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Student Life

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Final four presidential candidates visit GSU

By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

Governors State University’s search for a new president is winding down as all five finalists have completed their campus visits. Each finalist was subject to meetings with the Search Committee, Board of Trustees, the faculty, students and external constituencies, among other things, over a two-day period.

Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey, Provost of Bowie State University in Maryland, visited from January 16-17. Ramsey said she was impressed with GSU’s mission statement, particularly the words diversity and access.

"In my first interview I saw the search committee and it was the most diverse committee I’ve ever seen," Ramsey said. "This institution lives what it writes. The mission statement embodies a place I see that wants to make a difference, and I have a passion for making a difference.”

Ramsey said she feels GSU could become a national resource for community college students.

"42 percent of community college students want to pursue a bachelor degree, but only 26 percent of those students transfer," Ramsey said. "[After] you become a national resource, GSU can become a leader in the transfer experience. If we can become a resource we will be sought after by students, faculty and money to improve GSU.”

Dr. Ramsey has a vision that GSU can become a national resource and a leader in the transfer experience. Once this happens Ramsey expects GSU to be sought after by students, faculty and money to improve GSU, but she knows vision is nothing unless vision becomes reality.

"Vision is supposed to be shared in order for it to take life," added Ramsey. "Without it, it just becomes a dream.”

Dr. Vincent Thompson was the third candidate to tour the campus, visiting on Jan. 18-19. The Provost at Kean State University in New Jersey, Thompson gave a lecture about the challenges schools like GSU face.

One of the challenges mentioned was a decrease in grant aid to students, forcing those students to seek loans, thus putting the students in debt by the time they graduate. Diminished state support, fewer state and capital dollars from government and cutbacks in private sector tuition support were other examples Thompson mentioned.

The rise of what Thompson calls ‘for-profit institutions’ is also a cause of concern for schools like GSU.

"Places like DeVry and the University of Phoenix mean there is more competition for adult students," said Thompson. "The University of Phoenix can move into Chicago and create competition.”

"At Kean we have a high number of minority students, students who are attending college for the first time in their family and many immigrant students, just like GSU," he said.

GSU, according to Thompson, has many advantages that other institutions don’t, and Thompson wants to take advantage of them.

See 'President' on page 2

Survey reveals university costs repel students from first choice

By Michelle Cutronechi
The Daily Vidette (Illinois State U.)

(U-WIRE) NORMAL, Ill. -- An annual national survey conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles reveals smaller percentages of college freshmen are attending their first choice schools, and even those accepted to their first choice are instead settling for their second or third choice.

The survey that yielded these results is The Freshman Survey, which has been administered by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at UCLA for the last 40 years. This year 271,441 freshmen at 393 colleges across the nation were involved in the survey.

While students were asked a variety of questions about high school life and college decisions, a major point of interest revealed by the survey results dealt with deciding factors that determine what school a student chooses to attend.

John H. Pryor, director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program and survey's lead author, said that the survey found that 67.3 percent of students polled were attending their first choice school, which is the second lowest percentage since researchers included this question on the survey in the mid-1970s.

The survey also found that, among those students attending their second choice schools, 48.9 percent had been accepted by their first choice school, but decided not to attend. According to Pryor, a significant reason for the decline in attendance of first choice schools is the cost.

"What the results of the survey seem to be telling us is that financial issues is the main reason that students accepted to their first choice schools choose not to attend," Pryor said.

Charles A. Boudreau, director of Financial Aid, said students and parents not being entirely well informed about the full cost of their university or college of choice may be a contributing factor to this troublesome issue of finances.

"I try and emphasize to parents to go to the school’s website early on and do research on overall cost, financial aid eligibility and scholarship opportunities."

"Then you can assess if the price of the school is workable for your family financially," Boudreau said.

Molly Arnold, director of Admissions, said that ISU probably loses students interested in coming here to other schools because of the extensive endowments that many smaller private schools have to entice students that are meeting their university needs. However, she also noted that because of ISU’s quality and affordability, it is a great package deal for students looking for the type of learning environment ISU provides.

"If we benefit from students coming here because we were more affordable than their first choice, I'm okay with that as long as the student who attends is comfortable with their decision to come to ISU.”

"I really want our students to be happy with their decision, because if they're happy then they do well, and if they do well and enjoy themselves then they will tell others about their great experience at ISU.”

"And there's a positive trickle down effect," Arnold said.
Americans don’t like chemistry?

By John Conrad
assistant editor

GSU chemistry professor Shelly Kumar wonders why there are no Americans in his class?

