Pool renovation, mural give RFC a facelift

By Chris Gloff
Contributing Writer

After 34 years of operation, the swimming pool located in GSU’s Recreation and Fitness Center (RFC) is getting a makeover this spring.

The pool, originally constructed in 1974, is being renovated in an effort to repair various plumbing and mechanical issues such as leaking pipes and non-functioning pumps. According to the RFC’s Gym and Facilities Supervisor Victor Griffin, these problems surfaced over the past few years. Griffin added that the staff of the Center hopes to open the pool to the general public and GSU’s student body by mid to late June 2008.

The pool had a number of plumbing problems and we’re taking this opportunity to update the filtering system from diatomaceous earth to sand,” Griffin said. Griffin added that sand filtering is considered to be a more cost effective method of pool filtering.

Construction is the general contractor of the pool renovation and had

In addition to the renovation, RFC Gym and Facilities Supervisor Jason Zeleck says that the Center has been seeking artists to paint a mural on the Plexiglas wall which separates the upper seating balcony from the pool area. The RFC announced the contest earlier this year, the winner of which would receive a one year membership to GSU’s fitness center or an equivalent cash prize.

The winner’s artwork will adorn a canvas of five concurrent Plexiglas panels, each measuring 60 inches by 15 inches. The submission period for artists ended May 30 and the committee hopes to select a winner by June 13 with the artwork being completed by July 4.

The winner is being selected by the RFC Artwork Committee which consists of Griffin, GSU’s Assistant Program Director Dean Jennings, Gym & Facilities Supervisor Jason Zeleck and Acting Executive Director of Student Life Vanessa Newby.

The committee has received submissions from three artists, one of whom is a current GSU student. “We’ve asked that the artist submissions contain beachside themes such as swimmers, sandcastles, boaters, and sunbathers,” Griffin said. “It is our intent to create a tropical atmosphere in the pool area.”

Griffin says the pool area was targeted as an area for the artwork as a complement to the RFC’s overall improvement plans and an attempt to provide an “aesthetically appealing environment.”

According to Zeleck, the pool receives anywhere from 50 to 130 visits per week and said students should keep in mind pool usage costs are included in their tuition.

“It doesn’t cost anything extra to enjoy our facilities,” he said.

A new name for GSU?

Winter 2008 Dean’s List

Click It or Ticket at GSU

Vol: 9 Iss: 1 06 | 04 | 08

Warner Saunders to Receive Honorary GSU Degree

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

Warner Saunders, co-anchor of the 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts on Chicago’s NBC 5 will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Governors State University during the Spring Commencement Ceremony on June 7. The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. at the Tinley Park Hotel and Convention Center in Tinley Park, Ill.

Saunders says he is grateful for the opportunity to earn such an honor. He will also be recognized at a dinner in his honor on Friday, June 6, at GSU.

“1 view my honorary degree as a wonderful gift from the Chicagoland community and Governors State University,” he said. “I only hope it will induce others to work hard at contributing to the common good.”

Dr. Elaine Maimon, President of the university, says the school is honored to present the degree to Saunders.

“He does more than report the news,” Maimon said. “He has been a tireless advocate for social justice in the Chicagoland region. He is a welcome presence in our living rooms on weekday nights.”

Saunders says that Governors State University has been on his radar for more than 20 years, and he has always embraced the mission of the school.

“Chicago is growing so rapidly and the need for higher education so acute, that I welcomed a university on the far Southside that is able to service the community of working people who seek to better themselves,” he said.

Saunders is a proud member of the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame and the Chicago Academy of Television Arts and Sciences’ Silver Circle. He has covered a number of exciting stories in his years as a journalist, but his peers say some of his finest work was seen in his series of reports in 1990 from South Africa on the historic release of Nelson Mandela. The series culminated in the compelling documentary titled, “South Africa: What Happens to a Dream Deferred?”

