2-19-2007

Phoenix, 2007-02-19

Student Life

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Nice day for a walk

Unseasonable weather plagued much of the northern United States, including Illinois where up to 10 inches of snowfall was recorded in parts of the Chicagoland area.

Deadline for tuition waiver applications is right around the corner

By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

For those students hoping to score free tuition for the spring/summer term the deadline for tuition waiver applications is fast approaching.

Tuition waiver applications are located in each of the four college offices: Education, Business and Public Administration, Arts and Sciences, and Health Professions. Each college gives out nine waivers, three for undergraduate students, three for graduate students and three for minority graduate students. The waivers will cover all tuition expenses for the semester that they are awarded.

In order to receive a waiver there are several criteria: a student must have a job that helps pay the tuition. Conrad has got the Oscar picks.

by John Conrad
assistant editor

Last Fall, a partnership began between Harper College, a community college in Palatine, and Northern Illinois University (NIU), a four-year university in DeKalb County. The partnership allows RNs, who are currently licensed and have been employed within the past five years, to complete a bachelor’s degree in nursing at Harper.

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Also, the pilot would not be in direct competition with any local four-year university. Finally the program is limited by a four-year sunset clause, after which the state legislature would have to authorize the program’s continuation.

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See ‘Four Year’ on page 5

GSU a four-year school?

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What can Brown (or any other company) do for your tuition?

Elyse Burke
contributing writer

Are you feeling the pressure of having to balance tuition payments and regular everyday expenses? Would you like to have your tuition paid for? Well some companies are now offering tuition assistance to their employees to help in increasing employee satisfaction.

These types of programs are not benefiting employees, they're valuable to the company implementing them," said Dean Schroeder, Director of Education Assistance at UPS's Hodgkin's facility.

"We are encouraging our workforce to pursue a higher education, which will benefit the company. Tuition assistance programs are a type of employee benefit program in which an employer reimburses its employees for the costs associated with continuing education, such as tuition, fees, and books.

Approximately 90 percent of employers offer financial assistance to their workforce in the form of tuition assistance or related practices such as on-site training and admission into professional seminars and/or conferences, according to a 1999 survey conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management.

Companies that provide their employees with tuition assistance are building a more educated work force by encouraging workers to pursue higher education. Tuition assistance programs can also provide companies with an effective recruiting tool, enabling them to attract highly motivated people. Finally, tuition assistance can lead to reduced employee turnover and increased loyalty to the company.

The concept of tuition assistance isn't new. The military has been offering this same type of program since June 1944, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemembers' Readjustment Act, more commonly known as the "GI Bill." Although the concept of the GI Bill has evolved over the years, the theory is still the same; the government is taking care of its soldiers by aiding them with school and other financial needs.

Today, one of the more prominent companies offering this incentive is United Parcel Service (UPS). The international package delivery company has used tuition assistance for recruitment and incentives for continuing education. The program is called "Earn and Learn," and it is a student financial assistance package offered at select UPS locations to students working at the company.

"I got my Master's degree using UPS's Earn and Learn. I was able to go to college and still afford to send my kids to school," said Schroeder.

Since 1999, UPS has paid out more than $47 million in tuition assistance and has helped more than 30,000 student employees attend college. The students are eligible for Earn and Learn the day they are hired and benefits are pro-rated accordingly if a student is hired mid-semester. The assistance program gives part-time non-management employees $3,000 per calendar year and $25 per credit hour. For part-time management employees, the benefits are increased to $4,000 a year.

"I came to UPS because of their tuition program. I would never have been able to afford to go to college without this program," said Michael Kury, a part-time management employee at United Parcel Service (UPS).

While these totals don't usually cover the total amount per semester that students pay in tuition and books, it is enough to help alleviate some of the financial strain. In addition to tuition assistance opportunities, employees at UPS also can count on a regular pay check and health benefits.

For anyone looking for some help paying for college, options are available, they just take some research.

Without saddling yourself under the added responsibilities of student loans, company-offered tuition assistance programs are the logical way to go.

"I started working at Primecon, which later became US Cellular, when I was in high school. I wasn't even thinking about how I was going to pay for college, let alone that my company would pay for it," said Chris Connolly, an accountant for US Cellular.

"Now, I have my Bachelor's degree in Accounting. And you know what they paid for it all, and gave me a promotion when I graduated," he added.

Some other companies offering these types of programs are: DHL, General Motors, Verizon Wireless, US Cellular, and FedEx. The programs and stipulations vary by company. Just contact the company or research them on-line to find out more.

