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PHOENIX

Chicago Live! comes to GSU

By Melissa Hall
Editor-in-Chief

In the campus event of the semester, Governors State University’s Center for Performing Arts hosted the first-ever showing of Chicago Live! to be held outside the city limits of Chicago. Those who attended Chicago Live! at GSU were treated to an eclectic evening of music, comedy, and engaging interviews.

Chicago Live! is a multiplatform stage show that brings the newspaper to life. The show provided students with an extraordinary educational opportunity. GSU administrators encouraged the school’s faculty to incorporate Chicago Live! into their curriculum. GSU students who were given assignments related to the Chicago Live! show were provided with free tickets to the event. During the event’s pre-show reception, GSU President Elaine P. Maimon spoke of the unique learning experiences Chicago Live! would provide for GSU students.

“Students on our campus will be in the audience enjoying The Second City, but they’ll also be giving some thought to assignments that their professors have given them to figure out, how does comedy affect the image of political candidates?” said Maimon.

Maimon also said students would benefit from Chicago Live! host Rick Kogan’s interview with Bruce Dold, the editor of the Chicago Tribune’s editorial page.

“They’ll be giving some thought to how editorial commentary gets written, what goes into it. It’s not just somebody’s opinion. It’s something that takes a great deal of thought and effort,” said Maimon.

During the show, Kogan interviewed Dold and Maimon, as well as Chicago Live! performer and hip hop artist Psalm One, Chicago Tribune columnist Dawn Turner Trice, and WVON radio personality Cliff Kelley. Chicago Tribune music critic Howard Reich interviewed Chicago Live! performer and Grammy-Award winning blues musician Sugar Blue, while Chicago Tribune beer and travel writer John Noel

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Military forum puts a face on PTSD

By Samantha Kaspar
Contributing Writer

Nearly 100 people gathered in GSU’s Center for Performing Arts to listen and learn more about military trauma.

“Before and After Deployment: Trauma and the Impact on the Military Family” was held on October 29 as a follow-up forum to an event held in February. The event was held in hopes to increase awareness and understanding of the needs of veterans and their families.

Students at GSU worked with Dr. Phyllis West of Triton College and Social Work professor Lori Glass to create a forum for military members and their families to bring awareness to the issues of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other military traumas. With Governors State being a university with one of the highest number of veterans, Glass believes it is important to move away from statistics and put a face to the issues.

The forum opened with the national anthem, followed by Dean Elizabeth Cada of the College of Health and Human Services acknowledging and thanking the active service members in the audience. Cada stated that 20% of 1.5 million soldiers will return home with mental health issues.

“Wars may end, soldiers may come home, but the families need to reunite to face the future,” said Cada.

Veteran Michael Johnson, who was a U.S. Marine Corps Navy Corpsman, spoke of his experience with PTSD after 23 years of military service. “For me, it was taking horrible experiences and trying to process them while continuing to have horrible experiences,” said Johnson, who served in the Middle East in both Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. “When we come back, we’re not ourselves anymore. We’ve left something back there with the war.”

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Make the most out of your college experience

Often times, as students at GSU, we tend to focus solely on our coursework. Many of us show up for class, attend class, and then go home. This is understandable, of course; most of us are busy adults, commuting a healthy distance to campus. GSU for a lot of us is a means to an end. We are here to get a degree so we can pursue the career of our choice.

When people talk about the “college experience”, they are usually referring to the social experience of being away from home for the first time, making new friends, and going to parties. Obviously, GSU can’t offer that part of the “college experience” right now. However, as we all know, change is coming. In 2014, GSU is becoming a 4 year institution. Ground is breaking soon on student housing, social activities are being added and expanded on, and the school is planning innovative curriculum for freshman students. A few years from now, GSU will be able to offer students something closer to a traditional “college experience.”

Many of us who are currently students may not be here at GSU by the time the transition happens, having hopefully graduated and moved on to successful careers. However, just because GSU’s transition may happen after we leave doesn’t mean that we can’t make the most out of the opportunities we have available to us right now. GSU may not be able to offer us the traditional “college experience”, but there are so many other opportunities GSU does have to offer us, if we choose to get involved.

As editor of the Phoenix this semester, I have been amazed to learn of how many campus events GSU actually holds. Over the last few weeks alone, the school has hosted several significant events at the Center for Performing Arts, such as “8” The Play; the Chicago Tribune’s Chicago Live! stage show; and the esteemed Nikki Giovanni. For the first time ever, on October 26, GSU held a talent show featuring GSU students. That same evening, the school held the Annual GSU Haunted Harvest Fest, featuring family-friendly Halloween-themed activities.

The school has also hosted many informative events, such as the election forum “Issues of the 2012 Elections” and the Professional Image Makeover Conference.