The Phoenix photo by Steve Schering

Provost Dr. William Lowe of Metropolitan State University, Minnesota and Dr. Daniel Julius, provost of Benedictine University, Illinois, were the final two candidates to visit GSU in the hopes of becoming its next president.

"We need to make the best of GSU's geographical advantage, being close to the city of Chicago. This area has some of the most affordable housing that could be used to bring in new faculty. Faculty is our most important resource we have and must be supported by technology. We should be a major South Suburban cultural center," he said. Dr. William Lowe, Provost at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota visited the following week. Dr. Lowe felt GSU needed to take a few action steps to take advantage of their situation.

"We need to create access to a rigorous and rewarding educational experience, we need to deepen our links to two-year colleges and share our facilities," said Lowe. "Upper division universities will continue to hold a leadership role and GSU has a hometown advantage against out of state and online learning. Tuition is rising, but GSU is still affordable and it is critical to expand our access." Lowe also cited the Metro-Alliance in Minnesota, in which Metropolitan State has an alliance with ten 2-year colleges in the twin cities area. "It is the entry point to a bachelors degree in our area."

"The academic experience is an engaged experience," added Lowe. "We are engaged with faculty, students and the community. We must be responsive to the needs and interest of the student communities."

When asked what he would do if offered the position of GSU President, Lowe responded, "I would try to learn very quickly. How do I help the university get resources and start to plan for the future?" Later that week we the fifth and last finalist Dr. Daniel Julius, Provost at Benedictine University in Lisle, met with faculty and students.

"There are two things critical to a university: one, get people to think critically, and two, the love of lifelong learning. If you don't love lifelong learning then your education is useless. We need to continually educate ourselves."

Dr. Julius also cited the need for funds and a potential for some international competition in higher education. "We need to keep expanding our funding bases and sources of funds. We also need to find out what resources the faculty needs and get it to them."

"In the 1950's Ford and IBM never imagined competition could come from China, but 50 years later competition is here. American institutions are in a similar situation and we have to think of ourselves as a high performing organization. We need to look to innovate and create to move the institution to the next level within the next decade."

Dr. Julius said it's hard to define what a leader is, but he know a few traits one needs. "Leaders listen a lot, care about the people, are honest, do things for the good of the organization or community, not for themselves and don't shy away from conflict. That's the kind of person I hope and expect I am," he said. Now the selection of the next GSU President begins.

"No decision is more critical to the future of the university than the selection of its president," stated Bruce Friesfield, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Yet guided by our strategic priorities and motivated to choose someone who will be faithful to the mission of Governors State, I am confident that we will bring this search to a successful conclusion."

Dr. Elaine Maimon, Chancellor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, was the first candidate to receive a campus visit Jan. 9-10. For more information on the candidates and the selection process, visit the presidential search site at http://www.govst.edu/presidentialsearch. 

Originaly most of the international students from India were mainly studying Computer Science. However, about three years ago Kumar has reported seeing an influx of these international students entering Chemistry and other science programs at GSU.

Kumar does not feel like this is indicative of a decline in the American student population at GSU, but rather a supplemental surge of international students from India.

Not to say this course session didn't stand out as unique, but all the other courses at GSU are interesting as well.

This is, of course, due to content, method of instruction and classroom discussions.
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GSU HOISTS FACULTY ART EXHIBIT

By Elyse Burke

contribute writer

Have you ever wondered if the people you've entrusted with your education can actually practice what they preach or if your instructors can utilize the skills they are teaching you? Well, faculty and educators had the opportunity in January to showcase their artistic talents and abilities. The Governor's State University Visual Arts Gallery featured artwork by regional art professors and educators from Jan. 15-Feb. 1.

"The show allows us the opportunity to show students what teachers can do," said Javier Chavira, Assistant Professor of Art and Gallery Director. "GSU issued an open invitation to all faculty from surrounding area colleges to submit one piece to have displayed."

The exhibit featured pieces from professors from area colleges including Moraine Valley Community College, Elmhurst College, St. Xavier University, Lewis University and South Suburban College.

"The exhibit culminated in a reception to celebrate the artists on Feb. 1 in the El-Lounge. The festivities included food and beverages and a chance to meet some of the featured artists," said Chavira.

"It's an opportunity for us to meet some new and old faculty. It helps us keep our relationships strong. Throughout the gallery the stark white of the walls was contrasted by the vitality and vivacity of the different pieces of art. Installations varying from paintings to sculpture brought the gallery to life. Thoughtful observers were commenting on the pieces and having ardent discussions about impressions, technique, meaning and context."

