Fagan bids farewell to GSU

By Anthony F. Sanchez, Design Editor

"Education equals Empowerment" was one of many themes at the 3rd annual 2007 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Conference (pronounced Ah-Hee) held at the Orange County Costa Mesa Hilton.

There was such a vibrant collection of minds from the Latino community; I was not only proud but honored that our people have made such great accolades (as many ethnic groups that have migrated to the United States) throughout the many struggles we have overcome.

Dr. Loui Olivas, AAHHE President/Host delivered an impact of powerful guest speakers, lecturers, scientists, artists, and scholars like none I have ever experienced.

This year's 2007 Hispanic Graduate Fellows included 25 recipients ranging from STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and non-STEM fields from across the country; Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington, all of which have had amazing journeys.

The conference focused on very pressing concerns; knowledge gap, retention, and poverty. Throughout the twentieth century the Hispanic population has steadily increased making up the largest minority group in the US. These significant changes on the horizon can no longer be ignored. The success of Hispanic youth depends on the growing demands of leadership in post secondary education, faculty members and administrators in our colleges and universities.

The vision of AAHHE is clear; "As a new organization with roots in the Hispanic Caucus of the former American Association for Higher Education, AAHHE is committed to the advancement of education for Hispanics - this will be carried out in its activities within the framework of a new vision of what it means to be a responsible and active member of a democratic society - the new vision promotes engagement by everyone in education recognizing that while educational institutions are imperfect, it is still possible for many Hispanic students to succeed in them as they currently exist and as they will exist after they are improved," noted President Olivas.

The alarming statistics speak for themselves on a grand scale, which is already acknowledged by the US Department of Education, Governors State University, its consortium of universities in the State of Illinois, and the Latino Center for Excellence Directed by Dr. Catalina Ramos-Hernandez.

The retention of Latino students graduating from four-year institutions is stagnant at best. Efforts from such programs as TRIO, McNair Scholars, Upward Bound, Association of Latin American Students (A.L.A.S.), Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture (CLIC) and other US federal programs to increase access to higher education for economically disadvantaged students are making tremendous strides in reversing these statistics, however, more implementation has to be introduced for the needs of these programs to dramatically make an effect.

See 'AAHHE' Page 3

By Steve Schering, Phoen ix Staff Reporter

Dr. Stuart I. Fagan, Governors State University's president for the last seven years, had a chance to say goodbye at a reception held in his honor May 23.

Fagan officially retired and Dr. Elaine Maines, former Chancellor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, will take his place.

"I've been president for seven years. Most university presidents don't make it that long," Fagan said. "Most presidents aren't blessed with a board and staff like I was. I am very grateful for all the support the trustees have given me.

The Hall of Governors was packed with faculty, staff, friends and co-workers of Dr. Fagan, complete with a three-piece band filling the hall with music.

Dr. Fagan will now be taking part in a new organization, which will focus on education reform in Illinois.

"We will focus on how to reduce the academic achievement gap," said Fagan, citing that lower income families are being shorted by higher education.

"We want to close this gap so that people of all backgrounds can get an excellent education. This will enable them to do better for themselves and their families.

When he first arrived at GSU in 2001, Fagan faced many accreditation issues, as well as the task of trying to raise the profile of the university.

"I think the university is a lot more known than it used to be," said GSU professor Marilyn Ylka.

"He's done a lot of PR work not just in the south suburbs, but in the entire Chicagoland area. When I started here 15 years ago people didn't know what GSU was,"

In addition to fixing those problems, Fagan has also gotten the university funds it desperately needed.

"He represented us as well in Springfield," said Professor Michael Pardy.

"He's got the school extra money and he's given us a high profile.

Fagan and his wife Dr. Ona Stinch-Fagan, who is also leaving the university, were presented with two wooden chairs bearing the GSU logo on the front, and a plaque with their names on the back as going away presents.

Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Jack Beuropri was at GSU when Fagan first came into office. He has noticed much improvement at the university under Fagan's watch.