Many of Saunders’ stories have focused on the betterment of society, which he feels is possible based on overcoming a few specific obstacles.

“I consider sexism, racism, homophobia and ageism as the four biggest stumbling blocks to a better society,” he explained. “I have done my very best to give exposure to individuals and organizations which struggle against such negative beliefs.”

Saunders is the winner of 19 Emmy Awards for news, sports, documentaries, children’s programs, conversation talk shows and community town meetings, and the month of June marks his 40th year in Chicago television.

A native Chicagoan, he holds a bachelor’s degree from Xavier University, New Orleans, and a Masters from Northeastern Illinois University. He has taught in the Chicago Public Schools, as well as at the National College of Education, Malcolm X College, Northeastern Illinois University, and Indiana University’s Northwest campus, where he was voted Teacher of the Year for two consecutive school terms.

As for his future, Saunders plans to say at NBC “for as long as they will have me.” After that, he’d like to work in the field of diversity training and travel with his wife, Sadako, to various world destinations.

This is Saunders’ third honorary degree from an institution of higher learning. He received honorary doctorates of Humane Letters from Rush University Medical School in 2004 and from St. Xavier University in 2007.
I WANT YOU!
TO WRITE FOR THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COURSE!

If you have an interest in writing, journalism, or design, the Phoenix has a place for you!
The Phoenix Student Newspaper is looking for student contributors for the fall trimester to help in making the Phoenix’s return a success.

If you are interested, please contact the Phoenix office at 708-534-4517 or phoenix@govst.edu.

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.

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Happy Summer to ALL at GSU!

As I thought about what to write for my first editorial as the new Editor of the Phoenix, I considered a number of options. I thought about a summer-specific message, urging students, faculty and the GSU community to drop the TV remote and “go out and play.” I thought about the current election and the race to the White House. I thought (and cringed) about high gas prices, the war in the Middle East and the recent earthquake in Asia. But I decided against all things political and decided it was best to take a more social approach.

Though I received my B.A. in Journalism from St. Ambrose University (Davenport, Iowa) in 2004, I decided that after working a nine-to-five job for four years, the corporate world simply wasn’t for me. I came to GSU in the fall of 2007 to pursue my degree in Secondary Education/English. I wrote a few articles for the Phoenix and when the editor asked me if I’d consider taking on a leadership position after he graduated, I responded with an excited and resounding “YES!” So here I am, working toward my degree and editing the Phoenix.

My goal is to make our student newspaper a publication of which we can all be proud. I encourage all members of the GSU community — students, faculty, administration, parents, etc. — to submit letters to the editor (to Phoenix@govst.edu) or send me a personal email (to SarahSilhan@cs.com) to share your thoughts — or simply inform me — about what’s happening at GSU. With nearly 6,000 students on campus, there are at least 6,000 ideas, opinions, achievements and suggestions, each worth listening to.

There are five colleges within the university, and there are events and exciting things happening in each one of them EVERY day! For example, did you know that NBC-5 news anchor Warner Saunders will be receiving an honorary degree at our June 7 commencement? Or that GSU will offer a fantastic writing class for teachers this summer? What about the tutoring available for second through fifth graders through The Literacy Zone? Or the decision to change the structure of GSU’s College of Interdisciplinary Learning? These events affect YOU, whether directly or indirectly, and you should know about them!

I encourage anyone interested in writing for the Phoenix to contact me. Right now, I believe the paper is stuck in a “vicious cycle.” Because there currently isn’t a very large staff, it’s difficult to put together a well-written and well-designed publication on a regular basis. In addition, the student body feels the Phoenix is insubstantial and therefore has little desire to contribute to it. However, I firmly believe it’s possible to break this cycle. More writers mean more stories. More stories mean stronger content. Stronger content leads to an improved publication. By this time next year, I hope to see GSU students, faculty and staff reading the Phoenix in the hallways, classrooms and library, and I hope the paper will spark conversations about what’s happening on campus and in the community.