"I was impressed. Some of these pieces should be in a museum somewhere. I could just get lost in some of them. They're fantastic," said Jennifer Grueck, a student at Elmhurst College. "Our conversations carried out into the lounge area where the reception was being held. Observers and artists were seated around tables having intellectual conversations and enjoying each other's company. I had a lot of fun," added Michael Kuyk, a GSU undergraduate student.

The Gallery had seen a steady stream of people coming and going, and although no formal tally was taken, the guest sign-in book by the door had full pages. "Come in and see us, we have shown all the time. Venture out and discover something," said Chavira.
Art Ark

African American art courtesy of the National Museum of American Art, of the Smithsonian Institution.

www.providence.edu/afro/nmaa.htm

Edward Mitchell Bannister, 1828-1901

*Approaching Storm*, oil on canvas, 1886

Hale Woodruff, 1900-1980

*Georgia Landscape*, oil on canvas, 1935-1935

Beauford Delaney, 1901-1979

*Can Fire in the Park*, oil on canvas, 1946

Jacob Lawrence, b. 1917

*The Library*, tempera on fiberboard, 1960

John Biggers, b. 1924

*Shotgun, Third Ward #1*, tempera on canvas, 1966

Fredrick Brown, b. 1945

*Stagger Lee*, oil on canvas, 1984

To have your photo, painting, cartoon, drawing, poem, song, or short story featured in the Art Ark, please submit your work with caption to the Phoenix by stopping by the office in E1500 or email your submissions to phoenix@govst.edu
Smokin Aces: heavy action, not so much plot

By John Connal
assistant editor

How many high-caliber hit men does it take to kill one strung out, washed up, has-been, jerk, anitich, and seven-layer loser? Writer/Director Joe Carnahan (NARC) answers this question in his new action-packed ensemble, Smokin Aces.

In the film, Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven) is a sleazy Las Vegas entertainer who has gotten on the bad side of Primo Sparazzza, the last leader of the American mafia. Israel turns to the FBI for protection in exchange for his testimony against Sparazzza and his crew. Sparazzza in turn places a $1 million bounty on Israel, and hit men start coming out of the woodwork to collect. So who will collect the bounty by smokin "Aces"? Will it be the three Tremon brothers, a trio of punk rock, degenerate misfits (Chris Pine, Kevin Durand and Maury Sterling)? Or perhaps torture specialist Pasquale Acosta (Nestor Carbonell)?

Maybe master of disguise Lazlo Soot (Tommy Flanagan) will collect the bounty. Or Georgia Sykes and Sharice Watters (Alicia Keys and Taraji P. Hanson) may bring Israel down. That is of course if they can get to them before bail bondsmen Jack Dupree, "Pistol" Pete Deeks, and Hollie Elmore (Ben Affleck, Peter Berg, and Martin Henderson) bring him back to Vegas. Can Israel's security team possibly protect him from seven of the world's most deadly assassins and a trio of bumbling bail bondsmen? Will two federal agents (Ryan Reynolds and Ray Liotta) save the FBI's case by getting to Israel before someone pours bullets in him?

Well, you're going to have to go see the movie to find out! This movie is full of non-stop action sequences intermingled with spoofs of comedy, as this unlikely band of characters meet up for a climactic battle atop the Nomad Hotel in Lake Tahoe. Surprisingly, my favorite pair of killers in this film are Keys and Hanson as liberated women turned film fatales. They pulled off the part convincingly and contributed their fair share of laughs. Especially Keys, who I hope to see back on the silver screen soon. Also, Jason Bateman was excellent in the movie as lawyer Rip Reed. His over the top, manic performance was one of the best in the film, despite the fact that he probably received only about five-minutes of screen time.

I had a couple big problems with the movie. There are so many unique characters in the film, that writer Carnahan doesn't take enough time introducing them. It's hard to care for, or be drawn in by, a character you know so little about.

The end of the film was also borderline ridiculous, with a ten-minute exposition by FBI agent Stanley Locke (Andy Garcia). If you have to spend ten minutes explaining the end of the film to the audience, you probably didn't do a good job wrapping things up.

Despite some obvious drawbacks, I thought this movie was a highly stylish, action-packed romp. It's definitely a guy's movie (lot of action, not so much story), and is a lot of fun.

I give this film 2½ stars out of 4, and recommend it to everyone who wants to see an off the wall action movie without having to think too much in the process.