"He has made strides in enhancing the prestige of the university," Beuropri said. "We've improved in terms of academic excellence. We're in the state legislature when GSU was created and it was a dream come true to provide affordable education. [GSU] has grown to be much more than that.

During his time at the podium, Fagan relayed one of his favorite stories to the audience. He was sitting in the cafeteria when a student approached him and asked if she could give him a hug.

"The student kept saying 'Thank you, thank you,'" Fagan said. "I was flabbergasted, I asked why she was thankful and she said because she could get a college degree and was thankful. She worked and was able to attend classes after work and GSU was the only university to give her aid.

"I can reminisce forever, but I prefer to look forward," added Fagan. "It's really time to pass the baton, thank you very much."
GSU student to showcase room on HGTV in fall

with a unique design for her Orland Park bedroom.

"The entry way has been made to look like a jungle," Lee said. "The room opens up and the jungle disappears. It is like an Indiana Jones movie, just a fun environment."


The room is complete with hanging vines, murals, fabricated stone and architectural pieces. Areas of the walls have various plants and trees pouring in through the cracks in the stone.

Lee has also had the help and support of her family through the 2 and-a-half years she has been working on this project.

George Gray, host of new HGTV show, and crew member visit GSU campus.

By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

With clutter like textbooks, papers, book bags and clothes many students may feel their rooms are as difficult to navigate as a dense jungle. For Governors State student Rita Lee, she wants it that way.

Lee, an undergraduate psychology student, has come up with a unique design for her Orland Park bedroom.

"The entry way has been made to look like a jungle," Lee said. "The room opens up and the jungle disappears. It is like an Indiana Jones movie, just a fun environment."

With her adventurous personality Lee, who is an avid scuba diver, decided to bring an ancient temple theme to her room.

"I knew I would spend a lot of time studying in there and wanted it to be fun," Lee said. "I just wanted to bring a little adventure to the house. I tried to picture what an ancient room would look like intact and then I aged it."

The room is complete with hanging vines, murals, fabricated stone and architectural pieces. Areas of the walls have various plants and trees pouring in through the cracks in the stone.

Lee has also had the help and support of her family through the 2 and-a-half years she has been working on this project.

"I did about 90 percent of the work. My brother, Jeremy, did some of the detail work like the borders," Lee said. "My family likes it. They thought it would be difficult, but they saw it was a fun idea."

The room will be featured on the HGTV show 'What's With That Crazy College Room?' in the fall. Lee answered an ad on Craigslist and heard back from a producer within a few days. After a month of talking, the crew finally made their way to University Park to meet with Lee.

The HGTV staff spent three hours filming Lee and the show's host, George Gray, around the GSU campus before heading off to the ancient ruins of Lee's room. Gray and the crew filmed Lee and her family, as well as her room for the upcoming episode.

"This was such a great experience," said Lee. "It'll be a blast to see how it all turns out when I have a viewing party with my friends."

"Rita's room will be unveiled when HGTV airs the episode this fall."