There are also a wide variety of clubs here at GSU that students can get involved with, such as the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), the Association of Latin American students (ALAS), and the Forensics Debate Team. There are also sports-related clubs, such as the Softball Club and the Table Tennis club. Opportunities are growing for student to get involved on campus. Students who enjoy writing can contribute their creative works to ReConstructed, GSU’s online literary magazine (or, for those who are interested in journalism, The Phoenix welcomes student submissions!) Students with an interest in politics can run for GSU’s Student Senate. Those with an interest in computers can join the Computer Science Club. The clubs that I’ve mentioned are just a few of the avenues students have available to them for getting involved on campus. The list of student activities figures to grow as GSU gets closer to admitting freshmen.

Taking part in on-campus activities can be a wonderful way to enrich the college experience. Upon entering the real world, the opportunity to engage in activities such as these will be gone. On-campus activities offer students the chance to expand their social network and form new relationships. Furthermore, some on-campus activities can help students learn valuable new skills and knowledge regarding prospective careers.

In the 9/19 issue of The Phoenix, I ran a story entitled “Get an education, not just a degree.” The story was written by University of Oklahoma student Trent Cason. I ran this story because its central message really resonated with me, and I felt that it should be shared with GSU students. Earning a college degree is important, especially in today’s society. However, it is the experiences we have and the lessons we learn that truly make our college educations meaningful. I encourage every student to make the most out of the opportunities available to them here at GSU, to make the most of their “college experience.”
The 2012 Election Day has finally passed, and for those of you who voted, thank you! There are many today still fighting for the right to vote, and yet these rights are often underutilized by many Americans today. There is, however, another opportunity coming soon for GSU students to cast a ballot for individuals to represent them.

In the spring semester, elections will be held on campus for new members of the Student Senate. We have many intelligent, creative, and hard-working students on campus who are assets to our educational community. I encourage you to participate in our local academic affairs by selecting those who you feel will represent and support your student interests.

Many of you reading this article are actually some of the very students we believe should be pursuing these positions. The fact that you are reading this paper demonstrates your interest in your institution and its community. We are looking for current and future leaders to become active and more involved on campus. If you enjoy making things happen to benefit your environment, taking on challenges and initiatives to improve campus unity, or connecting with other motivated scholars, this is the opportunity for you.

If you are unsure of what GSU’s Student Senate actually does, simply consider its recent accomplishments and current endeavors. At the beginning of the semester, the Student Senate organized a “Rock the Vote” campaign, which focused on student involvement in the voting process. Voter registration was held in the Hall of Governors, and over 300 students registered on campus to vote.

On November 15th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., GSU’s Food Pantry will be re-launched by the Student Senate. The Food Pantry, located next to the Student Commons, accepts donations of non-perishable goods to offer to current students. Students invest a lot of time and money into their education, and sometimes it can be difficult to make ends meet. All that is needed to receive a bag of goods from the Food Pantry is an active GSU student ID – no questions asked.

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After the Food Pantry Re-launch, normal operations will take place every other Monday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Many Student Senators are seated on campus committees, and the Senate has direct contact with our Student Trustee representative, Erin Fletcher. Student Senate President, Lisa Wallace, has monthly meetings with our GSU President, Dr. Elaine Maimon, and is present at GSU Board Meetings to communicate student projects and developments.

Civil engagement extends beyond 2012 election

By Samantha Kaspar
Contributing Writer

GSU recently hosted a community forum titled “Issues of the 2012 Elections.” The forum was moderated by Political Science Professor Larry Levinson and was joined by an esteemed panel of GSU faculty that included Health Administration Associate Professor Rupert Evans, Political Science Associate Professor Donald Culverson, and Assistant Professor of History David Golland.

The event aimed to assist students in understanding the issues and arm them with the knowledge necessary to make good informed decisions.

Students were educated on some of the main issues facing our government and the panelists shed some light on the beliefs, policies, and values of both 2012 presidential candidates.

A wide variety of topics were discussed including labor and workers compensation, inequality, heath care, the economy, and foreign policy.

“America is at a crossroads, Levinson said.” The issues discussed on the campaign trail, like health care, immigration, and the economy will have an impact far into the future.

As the 2012 election cycle draws to a close, the panel urged students to pay close attention and remain civvily engaged even during non-election years.

“We want students to get engaged not just by voting on Election Day but by knowing the issues,” said Levinson.

Affirming its role as an intellectually stimulating public square, GSU encouraged to get out and vote on Nov. 6. For this election, the university registered over 300 new voters.

GSU celebrates the work of Nikki Giovanni

In honor of Nikki Giovanni’s appearance at GSU on November 7, the Intellectual Life Committee has chosen her book Quilting the Black–Eyed Pea for this semester’s One Book, One University selection. Copies of the book are available at the University Library.