---

20 Questions with...

Name? Marty Brooks
What do you do at GSU? I'm a public service worker. I restock the bathrooms, I clean, I clean some more, shovel a little snow, do a lot of walking.
How long have you been at GSU? 11 months.
What's your favorite color? Green.
Best movie ever made? Forrest Gump...it's got everything. Comedy, tragedy, romance.
People who know you say you're what? Easygoing.
If you were an animal, which one would you be? A dog.
What's your biggest fear? Something happening to my children.
Do you have any pets? My roommate has a basset hound named Max.
Who's your favorite Bond? Oh, Sean Connery.
What's your life's motto? Respect people and listen to people and love everyone.
Complete this sentence. I'd be rich if I had a nickel every time I...? Laughed.
Who's a childhood hero of yours? I would say my sister.
What's the meaning of life? Compassion. It gets back to what I said before. Compassion, respect, and love.
By the time this paper is done, the Super Bowl will be over. Who will have won and by how much? The Bears by 3 points.
Three words that best describe you? Simple, liberal and compassionate.

Marty Brooks

What would we find in your music collection? You would find Moody Blues, Neil Young. I've got everything from Sarah McLachlan, to the Beatles.
Who's your favorite Bond? Oh, Sean Connery.
What's your life's motto? Respect people and listen to people and love everyone.
Complete this sentence. I'd be rich if I had a nickel every time I...? Laughed.
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Three words that best describe you? Simple, liberal and compassionate.
Hillary talks tough on Iraq

By Neal Sauerberg
The Daily Iowan (U. Iowa)

(U-WIRE) CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa -- In a crowded home in southeastern Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., acknowledged that wherever she goes, her work attracts a lot of attention from people across the political spectrum.

"I do seem to engender strong feelings, both positive and negative," she said. The Jan. 27 stop in Cedar Rapids was part of a statewide campaign trip that marked her first visit to Iowa since 2003. In her two-day tour of the Hawkeye State, Clinton emphasized to voters her stances on various foreign-policy issues, while advocating for universal health care and touting her leadership strategies.

In the coming weeks in Congress, she said, she plans to work with members of both political parties to create a statement of disapproval about President Bush's decision to raise the number of American troops in Iraq.

The senator said she supports some Democrats' call to put a stop to Bush's planned troop increase in Iraq by withholding congressional funding. Yet, she said, she doesn't favor a total freeze on financing the war. Her comments on the conflict also carried over into how America should deal with its allies.

"I do want to cut off funding for the Iraqi army because it's not doing its part," Clinton told The Daily Iowan. "We aren't going to be finding forces to be part of a sectarian war."

Meanwhile, when questioned about how to best deal with Iran, Clinton said Bush made a major mistake by "outsourcing" diplomacy to Europe and the international community.

The senator wrapped up her stop to Iowa by conversing with Democratic supporters in Davenport on Sunday morning.

In Cedar Rapids, Dale Todd, the father of an epileptic child, held back tears while praising the senator for supporting the Lifespan Respite Care Act.

"Before the bill passed, there was not much money in the [federal] budget for epilepsy research," Todd said.

The bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., received Congressional approval in December. It aims to help disabled Americans and their caregivers by providing states with more local options and funding.

Despite her efforts to gain support from Iowans, Clinton must make up ground if she hopes to win the state in 2008, recent poll numbers show.

A Zogby telephone poll conducted on Jan. 15 and 16 put the senator fourth among prospects in Iowa with 14 percent. The poll showed that 45 percent of likely caucus-goers said they would support Clinton in her run for her party's nomination. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., leads the Zogby polls at 27 percent.

The library is still looking for Friends

Your donation will contribute to the enhancement of the services and products offered by the GSU Library. Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law and will also count toward the GSU staff campaign held in February. The first meeting of the Friends group is scheduled for February 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Contact Lydia Morrow Ruetten at ext. 4116 for more information.

Let us know!

Has the library offered a service or had a product that you found helpful? Has a particular resource helped you out of a jam? What about being able to do your research at home? If the library has impacted your life we would like to hear from you. For a free gift, send your testimonial to Lydia Morrow Ruetten in the Library or at L-Morrow@govst.edu.
An apology can only do so much

By Robert Wolf

On the 15th of January of this year, a white lawyer from Virginia's House of Delegates said that black citizens of America should "get over" the issue of slavery instead of seeking an apology.

Frank D. Hargrove, 80, went on to ask, "Are we going to force Jews to apologize for killing Christ?"