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AAHHE's vision includes basic principles that concentrate on the educational cognizance of diversi­
ity, relationship, and society as a whole which include:
- Hispanic education is understood in a socio­
political and historical context that has not been characterized by the struggle for opportunity and social justice.
- The active involvement of all communities is an es­
nential element in effective education for stu­
dents at all levels.
- Diverse socio-cultural perspectives are to be basi­
cally honored, respected, and incorporated into new pedagogical models and practices.
- Educational institutions, including schools, col­
leges, and universities, must function as the stewards of freedom, the advocates for social justice, and the mentors of democracy.
- To be the lead organization that promotes col­
lege attendance and graduation by Hispanic stu­
dents.
- To become the recognized organization that accurately communicates to Hispanics and to the society at large the state of higher education for Hispanics, including issues, problems and solutions.
- To be in the forefront of promoting a college­
going culture in the Hispanic community so that it will become an expectation among all Hispanic families that their children will attend and gradu­
ate from college.
- To be an effective advocate for enhancing the
success of Hispanic students, faculty, and adminis­
trators in institutions of higher education.
- To maintain the viability of a democratic society in the United States by actively supporting the perspective that educational institutions, includ­
ing colleges and universities, must function as the stewards of freedom, the advocates for social justice, and the mentors of democracy; in do so, educational institutions will respect and encourage diverse socio-cultural perspectives and serve the needs of diverse communities.
These were just a sample from the 70+ work­
shops offered during the three - day conference.
AAHHE's leadership represents an impressive admin­
istration firmly guided by its planning commit­
tee, institutional members, individual members (including Dr. Ramos-Hernandez), artist and authors, AAHHE & TG Latino Student Success Institute, presenters, and distinguished keynote speakers.
AAHHE has been recognized for its many con­
tributions to not only Latino communities across the country, but also its close affiliation, programs, and career development from its committed sponsors such as PepsiCo, Aquafina, Frito Lay, Gatorade, Quaker, Tropicana, Coke, Anheuser-Busch, the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG), and many members for their continued support in building pathways to higher education for Latino stu­
dents, administrators, and faculty.
Special guest of this years conference were con­
gratulated for their many accomplishments from vari­
ous communities; art, science, education, writers, philanthropy, and civil liberties, to name a few. The Honoraries include; Tomas Rivera, Sonia Nazzaro, Diana Natalicio, Alfredo G. De Los Santos Jr., John Alderete, Enriqueta "Queta" Chavez, Honorable Edie Perez, Marcos Martinez, Helena Maria Viramontes, and the 2007 Graduate Fellows in rec­
ognizing their achievement and contributions to AAHHE.
For many their excellence is the guiding beacon of inspiration and the example of leadership for the future of tomorrow.
It was an honor to represent the Latino student populous at GSU; however, being the only attendee it is my strong conviction on a personal level and as a writer to share my experience, and the vision of AAHHE with every student at our campus and the surrounding GSU consortium of universities in the State of Illinois.
AAHHE's astoundingly educational contribution ads valued recognition and exposure, complement­
ing its membership, which is why I am proud to have been a selected attendee.
On behalf of The Phoenix Student Newspaper, The Latino Center for Excellence, and Governors State University, we share and support AAHHE's mission in the advancement of Latino students. Thank you!

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Untitled Summer landscape, oil on canvas, by Olaf Wiechert of Germany

Indian Summer, oil on canvas, by unknown Russian artist
Heigl, Rogen deliver in 'Knocked Up'

By Patrick Caldwell
Daily Texan (U. Texas)

AUSTIN, Texas — Few people in Hollywood understand the unique trials and tribulations of the geeky, the awkward and the underdogs better than director Judd Apatow. After all, he should know better than most. As the creator of not one, but two beloved cult series cancelled before their times (the college-based FOX comedy "Undeclared" and the classic NBC high school dramedy "Freaks and Geeks"), he spent years on the outer fringes of the entertainment business.

All this is why it was so gratifying to see him find some success with 2005's "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," a healthy mix of raunch and heart that was one of the year's most successful and best-reviewed mainstream films. With follow-up "Knocked Up," Apatow has used the same keen sense for blending vulgar, side-splitting hilarity with surprising intelligence and tenderness to deliver one of the year's strongest — and certainly its funniest — movies.

Ben (Seth Rogen) is a Canadian export seeking out a modest existence in Southern California with his four slacker friends, consuming copious quantities of illegal substances and Internet porn. Alison (Katherine Heigl) is a rising star presenter and producer on E! living with her sister and brother-in-law, ably brought to life by Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd. When the two cross paths in a nightclub, leading to a drunken hook-up, the very different Ben and Alison are faced with the prospect of dealing with an unplanned pregnancy.

If the preceding plot summary sounded painfully clichéd — and indeed, you can almost hear the vinyl record scratches in your head — that's for a reason: Like "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," "Knocked Up" takes a painfully obvious and dull premise and infuses it with heart, lovable characterizations, quotable lines and enough crude humor for an entire season of "South Park." Heigl and Rogen both shine, developing a surprisingly believable chemistry, while the supporting cast, from major players like Rudd to seeming background throwaways, is given ample chance to make an impression. Some of the film's best lines and funniest moments come from bit players.