Before Giovanni’s 7 p.m. performance at the Center for Performing Arts, everyone is invited to join the discussion of her book and hear some of her poems recited at the One Book, One University program beginning at 3:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Members of the discussion panel include Dr. Christopher White, Assistant Professor of English and Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Assistant Professor of History. Dr. Rashidah Muhammad will serve as moderator. Dr. Muhammad will also lead students in a choral reading of the title poem. Individual students will read selected Giovanni poems. Refreshments will be served.

Both this event and the evening presentation are free and open to the public. Registration is not required to the OneBook, One University event.


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For more on the Presidential election, campus news, and more, visit

www.gsuphoenix.com
By Maria Ramirez
Contributing Writer

GSU recently hosted its first-ever talent show, GSU’s Got Talent. Performers, many of whom were comedians and singers, competed for the chance to perform at the Chicago Live! show at the Center for Performing Arts on November 1.

The winner of GSU’s Got Talent was College of Arts and Sciences student Audrey LaBranche. LaBranche, who goes by her stage name “Audrey Cher,” sang the song “Love You, an original composition she had written two years ago.” LaBranche is a math and biology major at GSU, having returned to school as an adult. Although she owns a small business, LaBranche felt the need to return to school in order to show her children the importance of having an education. She wants her children, as well as other individuals, to see that she can finish what she started many years ago.

Many attendees of GSU’s Got Talent also were able to attend GSU’s annual Halloween Harvest. Many parents brought their children, who were able to partake in fun activities such as face painting, laser tag, and the haunted train ride.

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Student talents shine at GSU’s Got Talent

Military forum continued from pg 1

Johnson explained that many returning soldiers are too stubborn to admit they have a problem, and often self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. In his case, his PTSD led to anger management issues, marital problems, and sleep loss. He also became an adrenaline junkie with no enthusiasm for life. “It ended my whole life,” said Johnson. “Recovery is a lifetime thing for me now.”

Johnson believes that returning soldiers should go through a decompression boot camp in order to process what they went through and to learn more about it. “It’s up to social workers and family members to help the people coming home to know that it’s okay to need some help,” he said.

Marquell Smith experienced a different kind of trauma in the military under the Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Policy. While serving in the United States Marine Corps, Smith dedicated his life to the Marines, working his way to an officer position. When he discovered a partner of his tested HIV positive in 2006, Smith was forced to talk to his commanders on how to deal with the situation. Although never disclosing his partner’s sex, the admission led to an investigation into Smith’s personal life.

“They told me that I could stay in the Marine Corps, but I could no longer become an officer,” said Smith. He was also not allowed to discuss with anyone what was going on with him. He experienced anxiety after being dismissed, and was initially not allowed to use his GI bill benefits. “I experienced a different war,” said Smith.

Today, there is still no clause saying that military members can’t be discriminated against for their sexual orientation, and while some benefits now apply to same sex partnerships, others don’t.

Since his discharge, Smith has been advocating for equal rights and fair treatment. “I respect the gay men and women in the military, because they serve under a stigma but keep fighting because they believe that it is worth it,” said Smith.

Women in the military often face other challenges. Nicole McCoy, 22, joined the Marines Corps when she was 18 and immediately built a reputation for being hard working and trust worthy. “At the beginning, I felt highly respected,” said McCoy.

This changed when she was sexually assaulted during her training. After reporting it, she received little help. “I was a large target for assault. I was told to report sexual assault and rape, but no one says it’ll ruin your life if you do,” said McCoy, who received hate mail for her report. McCoy did not get letters of recommendation she was promised, and lost the respect of those around her.

McCoy was sexually assaulted three more times during her four years in the Marines. Feeling ignored, alienated, and judged, she began drinking and taking pills. “I was destructive,” she explained. “I drove my car into ditches. I didn’t want to be here because it would just happen again.”

“We are told to report sexual assault and rape, but no one says it’ll ruin your life if you do,” said McCoy, who received hate mail for her report. McCoy did not get letters of recommendation she was promised, and lost the respect of those around her.

Today, McCoy suffers from panic attacks and takes her dog with her wherever she goes because she never feels safe. She works through her Military Sexual Trauma (MST) on her own. “I don’t go get the help because I’m more afraid telling someone is going to make it worse,” she explained.

But she’s become an advocate speaking out against the culture of abuse of women in the military and she recently started an online petition urging the inclusion of active duty military and reservists in an online national database for sex offenders.

When Sharon Orsborn took the stand, she left many tear-filled eyes in the crowd, having experienced PTSD from an outsider’s perspective when her 26 year old son committed suicide after his service in Iraq.

When her only son and youngest child decided to enter the U.S. Army, Orsborn was concerned he might not be tough enough, but when they visited him on his graduation she was proved wrong. “I met someone we did not know,” said Orsborn. “He was not a little boy anymore.”