The reaction to Hargrove's comments stemming from a resolution to offer an official apology from the state of Virginia for its participation in slavery was not surprising.

Black citizens, many of whom have descendents who were owned as property and whose subsequent families suffered from the post-slavery attitudes of many whites in America did not warm up to Hargrove's suggestion.

Others, including ordinary white citizens and even some Virginia lawmakers who gaped at Hargrove's comments wanted nothing to do with his opinions. "I think your skin was a little too thin," he retorted to one such gawking lawmaker.

Those comments made by Hargrove on, of all days, Martin Luther King's birthday and not too long before Black History Month may, for many, spell the necessity of keeping in mind the illness of slavery and remembering the contributions of black America to our nation.

But isn't there something missing here? We observe Black History month and the contributions of black Americans to our society as a whole because throughout much of American general history, those contributions have been ignored or marginalized.

Barack Obama has the audacity of hope

By Matt Wisniewski

Daily Toreador (Texas Tech)

(U-WIRE) LUBBOCK, Texas -- Last summer's most anticipated speaker in the Congressional Intern Lecture Series was a senator for less than two years -- but his inexperience did not warm up to Hargrove's attitude needed to compromise, and our country is hurting as a result.

History has what historians call "historical inertia." Basically, it means the attitudes, beliefs, programs and actions of a government or society gain enough momentum that when those factors are done away with or lose much of their support formally, there still lingers some of that sentiment informally.

The idea is similar to a train that puts on the brakes. It does not stop right away.

Jim Crow laws are a perfect example of this. Even after the formal laws supporting segregation were ended, people still held certain beliefs about black citizens. Those beliefs are hard to dislodge.

Furthermore, although formal institutions have in some cases abandoned the practice of formal racism and segregation in America, they have done little to make substantial amendments for those actions, actions which have clearly held back a people not given the same advantages to compete as their fellow citizens.

Affirmative Action was supposed to help heal those wounds and help bridge the gap made by government-supported racism. However, even now we see the backlash against such programs, even through it by itself. Affirmative Action could never alone alone crate parity among the socio-economic and educational levels of black and white citizens.

An apology for slavery is nice. An apology for segregation in addition is even better.

But words don't create infrastructure. Words don't build schools. Words don't hire more teachers and more police. Words only go so far.

After that is the actual work of making sure all our American citizens have what they need to be successful.

If we want to truly celebrate Black History Month and give it real meaning and purpose, then we should begin the work of making sure all our people have the tools they need to make this country an even better place to live in ten, twenty or thirty years down the road.

What we need to "get over" is the idea that everyone can simply pull themselves up by their bootstraps without consideration of what economic and social conditions one comes from.

People are, of course, ultimately responsible for their own lives, but they can't do it alone and the significant disparity between black and white citizens does have something to do with our shameful, racist past.

We need to recognize it, take responsibility and bring everyone up.

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Crossword Answers

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Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by which you can be reached.
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18th Annual National African-American Read-In
Call For Readers!

Join over a million readers in celebration of Black History Month—we are looking for readers to participate in the African American Read-In. Select an excerpt of a book, poem, or other literary work to read by an African American author.

Monday, February 5, 2007, 6:00-8:00 p.m in Sherman Recital Hall, Governors State University. Please email r-muhammad@govst.edu or call 708-534-6974 to sign up or receive additional information. All are invited to participate.

Distinguished Lecture Series
Dr. Peng Ning, Associate Professor

Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., Room D34115
Dr. Ning is a top teacher and researcher in computing security. He is supervising and has supervised dozens of Ph.D students. He teaches “Information System Security”, “Network Security” and “Advanced Network Security”. For more information Contact Clare Tang x-tang@govst.edu

Master of Social Work Information Session: February 10
Join faculty and staff from the College of Health Professions to learn about the Master of Social Work Program. The information session will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the E-Lounge. Call 708.235.2178 for information.

Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday Observed: February 12
All university offices will be closed and classes will not be held on Monday, February 12 in observance of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

National Board Certification Information Session at GSU
An information session on National Board Certification and a graduate level pre-candidacy course will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at Governors State University in University Park.

Educators are invited to learn about the process and benefits of earning National Board Certification as well as the importance and advantages of the 3-hour graduate level course to be offered at the university in spring/summer, 2007.

The information session will be held in room D34050, on the university’s main campus, 1 University Parkway, University Park. For more information and to register for this free session, call (708) 235-7579.

If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call Business Manager, Sylvia Mcghee at 708-534-3068, or e-mail her at phoenixad@govst.edu.

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.