The decidedly R-rated humor, often impressive in its daring vulgarity, doesn't detract from what is at its core, which is a notably sensitive and thoughtful movie. The genuinely difficult implications of an unexpected pregnancy are addressed with equal parts dignity and levity, including one particular scene where the rhyme "sma-smorsh" is bandied about. Ultimately, "Knocked Up" manages to successfully reconcile its dueling natures of both comedy and thoughtful post-pregnancy rumination.

This is not to say "Knocked Up" is a flawless comedy. Similar to "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," it runs long and occasionally stretches suspension of disbelief very near to its breaking point. Such faults are minimal alongside the movie's considerable strengths. In a summer populated by shockingly soulless franchise entries like "Spider-Man 3" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," a heart-filled and riotously hilarious entry like "Knocked Up" is more than deserving of attention.

What's your name? Jeff Krohn.

What do you do at GSU? MCOM grad student & production assistant in the Division of Digital Learning & Media Design.

What's the first thing you did this morning? Other than wake up? Talk to a shower.

What was the last thing you did last night? Spoke with my friend from Japan.

Which do you prefer, beer or wine? Ooh, tough question. I would have to say wine, but not merlot, I don't like the taste.

What do you like most about Summer? Air conditioning, and being a high school teacher because I get Summer vacation.

What do you like least about Summer? The heat and humidity!

What's your favorite place to vacation? Colorado Rockies.

What's the one thing you've always wanted to do? Snowboard in the Southern hemisphere, and watch the toilet water go down in the opposite direction.

What's your favorite holiday? Christmas.

What is your favorite TV show? MXC (Most Extreme Challenge).

What's your favorite food? Pizza, Chicago style deep dish!

What is your first memory as a child? Christmas with my family when I was 5 years old.

What irritates you the most? People who don't listen to follow directions.

What do you want to be when you "grow up?" RICH!!

Who is your favorite super hero? Underdog!

Who spoiled you more, grandma or grandpa? Grandma.

How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? Three, a one, a two, a three.
Faculty Retreat at Lake Geneva Wisconsin

Participants in April 13, 2007's faculty retreat.

Dr. Ramos-Hernandez
Activity director for the Latino Center for Excellence

The Latino Center for Excellence, with funding from a US Department of Education Title V Grant and in partnership with Morton College, sponsored a faculty retreat on April 13, 2007 at the Grand Lake Geneva Resort and Spa.

The theme of the retreat was "Enhancing Inclusive Teaching Techniques" with the main goal of increasing Latino/Hispanic students' persistence to graduation. Discussions on topics such as serving diverse language proficiencies; examining self as an instrument to creating a responsive teaching, learning, and working environment; and, evaluating pedagogical approaches and faculty role as the instrument of delivery took place during the one and a half days. GSU and Morton College faculty members spent together.

Even though the information seemed to be familiar to some of the faculty, in general, they expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss these issues in depth. Clearly, the topic of inclusion in the classroom captured the attention and generated lively dialogue among the participants. Questions on strategies to motivate shy students' participation, grading papers in multiple dimensions, and thoughts about whether teachers should correct and penalize students for errors in grammar and syntaxes were also posed.

Motivating students, becoming aware of different learning and teaching styles, and understanding interpersonal styles and how they impact in-classroom practices were also identified as challenges.

At the end, participants were asked to develop a plan to enhance inclusiveness in their own classrooms. This exercise exposed other challenges: time, tools, and energy needed to balance all pedagogical components for student academic success.

GSU and MC faculty members, however, were motivated and expressed their intention to keep exploring their teaching techniques and decide the kind of professors they want to be.

Even though the main goal of the grant is to support Latino/Hispanic students, this kind of dialogue benefits the student community at large on both Morton College and Governors State University campuses.

Also, this event served as a "support group" for faculty members to realize that they are not alone, to share experiences that have worked, and find resources.

GSU and MC faculty members also had the opportunity to start discussing specific academic fields and how both institutions can develop even closer partnerships to support and transfer students.

The event was a great success and the LCE and MC team are working to continue this conversation.