Some employment opportunities and their tuition incentives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Yearly Maximum</th>
<th>Books: $25 per course</th>
<th>Fees: $250 per semester</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Motors</td>
<td>Yearly option of $4,600 with an optional $1,000 advance for the next year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHL</td>
<td>Yearly maximum: $1,500 for part-time employees $3,000 for full-time employees</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>Up to 90% of approved expenses for educational and vocational courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Army</td>
<td>Up to $72,900 in the active army and up to $23,724 in the Reserves, with additional expenses covered for qualified individuals</td>
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Governors State University
Student Senate General Elections
Winter 2007, (January 29- February 1)

All other positions not listed resulted in a tie. In the event of a tie, the election of a representative will be decided by the Student Senate Bylaws and Election Committee in conjunction with the Director of Student Involvement.

Board of Trustees (BOT) Representative (1)
Elizabeth Renee Green* 336
Joseph S. Brown 189

Illinois Board of Higher Education – Student Advisory Committee (IBHE) Representative (1)
Lakia Colquitt* 202
Christopher Otten 140
Shawn St. Clair 86

College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) Senators (2)
Laura Capetillo* 82
Tessy O. Imarenezor* 73

College of Education (CoE) Senators (2)
La'Shree Golden* 74
Marion Kaes* 73

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Senators (2)
Karen Mayo* 53
Tiffany McClarence* 49
Rosa Moran 44

College of Health Professions (CHP) Senators (2)
Joseph S. Brown* 128
Kevin Drucker* 90

Student at Large (SAL) Senators (10)
Rosa Moran (write-in)* 10
Latoya Jones (write-in)* 4
Homer Alexander (write-in)* 3
Larry Bledsoe (write-in)* 3
Christopher Otten (write-in)* 3
Shawn St. Clair (write-in)* 3
Vincent Gutierrez (write-in)* 2
Erin Miller (write-in)* 2
Shecanna Woomer (write-in)* 2

Part-Time Package Handlers
- Ears $8.50-$9.50 per hour, with increases of 50c
- after 90 days and 50c after one year
- Consistent Work Schedule
- Paid Vacations
- Weekly Paychecks
- Weekends & Holidays Off
- Excellent Benefits (Medical/Life & 401K)

Learn more about Part-Time Package Handler opportunities at the UPS Hodgkins facility (0-55 & 2-294 - South Suburbs) and the UPS Earn and Learn Program offered through Governors State University today! Please contact Todd Oliver at 708-387-1835 or visit: www.upsjobs.com/chicago

Academic Computing Workshops
For Faculty, Staff, Students & Community Members
GSU Library - Winter 2007

Register by submitting the online registration form or in person at the Reference Desk. Walk-ins welcome.
Address all questions to Helen Benos, h-benos@govst.edu
Coordinator of Academic Computing Workshops
708-235-7514

Workshops are free. Duration of workshops may vary.

View Workshop Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Formatting an APA Style Paper</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007</td>
<td>APA Style Citations RefWorks</td>
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<td>Sharepoint</td>
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<td>PowerPoint Basics</td>
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<td>Friday, March 2, 2007</td>
<td>Basic Excel</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 6, 2007</td>
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<td>Friday, March 9, 2007</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 14, 2007</td>
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Equal Opportunity Employer
Program guidelines apply
**Pan's Labyrinth**

Six Nominations: Art Direction, Cinematography, Best Foreign Language Film, Makeup, Original Score, and Original Screenplay.

This original story is actually comprised of two stories. When the film begins, a little girl and her mother go live with a brutal and sadistic Captain following a fascist victory in 1944 Spain. One aspect of the film is the story of the rebel armies fighting against the Fascist regime, while the other surrounds the little girl's fantasy world, created to help escape the grim reality of her new war torn home.

Just about every aspect of this film has been praised by critics, which is why I was surprised that it wasn't in the Best Picture category, despite being in Spanish. I loved every aspect of this film, from the cinematography, to stunning visuals, and a captivating story. This was my favorite film of 2006.

**Dreamgirls**

Eight Nominations: Best Supporting Actor-Eddie Murphy, Best Supporting Actress-Jennifer Hudson, Art Direction, Costume Design, Sound Mixing, and three nominations for Original Song.

Adapted from a 1981 Broadway musical, Dreamgirls follows the career of a trio of female black singers (Beyonce Knowles, Anika Rose, and Jennifer Hudson). When the trio gets their big break singing backup for James "Thunder" Early (Eddie Murphy) they begin to understand the true cost of fame, as greed, hate, and romance become intertwined.

Critics felt the film's musical sequences stood out, as being both cinematic and theatrical. Much buzz has been generated about Hudson's (former American Idol contestant) performance, especially noteworthy is the performance of Rinko Kikuchi, as a deaf-mute Japanese teenager desperately searching for human contact. No confusion about it, Dreamgirls will be a top contender at this year's awards.