William Bernbach, of DDM Needham Worldwide Communications, a global advertising agency may have said it best: “All of us who use the mass media are the shapers of society. We can vulgarize that society. We can brutalize it. We can vulgarize that society. We can brutalize it. We can vulgarize that society. We can brutalize it. We can vulgarize that society. We can brutalize it.” I hope to bring the Phoenix to that higher level. The waters may not always be calm, but I am genuinely excited and honored to be at the helm of the ship. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing accurate news, entertaining stories and interesting opinion pieces which help to shape our community today and every day.

Happy Reading!
Sarah Silhan
Editor, GSU Phoenix

PS – The misplaced preposition in the third paragraph was misplaced on purpose. I’m hoping it sparks a letter to the editor.

Communing at GSU

It is written: we are all members of one body, parts of a whole. Occasionally one of the parts will distinguish itself so that the whole will give appreciated recognition. Other times, one member within a part will stand-out and we give our applause. After all we are a civilized society. We know it is correct and even encouraging to say thank you in response to a considerate act. We maintain our cordiality with eye contact, a smile; sometimes a nod, more often a verbal greeting. These small things are as communicating, connecting and weaving a relationship as naturally as breathing.

This weaving becomes a network that addresses a myriad of needs and wants relevant to our work and play. This network will hold measurements for personal achievements, the history of the group’s evolution, and echoes of society’s transitioning mission.

The layers of our society, community, and organizations are generated by our participation in the network.

Technology is one of those tools we use to intensify our place and relevancy in the network of our organizations. But this sophisticated communication thread is not singular for we are still quite reliant upon the messenger and the hard- copy/ware they bring to confirm our contacts.

We still trust this basic form of exchange to support the technology and the connections in our society. No matter how big or fast cyberpace becomes we will still need the “things” to build the machines, the “things” that will repair, enhance, sit-on, hold-up, store and hook-up the cyberpace experience. We still need the messenger to bring us the things we like and need to touch, taste, smell, look at and listen to.

We are comforted by the sight of our messenger bringing us our “things.” Their schedule for delivery and their character punctuates the day. We are engaged with time as a human commodity. We count on that connection. We count on our mail messengers. Their humanness is not optional.

Still the messenger is one of the parts of the whole we seldom applaud because they do what they are supposed to do continuously. They are one of the parts we take for granted even though the practice of using the ‘messenger’ protects our humanity and keeps our physicality relevant to the network. This alone deserves a Hoosier.

Thank you specifically to the distribution crew of GSU.

Sincerely,
Patricia Thompson
College of Business & Public Administration

Kenny’s Ribs & Chicken
19615 Governors Highway, Suite 10
Flossmoor, Illinois 60422
Voice: 708-957-8765 ext. 230
Fax: 708-957-2340
Email: kenny’sribs@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Kenneth Lewis Sr.
President & CEO

Thank you for naming me to your Board of Directors in 2007 and your ongoing support. I look forward to working with you all to continue our mission of serving you. Have a golden year!

Stefania Silvan
Chairwoman
Dr. Martin, Dean of Professor of English and Director of Writing Across into all courses. Reflecting on his early years at Arts and Sciences contributing to that the Curriculum, an initiative to incorporate writing this lead to his current role as acting Dean where his recommends obtaining a degree in prelaw or taking students, getting them the resources they need to be successful, and minimizing the bureaucracy they need to know what others are trying to say, listen, and administration role. The advantage, according to Dr. Martin, is that it helps you to know students better and understand the multiple directions that students may have who may have been the greatest president in the country's history.

We are embarking on a mission to revisit our university stands, to talk about new models, new approaches. We're asking "why not?" in a myriad of ways. Our President is taking us on a new adventure. What better way to tell our region - to tell the country - that our university is reinventing itself?

