirky socialite family and the entire pacing of the movie is interrupted while they attempt to make you laugh. The movie jumped around so much it ended up shallow and nonsensical. However, it wasn’t all bad. The movie felt very authentic with the proper attire and dialog.

Kay’s character seemed to be plucked right out of an old Humphrey Bogart movie, and the conversations between characters were modeled after those same films. The talking was fast and witty and the actors did a fine job. There were many instances of narration by Bleichert’s character and it reminded me oddly of the film Sin City.

So, you get a little of the old black and white and white and it worked nicely. Also much like Sin City, this movie is not for the squeamish. There are some graphic scenes that may make you turn your head. Now that may be a plus for some, but I didn’t think it was needed. When the credits rolled, I felt disappointed in this movie. It could have been better if they did more detective work and less jumping around. The ending didn’t help either; it jumped around as much as the rest of the movie. In the end, the acting was good, but couldn’t save this film.

20 Questions with...

Name? Sergeant James McGee

What do you do at GSU? I'm a supervisor at the Department of Public Safety for the afternoon watch.

How long have you been at GSU? I've been here now for seven years.

What do you enjoy about your job? I enjoy helping people. I like to be here to help people and resolve issues.

Do you have any events or programs coming up? Other than extra detail for Bill Cosby, not really.

What is your favorite color? Red.

Last book you read? The Pitch

Last good movie you saw? ATL

What's your favorite food? Steak

Complete this sentence. People see me as...? Protection. People see the GSU police department as protection, as a friend, as a source of information.

If you could meet one famous person and have lunch with them, who would it be? I'd say Barack Obama. Maybe I'll get a chance to see him Saturday.

Which scares you more, spiders or snakes? Snakes!

Complete this sentence. Something no one knows about me is...? Hmm...That I am a kind-hearted person. The exterior may be a little rough or stone-faced on the outside, but the interior is very kind-hearted.

If we looked at your music collection, we would find what kind of music? A little jazz, R & B, gospel.

Best thing about being a cop? Being able to help people in the time of their need.

Toughest thing about being a cop? One of the toughest things is the work hours. It's a 24-hour operation. Sometimes you'd rather be home in the evening spending time with your family.

Do you have a favorite childhood possession? Lionel Trains. I'm an avid train collector.

What's more fun? Carrying the badge or the gun? The badge. And the reason I say the badge is what it represents. The badge symbolizes we're individuals out here to help others. We're here to be a resource.

Three words that describe you? Disciplined, committed and enthusiastic.

If you know a professor or other GSU staff member that you think we should ask 20 Questions, email his or her name, along with yours, to the Phoenix at phoenix@govst.edu.
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Designed to help prepare you gain the skills you need to get the job you want, our 3-in-1 workshops focus on:

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Thursday, September 28
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Cafeteria Annex

Tuesday, October 10
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Cafeteria Annex

Saturday, October 14
9:30, Continental Breakfast
10 – Noon, Workshop / Cafeteria Annex

Wednesday, October 18
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Cafeteria Annex

Saturday, November 11
9:30, Continental Breakfast
10 – Noon, Workshop / Hall of Honors

All-Majors Career Fair

Network with top area employers. Please dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes.

Tuesday, October 24
1 – 4 p.m. / GSU Gymnasium

For additional information: 708.235.3974 www.govst.edu/careerservices
Bush should learn from past mistakes

By Julie Steinberg
Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Penn)

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — The United States boasts the world's largest economy, its strongest army and perhaps the most diverse population in the world, but when it comes to its citizens graduating from college, America can't claim any similar superlative. The United States has slipped below other nations in the numbers of students who finish their degrees, according to a report released by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a California-based think tank. And a significant generational gap is emerging. Though the United States still ranks among the top nations in the proportion of 35 to 64 year olds with college degrees, it has dropped to 25% in the 25-34 year-old demographic. Across the nation, though, graduation rates are plummeting. Education policy advisers say that there are several reasons for the decline, with financial and cultural factors contributing.

More and more lower-income students are heading to college, according to Tony Palz, a spokesman for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, but tuition rates are simultaneously spiraling up, he said, while federal grants are decreasing in value.

Ultimately, this means that more poorer students are heading to college but cannot afford to finish, which contributes to a higher drop-out rate, Palz said.

He added that the failures of student aid to keep up with students' financial need has compounded the problem. Meanwhile, America is experiencing the most diversity in college admissions in history, said Maybeth Gasman, a professor at Penn's Graduate School of Education. But with more minority enrollment comes more families that are unable to afford tuition. She added that it's "not always the case, but students from low-income backgrounds aren't usually academically prepared for college."

The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space and content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by with you can be reached.

Sudoku #2

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Crossword Answers from puzzle on page 8

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Chicago College of Performing Arts  
Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m.  
Chamber Orchestra  
Stephen Squires, conductor  
- Vaughn Williams Fantasie on a Theme by Thomas Tallis  
- Mozart Adagio and Fugue, K. 546  
- Dvorak Symphony No. 8  
Tickets are free!

Senior Project Art Exhibition  
Public reception Wednesday, October 4, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Gallery hours Monday - Thursday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Visual Arts Gallery / E-lounge  
Come see the work of GSU undergraduate students Julia Staisiunas, Benjamin Ward, Tracy Kosinski and Sarah Schubert. For more information, contact Josh Rains at 708-534-4021, or professor Javier Chavira at 708-534-4017.

GSU Family Weekend Events  
Friday, October 6  
Television Studio Tours, D1-435 3 - 5 p.m.  
Art Exhibit, E-lounge, 3 - 7 p.m.  
Faculty Talent Showcase, Hall of Governors, 4 - 7 p.m.  
Club Decade, Hall of Governors, 7 - 10 p.m.  
Saturday, October 7  
Lunch with the Provost, Gymnasium, 12 - 2 p.m.  
Pool Party, Swimming Pool, 2 - 6 p.m.  
Family Crafts, Student Commons, 2 - 6 p.m.  
Family Fun at the Rec, Gymnasium, 2 - 6 p.m.  
Drive-in Movie, D Parking Lot, 6 - 11 p.m.

Free, confidential depression screening  
October 5 and 11, 7 p.m.  
Take 10 minutes for yourself. For more information call the Student Development Center at 235-2228.

Ballet folklórico Quetzalzalli  
Sunday, October 15, 5 p.m.  
Center for Performing Arts, GSU  
Join one of Veracruz’s great cultural treasures for an afternoon of vibrant dance and entertainment. Tickets range from $19 to $28 for adults, $14 to $23 for those 16 and under.

Fall Recreation / Fitness Center hours  
Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.  
Closed Sundays during the Spring/Summer trimester.

Fall library hours at GSU  
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.