**Blood Diamond**

Five Nominations: Best Actor-Leonardo DiCaprio, Best Supporting Actor-Djimon Hounsou, Film Editing, Original Score, and Sound Mixing.

This film follows a farmer (Djimon Hounsou), aided by a South African mercenary (Leonardo DiCaprio), as he attempts to reunite with his family in a civil war-torn 1990's Sierra Leone. The movie is extremely violent and powerf

**The Devil Wears Prada**

Two Nominations: Best Actress-Meryl Streep and Costume Design.

The Devil Wears Prada is a stylishly directed, action-packed American mob movie. In the film the FBI keeps tabs on a mob boss (Eddie Murphy, Dreamgirls) into his crew. However, the mob manages to stay ahead of the Feds.

The film tells the story of the rebel armies fighting against the Fascist regime, while the other surrounds the little girl's fantasy world, created to help escape the grim reality of her new war torn home.

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'Four Year' Reform

NIU

Opponents include public four-year universities, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and members of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Four-year universities fear that if the pilot program is implemented into the state's education system it will lower their enrollment numbers. They also fear that this program would require additional state funding, therefore reducing the annual funding they receive. In response to the proposed program, the IBHE and the ICCB have created a task force to further study the issue.

The Baccalaureate Access Task Force has been created and assigned to study the potential impacts to a panel.

The task force presented an initial draft report to the panel, according to the IBHE. Though the task force agreed there was an unmet need for higher education in Illinois, it did not recommend Harper's pilot. As the study moved along, the task force found some advantages to Harper's proposal, including fulfilling the mission of a community college by addressing workforce needs and allowing students a smooth transition from lower to upper division courses.

However, the task force found several disadvantages as well. These include the need for additional state funding and diverting resources from preexisting programs. The task force also felt this program could greatly impact the structure and mission of community colleges, and could potentially harm the relationship between these colleges and their counterparts. In the third meeting in Springfield, Harper and its supporters were given an opportunity to defend their case to the panel.

Harper president Dr. Robert Breuder represented the college, and was accompanied by Dr. Carl Kottler, president of St. Petersburg College in Florida, and Dr. Thomas Furlong, VP of Baccalaureate Programs at St. Petersburg.

Breuder opened by informing the panel that Illinois's communities have changed, and he feels community colleges should follow suit by expanding their missions. "It doesn't have to be Harper, the concept just has to be launched somewhere in the state," replied Breuder when asked why Harper was the best choice for the pilot. "We just happen to be the ones willing to give it a shot."

One concern voiced by the panel involved the program's sunset clause. It was felt that if the program were proved unsuccessful, the degrees of the students involved in the pilot would be of less value than a traditionally earned degree. "Any degree earned by a student in this program will be just as valuable as a degree earned from NIU," replied Breuder. If this pilot program is enacted and eventually approved, what would be the effect on existing institutions? Is it possible that enrollment at Illinois senior institutions will drop, requiring them to compete with their previous feeder-schools for enrollment?

Governors State University (GSU) could be one of the institutions potentially effected by this program. If Moraine Valley, one of GSU's largest feeder-schools, and other area community colleges offered programs similar to Harper’s.

"If community colleges in our area decided to follow suit, there would be increased competition for students," Chuck Connolly, GSU’s Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, commented on the issue. "There are just too many obstacles at this time to expect something will happen in the near future," Connolly stated about why he isn't immediately concerned with the issue. Connolly feels there is not broad enough support for the program, and due to the resistance from public and private universities, it would take time to gather the necessary political support.

Other formidable obstacles to overcome are the increasing cost of faculty, staff, and facilities, and the rigorous accreditation standards set by the state, according to Connolly.

Connolly recalls that over the years that various administrators, faculty, and deans, have proposed turning GSU into a four-year institution by adding freshmen and sophomores. Every time this proposal has been rejected due to many of the reasons listed above.

"Any such initiative on our part would jeopardize the good working relationships we have with community colleges today," Connolly cited as another reason for GSU rejecting these proposals.

It seems unlikely that if Harper’s plan is enacted there will be any immediate ramifications on GSU. However, this plan could also potentially and permanently alter Illinois’s higher education system. Whether these changes would be negative or positive, only time will tell.

20 Questions with...

Name? Sarah Appel

What do you do at GSU? I'm director of Student Involvement.

How long have you been here at GSU? Since July 8, 2005.

How did you come to work for student involvement? Um, I was working at SouthEast Missouri State University...and I wanted more experience. I was looking to gain more managerial experience.