I can't imagine any insurmountable legal entanglements with respect to the name, and certainly no estate negotiations. There would be all kinds of details to be handled in terms of the relationship with the state and the way the institution is named in documents and in contracts, but the significance of the 200th anniversary would provide the legislative impetus needed to get it done. There would be some costs attached, but we might reasonably contend that the value of the name justifies them.

Institutions known as Lincoln University are already happily coexisting in California, Missouri, Pennsylvania and for good measure, in the UK and New Zealand. We would be, however, the one and only Lincoln State University, and www.lincolnstate.edu is an unsanctioned domain name.

Great care would need to be taken to show full and continuing respect both for the GSU name and for all who have given so much to the institution over the years. We might invite everyone back for a renaming ceremony on Feb. 12, 2009, and perhaps invite alumni to receive diplomas from Lincoln State. Our recent experience with President Maimon's installation would serve us well next year. The Governor, the HLC, JBHE and representatives of our sister institutions, among others, would be invited parties. Lastly, we would certainly invite the President of the United States, or at least seek the President's written or videotaped salutations. Our President next February may well be another fellow of lady from Illinois with a good reason to be in the state.

We could make quite a splash in the regional and national press next February and, even better, find ourselves with a name for the ages.

Dan Nearing
Associate Professor
College of Arts & Sciences

Who's Who at GSU?

By Julie Wiatrak
Contributing Writer

Dr. Eric Martin, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, began his career at GSU in 1999 as a professor of English and director of Writing Across the Curriculum, an initiative to incorporate writing into all courses. Reflecting on his early years at GSU, Dr. Martin stated, "You don't just take an English course and become a master writer, it is a skill that needs constant practice."

In 2001 he was asked to oversee the accreditation process and work with the Illinois Board of Education's program review committee. Eventually, this lead to his current role as acting Dean where his major duties include advocating for faculty, stuff, and students, getting them the resources they need to be successful, and minimizing the bureaucracy they need to endure. He tries to always keep the GSU mission in mind, and consistently works to keep the College of Arts and Sciences contributing to that mission — while always putting the students first.

For anyone interested in pursuing a career in college or business administration, Dr. Martin recommends obtaining a degree in prelaw or taking classes which will improve communication and writing skills.

"It is true for all leadership careers that one must hear what others are trying to say, listen, and communicate effectively with them," he said. He also recommends teaching before going directly into an administration role. The advantage, according to Dr. Martin, is that it "enables you to know students better and understand the multiple directions that students may have while trying to balance family, a job, and school."

Though Dr. Martin hopes to return to teaching soon, he will be busy over the next six months preparing for a visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in Fall 2009. The HLC is a federal organization that accredits universities every ten years. They take on a consultant-evaluator role, analyzing GSU's quality of education, fiscal management, campus facilities, and that we are meeting the overall federal requirements.

Dr. Martin's advice to all those attending GSU is, "Don't suffer in silence." If you encounter setbacks or obstacles in your college career, talk to a counselor, professor, or administrator and they will help you find the support you need to be successful.

"Seeing this group [of students] succeed is so rewarding," he says. "There are a lot of places to work, but this is why I chose to work at Governors State."
Dear’s List, Winter 2008

The Phoenix would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were named to the Dear’s List for the Winter 2008 term. These 654 students represent approximately 10 percent of the GSU student population. A Dear’s List achiever must take a minimum of six credit hours and maintain a 3.695 GPA in order to qualify.

Students are listed alphabetically with their hometowns.

Congratulations to the following GSU students! We are so very proud of your accomplishments!
Click It or Ticket Stops GSU Cars

By Chris Gloff
Contributing Writer

The death of an off-duty GSU police officer last December reinforced the importance of wearing a seatbelt for current GSU police officer Maurice Hill. Because of the accident, he organized GSU’s recent Click It or Ticket Campaign.

GSU Officer Darrell Hill (no relation) was killed in a rollover accident while driving over a patch of black ice. Investigators found the off-duty officer had not been wearing his seatbelt.