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By John Conrad
Associate editor

Last issue I made a promise to the Phoenix audience, as well as myself, to not only get over my lifelong fear of bugs, but to eat one as well.

It's now two weeks later, and I've come to some conclusions. First, the "cicada-mania" I was expecting never came. Sure portions of the Midwest are plagued by these six-legged spawn's of Satan, but the instance of infestation in the area I live was actually very low. So, I guess my 17-year fear proved to be extremely unnecessary.

Second, I am, and always will be scared of bugs. When my friends and I took a cicada hunting trek (yes we actually had to seek them out), I once again reverted to the "little-girl Conrad" of my youth. I found myself running through the woods from clearing to clearing, trying to get away from these freaky insects. They were everywhere, in the trees, in the air, on my clothes, and in my hair.

I wouldn't go near them, but plenty came near me. Anyway, I had my friend, Chris Waugh, collect a bag of fresh cicadas for consumption. It seemed a bit odd to me that I was about to eat something that I wouldn't even touch (looking at them made me queasy). We took them home, and divvied up the preparation work amongst ourselves. Chris took the role of executioner (killing, beheading, and tearing the limbs and wings off), and I took the much less gruesome role of Bug-Chef Extraordinaire.

I took the little cicada bodies and dipped them in egg, then flour and bread crumbs, and then tossed them into the fryer. As they cooked and an alien aroma filled the room, I found myself overcome by apprehension. The more I thought about it the queasier I got. I mean I was about to eat a bug. But, despite my uneasiness, I decided to man up and do something every ounce of my being was telling me not to.

I took one of the bite-size nuggets, closed my eyes, and popped it in my mouth. Next came the hard part, chewing and swallowing. But, to my surprise, chewing and swallowing these bugs wasn't as difficult as I had anticipated.

I expected them to be crunchy and gooy, and was dreading the first bite, when I was sure the cicada would burst "bug juice" into my mouth. The squirt never came.

The cicadas were neither crunchy nor gooy, but rather had the consistency of shrimp. They were a bit chewy, but easier to masticate than I thought.

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I immersed myself in the cicada population, and quickly discovered it wasn't for me. At least I tried.

Alas, sometimes fears can be ingrained so deeply, they are nearly impossible to shake. But my point is you have to try. Maybe I wasn't ready to touch bugs, or let them touch me, but I can always say I tried. As for eating them, it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be at all. Although as the rest of the day rolled on I thought more and more about what I ate and became somewhat queasy after the fact. Insects are not something I would eat daily, but I'd try eating cicadas, or even other bugs, again. That is as long as I have a good friend like Chris by my side, just waiting to capture them and rip their heads off. I'll handle the cooking!

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Phoenix Retraction

In the April 2, 2007 edition of the Phoenix an article on the Family Development Center incorrectly listed the number of administrators. The correct number is 3. The Phoenix regrets the error.
If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call Business Manager, Sylvia Mcghee at 708-534-3068, or e-mail at phoenixad@govst.edu.

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.

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.

SIDL Information Sessions

For information on the School of Interdisciplinary Learning, and how they can help you earn your BA, attend their weekly information session between 6-7pm on Tuesday, April 17. For more information call 708-534-4092, or email at SIDL@govst.edu.

Psychology B.A. Information Session - Naperville: April 26

Learn about earning your Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the new Naperville Education Center on Thursday, April 26. Faculty and advisors will be on hand to discuss program specifics. For more information or directions, visit www.govst.edu/nec.

College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series at Kankakee Education Center

Tuesday, April 10, 2007 - Room 310 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Speaker Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr., Criminal Justice Program Coordinator at GSU Topic: Restorative and Community Justice.

University Open House at Kankakee Education

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 - Center - Room 310 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

National Museum of Mexican Art

Art Program Assistant Professor Javier Chavira will showcase his work at the National Museum of Mexican Art, March 15 - July 8, 2007. The museum is located at 1852 West 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois. For additional information visit www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org or contact Javier Chavira at 708-534-4017.

Winter 2007 Trimester Ends- Monday, April 23

Spring/Summer Trimester Begins- Monday, May 7

The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editors. 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 with you can be reached.

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