What's your favorite color? Black

Cats or dogs? Dogs. Italian greyhounds.

If you could know any foreign language right now, what would it be and why? French, because it's part of my heritage.

What's one thing you could change about your job? I wish I was more visible to the students so they know who I am.

One thing you're very afraid of? Balloons.

What's your favorite type of food? I would say things done on the grill.

What would you find in your music collection? I've got Pearl Jam, Rear View Mirror. I also have Nine Inch Nails, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Taylor, Godsmack, Metallica and Nora Jones. So it's a wide spectrum.

Director of Student Involvement

Sarah Appel

What's one thing you wish you could do over again? My undergraduate career.

What one word describes your high school years? I'd say miserable. Yeah, miserable.

One television show you must watch? Rome. I love that show.

One thing that gets on your nerves? People talking on the cell phone at inappropriate times.

What's your favorite book? Gone with the wind.

Those who know you best say what about you? I'm dependable.

What's your most cherished possession? A photograph of my grandpa and I when I was four years old...just this one little photograph.

Best advice a parent ever gave you? There is nothing you should be doing after midnight.

Finally, three words that best describe you? Hard-working, likes to have a good time, and...wow, uh, I don't know. If I think of anything else, I'll let you know.
Problems with a paper?

by Robert Wolff

It’s never a pleasant situation for a student: you’re about to be handed back a written assignment you spent considerable time on, that counts for a considerable portion of your grade that is considerably dripping with red ink from your professors comments about corrections that need to be made. What if you could do it over again and have someone take a look at your paper? That’s what the writing Center at GSU is for.

“The Writing Center is here to help students with their writing,” stated the center’s coordinator, Becky Nugent. However, “we don’t proofread your paper,” she adds.

Nugent says what people at the Writing Center do is look for patterns of a mistake in a student’s paper, point out one example to the student, and let them search for the rest of the same errors, fixing it themselves.

While she says there are always problems with grammar, the biggest problem is often organization and focus.

“Grammar is usually the last thing we look at... I'll often see papers where the student has an issue to write about, discusses one example of their thesis, introduces a second, and then comes back to the first.”

No matter the error, the process for helping the students is usually the same.

“What we do is we say, ‘You made this error, this is how to fix this error,’ and we then send them to a website to learn more about the problem.”

The website, www.govst.edu/owl, has links to help the student with formatting an APA style paper, help with a research paper, help with writing, and other APA and MLA help. It also has a link with available tutor hours and a number to call to set an appointment.

And if students are working on a paper that might have specific requirements to their major, the website has links for a host of academic disciplines that offer everything from books and journals that can add more information to a student’s paper, to other web resources related to the student’s area of study.

In addition, there is link where the student can submit a paper for revision suggestions. As Nugent states, however, they are only suggestions.

“The student does not have to take (the suggestions).”

However, she cautions that can lead to some problems for the students down the road with professors.

“We have some students who come in because their professors sent them here and they resubmit the paper, the professor says ‘Hey, I sent my student here and they’re still making the same mistakes.’”

Nugent says that students don’t always take the tutor’s advice on paper revisions.

“Maybe they felt they way was better, or maybe they simply failed to follow through on the corrections.”

Tutors Joy Murzyinski and Megan Burke also advise students to not come for help the day of or day before a paper is due, which sometimes happens at the center.

“It happens... and all I can do is give them the bad news early,” adds Nugent.

For more information or to make an appointment, students can call 708-534-4508. Appointments can be made to meet with a tutor Monday through Friday, 10 to 7 p.m.

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 LMorrow@govst.edu.
By Eugene Lee
Daily Californian (UC-Berkeley)

(3-U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — Columnist George Will had some Valentine’s Day advice for Barack Obama: “If you get the girl up on her tiptoes, you should kiss her.”

The electorate is on its tiptoes because (he) has collaborated with the creation of a tsunami of excitement about him.” Collective conscience, the United States of America.” In our time of Cold War paranoia dominating the political scene, Kennedy found temporary victory in political momentum. But amidst the turmoil, Kennedy optimistically implored the nation to “ask what you can do for your country.” With all due respect to NASA and the Peace Corps, Kennedy’s greatest contribution was the restoration of the belief in a broader identity amidst a period of tumultuous change.

Fast forward more than forty years: Barack Obama enters a presidential race in a country jaded by years of war and corruption.

We are disguised: According to an AP poll, 68 percent of Americans do not approve of the nation’s current path and desire change. While polarized party identities have solidified extreme bases and isolated the average American, Obama evokes the unifying spirit of JFK by reminding us that “there is no liberal America and a conservative America -- there is the United States of America.” In our time of national pain, Obama has assumed the role of a political healer.