“The exact day of Officer Hill’s accident, a current GSU student was in an accident, wearing a seatbelt, and was unharmed,” Hill said. “I wanted to get the message out and decided to run a GSU Click It or Ticket campaign in conjunction with thousands of state and local law enforcement agencies and highway safety officials across the nation during the national Click It or Ticket campaign.”

The campaign ran from May 19 to June 1 and was intended to increase seat belt use and reduce highway fatalities and injuries. Campus police set up roadblocks, randomly stopped cars and checked motorists for seatbelt law compliance.

“Students received warnings for first time violations, however, a seatbelt violation would normally result in a $5 fine,” continued Hill. “In addition to seatbelt checks we asked drivers for their driver’s license and insurance card. A driver found without a driver’s license was issued a citation and a $100 fine while drivers caught without insurance were issued a citation and a fine between $300 and $500.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 42,642 people died nationwide in motor vehicle crashes in 2006 and one in five Americans still fail to buckle up regularly.

“As adults we have got to make a conscious decision to wear seatbelts every time we get into a car,” Hill said. “Day or night. Driver or passenger. I often think about Officer Darrell Hill and how his life may have been saved had he been wearing a seatbelt.”

The GSU police department, in conjunction with the university, is dedicated to the safety of motorists and passengers according to a GSU police department press release. Hill says the importance of seatbelts must never be forgotten. “We’ve heard it a million times but it’s true: Seatbelts save lives,” he said.

Illinois Writing Project & GSU Offer Writing Methods Class

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

Teachers of all grade levels and any subjects are invited to take part in an educational four-day Writing Methods class this summer at GSU. The course, a joint effort by Governors State University and the Illinois Writing Project, will emphasize the writing process and how to use it, teach and assess the finished product.

The course will be taught by Judy Johnstone, who earned her master’s degree from GSU, taught English at Carl Sandburg High School (Orland Park, Ill.) for 34 years and has been working with the Illinois Writing Project for 25 years.

“This workshop focuses on the teaching of writing, so it promotes the generic skills that are useful no matter what the writing task,” Johnstone explained. “Consequently, the workshop is useful for any teacher who assigns writing to students. However, we’ll spend some time specifically addressing narrative, expository and persuasive writing.

Johnstone says it’s her own experience which provided the motivation to teach a writing course to teachers.
GSU Happenings

Here’s what’s happening at GSU! Take advantage of all YOUR campus has to offer! To submit an event or “happening” for publication, please send an email to Phoenix@govst.edu and put “Happenings” in the subject line. Submissions are printed on a first-come, first-serve basis and when space allows.

June

• A series of Library Workshops will begin this week! The first in the series, "Formatting an APA Style Paper" will take place Tuesday, June 10 from 3-4 p.m. in room D2401B of the GSU library. The same workshop will be offered again on Wednesday, June 25 from 3-4 p.m. in the same location. Register for these and all subsequent workshops at the Reference Desk. For more information, contact Helen Benos, Workshop Coordinator, at (708) 225-7514.

• June 13 Board of Trustees Meeting – all are welcome to attend; Hall of Honors, 10:30 a.m. An agenda will be available prior to meeting. Look for one in the display case outside the Hall of Honors.

• Summer Camp for Kids at GSU Sculpture Park, June 16-20, from 8:30-4:30 p.m. For more information, call (708) 534-8486 or email sculpture@govst.edu.

• Reading tutoring will be available beginning in July through The Literacy Zone. For more information, call (708) 534-4129 or email m-hession@govst.edu.

• A Monthly Movie Reviewers Roundtable will be held Thursday, June 5 at 12 p.m. in the library balcony. The discussion will be focused on the movie “United 93.”

• Commencement Ceremony June 7 at 11 a.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Congratulations to the class of 2008!

• Block 3 Classes begin June 25!