But by the time he returned home from Iraq, he wasn’t even the man she had seen at graduation. Distant and moody, he refused to talk about his experience.

His family saw the change in him, but felt helpless, and in May of 2007 he was found dead in a field in his car with a shot through his head. “They said he died in that field in Texas, but he died on a battlefield in Iraq,” said Orsborn. “His spirit was mortally wounded, but his body came back without a scratch.”

“The death of my child is the defining moment of my life,” she said. “Families should not be left on their own to figure out what to do.”

The personal experiences of these veterans and their families allowed the listeners to better understand what military members and their families may go through upon returning from deployment. Spreading awareness of PTSD and MST can help change things for returning veterans in the future.

“Thanks for listening to us,” said Orsborn. “Because when you listen to us, you help us heal.”

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Are you aware of malware?

By Carla Kroll
Contributing Writer

One day I was at my grandparents’ house, and I decided to check my email. I noticed that their computer was incredibly slow. When I accessed the internet, I began to get quite a few pop-ups on the monitor. I realized at that moment that their computer had been infected by malware of some sort. I told my grandmother that I thought she was infected with malware. After about five minutes of promising that I didn’t think she had a disease, I went on the internet to explain to her that her computer was infected, not her. I helped her to clean the computer and showed her a few tips on how to prevent that from happening again.

The first thing I should probably do is to explain what malware is. Malware is short for “malicious software.” It is basically any unwanted software that is installed without your permission. It is like a burglar breaking into your house. There are many different forms of malware. There are several different viruses and worms that can be considered examples of malware.

How can you know if you have malware on your computer? Sometimes you won’t know unless you look. There is a movie called “When a Stranger Calls Back”. In the movie, the bad guy paints himself to blend into the walls and people don’t know he’s there. Sometimes, malware can be that kind of bad guy. Malware can communicate with other computers giving up your information and you don’t even know that it’s happening. Other times, the malware will act the way it did while I was on my grandmother’s computer. Whether you are on the internet or not, it will move unusually slow. Sometimes pop-up ads will flood your monitor and no matter how many you close, more just come up. Another sign of malware is when your homepage changes to a page you never assigned.

Now what? You know you have malware, how do you fix it? One option that a lot of people without computer knowledge should consider is taking your machine to a qualified computer repair place. Make sure that you find one with a good reputation so that you can be confident in their work. Spybot is another option that I personally like. It is freeware that will essentially crawl through your computer for any malicious software placed on your computer. This software can also be used as a preventative measure.

To prevent malware there are some steps you can take, but technology is changing so fast that there is a good chance no matter how many precautions you take, malware could find its way into your computer. With that said, make sure you always keep your anti-virus up to date. Get the anti-spyware free software called Spybot and run it at least once a week to see if there is anything getting new in your system. Make sure you have firewalls set up on your computer, as they act as a type of gatekeeper. You have to be on the list to get in. Also, password protect your computer. Do not use your dog’s name or your girlfriend’s or boyfriend’s name as your password. Also, do not use the word password as it is the number one variation of the word as your password. According to techland.time.com the top 10 most common passwords are password, 123456, 1234567, qwerty, letmein, trustno1, dragon.

People are clever creatures and they will not hesitate to use their creativity to take advantage of you and what you have. You need to take responsibility into your own hands and take proper precautions against these types of people and the malware they produce. My grandmother did not even know what the word malware meant. However, now she is vigilant in protecting her computer by updating her anti-virus, running Spybot, and ensuring that her firewalls are always enabled. Because of her actions the malware has not found its way back into her computer.
**Comics**

**XKCD: Law of Drama**

*Rate at which they create drama*

*How often someone declares that they hate drama and always avoid it.*

**XKCD: Sports Cheat Sheet**

**PHD: Timer**

“PHD” (“Piled Higher & Deeper”), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. Updates occur about twice per week. To read more comics, head to www.PHDcomics.com

“XKCD” is a webcomic “of romance, sarcasm, math, and language” run by Randall Munroe. To the read the latest, head to xkcd.com

**Crossword**

ACROSS
1. Cried
5. Take as one’s own
10. Recent events
14. Dogfish
15. Shroud
16. Wings
17. Indulgent
19. Exam
20. French for “Summer”
21. Passageway
22. Russian country house
23. Set aside
25. Short low gruff noise
27. Perish
28. Salutation
31. Streets
34. Slightly wet
35. Compete
36. Savvy about
37. Intimidate
38. Religious offshoot
39. Ober
40. Slight color
41. Units of medicine
42. A hydrocarbon fuel

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**Sudoku**

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 7 3 4 9 6 8 1 2 7
 4 9 6 8 5 1 3 5 2
 8 5 1 2 6 7 9 4 3
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