Where many petty politicians find temporary victory in political strife, Obama challenges the petty “politics of cynicism” with the politics of hope.” Obama’s motivation is non-partisan, appealing to ideologies in our nation’s time of need to abandon their trivial identities in favor of greater allegiances.

Pundits will counter my praise with two pedantic responses: that he’s both inexperienced and young. But these criticisms are short-sighted and far from insurmountable.

For those who question whether Obama has enough experience to have good judgment, allow me to remind everyone that it was Obama who had the wisdom back in 2003 to oppose a war with widespread Congressional support.

Arguments for the age issue succumb to historical pitholes: JFK and Clinton utilized their youth to provide a fresh outlook on politics sorely desired by a weary electorate.

The greatest challenge for the senator is to borrow a concept from physics, transforming that potential energy he has accumulated and redirected it into the kinetic energy of a tangible campaign.

Obama’s political legacy will come down not to charisms but substance. Whether that happens or not is speculation; but from an immediate standpoint, Obama has already contributed to the national debate.

Amidst the thousands cheering in Springfield, it became clear that Obama has gotten the United States excited about politics again by rekindling our belief in our personal efficacy. He might not be able to walk on water, but Barack Obama is messianic in his own right.

In a time where faith in politics has flattened, Obama has begun resurrecting our hopes for a better future, uniting citizens under a common cause -- much like a young idealistic senator from New England did more than forty years ago.

The Kennedy Connection

A Statement from Black College Wire on the Suspension of The Gramblinite

Administrators at Grambling University choose to suspend, then un-suspend, publication of The Gramblinite because of allegations of plagiarism, errors and the general "poor quality" of the paper.

The action of shutting down a student publication at a public university is serious and dangerous.

First Amendment issues aside, silencing the student press for any length of time is an act of punishment against the entire student body.

At many institutions, including Grambling, students pay fees to receive the paper, and they rely upon it for news and information. The school paper is an important means of communication.

However, accuracy and ethics are critical and must be addressed through training and education, not punitive edicts and recrimination.

Responding to Censorship is available at the SPLC site and addresses many of these issues. While the students may need to hone their editing skills, the Grambling administrators need training on student press law.

Administrators, faculty, student leaders and the newspaper staff should work together to construct an ongoing process to ensure improvement of the paper while upholding the rights of the staff and the adviser.

Even at professional newspapers, quality suffers when newsrooms are short-staffed and underfunded. In college newsrooms, staff members are often seen working late hours in cramped quarters on outdated equipment.

The students who take on these responsibilities often sacrifice grades, social life and outside jobs because of their passion for reporting the news. They are to be admired and encouraged, not discouraged and humiliated.

The Gramblinite has a strong history of producing first-rate journalists, including some who are now leaders in the profession.

This is an opportunity for them to "give back" to their institution by offering to help.

It is also an opportunity for local journalists and members of national organizations to help not only Grambling’s newspaper staff, but student journalists at numerous colleges and universities.

This incident is not unique. Every time an attempt at censorship occurs, it serves to enlighten and educate.

Bottom line, that’s what college is all about.

Training, Not Punishment

A Manual for Student Media Advisers on
PORTFOLIO WORKSHOPS
Learn about developing a portfolio of prior learning to apply toward your B.O.G. B.A. degree requirements at the next Portfolio Workshop. The two-hour session includes an explanation of the process and what you are expected to submit to earn credit. The next workshop is Saturday, March 3, 2007 from 10:00 to Noon.
Registration for a workshop can be arranged by calling 708-534-4092. The cost for this session is $40.00 and will include materials to get you started. For additional portfolio information, please contact Monica Miller at 708-534-2223 or email bog@govst.edu.

GSU HOSTS JURIED STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
The exhibition features the creative work of students from the Black Hawk Community College, College of DuPage, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Kennedy-King College, Lincoln Land Community College, South Suburban College, and Triton College. Bastien Desriches Doria, professor of photography at Governors State University, judged the submissions.
A reception to celebrate the show and the artists and present the merit awards is scheduled on March 2, from 1 to 3 p.m., in E-Lounge, next to the Visual Arts Gallery.
The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The Visual Arts Gallery is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (708) 534-4021.

Kankakee Education Center
Governors State University is pleased to announce the opening of our new Kankakee Education Center at 187 S. Schuyler, Kankakee, IL (across from the Kankakee Public Library).
Upcoming events at KEC:
Tuesday, February 20, 2007 - Information Session for the B.A> degree in Criminal Justice - Room 310 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27, 2007 - University Open house at Kankakee Education Center - Room 310 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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.