July

• The Library Workshop series continues with "Formatting an APA Style Paper" on Tuesday, July 8 from 3-4 p.m. in Room D2401B of the GSU library.

• Disney’s “Aladdin” will be performed at GSU’s Center for Performing Arts on July 17 at 11 a.m. Call (708) 225-2222 for tickets or more information. Ticket price is $9; $7 each for groups of 20 or more.

• A "Basic Powerpoint" workshop will be held in Room 2401B of the GSU library from 3-4 p.m. on Thursday, July 17. The workshop will be repeated Tuesday, July 29 from 3-4 p.m. in the same location.

• A "Genealogy: Starting Your Family Tree" workshop will be held in Room 2401B of the GSU library from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, July 24.

Solutions for Crossword & Sudoku found on page 8.
Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

Across
1. Betting ratio
2. Craze
3. Musical notation
4. Lyric poem
5. Creep
6. Shaving tool
7. Seal
8. Gemstone
9. Claw
10. Lyric poem
11. Take flight
12. Draught
13. Red wine
14. Forlet for money
15. Apprehend
16. Considered in detail
17. Cross a shallow river
18. Dam
19. Mindful
20. Exists
21. Incognizant
22. To begin moving
23. Female sheep
24. Celestial body
25. Mindful
26. Exists
27. Choose by a vote
28. Endure
29. To begin moving
30. Be cautious about
31. Baton
32. Remote in manner
33. Revolving mechanism
34. Foe
35. Droop
36. Genuine
37. Counterfoil
38. To begin moving
39. Claw
40. Affirm
41. Type of duck
42. Right-hand page
43. Short letter
44. Happen again
45. Gusto
46. Annoy
47. Disastrous destiny
48. Happen again
49. Insane
50. Domain
51. Herbivorous quadruped
52. Aquavit
53. Cook on a hot surface
54. Fillet
55. Unit of weight
56. Group of hunting animals
57. Treachery
58. Metallic element
59. Customary practice
60. Additional
61. Supervisor
62. Requirement
63. Pedal
64. Requirement
65. Assumed name asleep
66. Hidden drawback
67. Anger
68. Work party
69. Hidden drawback
70. Metal-bearing mineral
71. Spooky
72. Hinge joint
73. Mesh
74. Metallic element

Down
1. Fiend
2. Unit of apothecary
3. Weight
4. Breathe noisily while asleep
5. Cross a shallow river
6. Fuss
7. First appearance
8. Work party
9. Molten rock
10. Pitcher
11. Take flight
12. Draught
13. Red wine
14. Forlet for money
22. Apprehend
23. Considered in detail
24. Insane
25. Mindful
26. Exists
27. Choose by a vote
28. To begin moving
29. To begin moving
30. Bat
31. Baton
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33. Revolving mechanism
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Reduce your On-lab Footprint.
Switch to Alternative Fuel Sources.
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If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call
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The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials.
Letters may be submitted to phoenix@egovst.edu.
Letters should include your name and a contact number or email address.

Art of Grading
Here is a list of the ways professors grade their final exams:

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS:
All grades are plotted along the normal bell curve.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY:
Students are asked to blot ink in their exam books, close them and turn them in. The professor opens the books and assigns the first grade that comes to mind.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY:
All students get the same grade they got last year.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY:
What is a grade?

LAW SCHOOL:
Students are asked to defend their position of why they should receive an A.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS:
Grades are variable.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE:
Random number generator determines grade.

Wealth, Wisdom or Beauty
A genie appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean that in return for his unselfish and exemplary behavior, he will reward him with his choice of infinite wealth, wisdom, or beauty.

Without hesitating, the dean selects infinite wisdom.

"Done!" says the genie, and disappears a cloud of smoke and a bolt of lightning.

Now, all heads turn toward the dean, who sits surrounded by a faint halo of light.

At length, one of his colleagues whispers, "Say something."

The dean sighs and says, "I should have taken the money."