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GSU developing freshmen curriculum

By Samantha Kaspar
Contributing Writer

With an estimated 270 freshmen coming to Governors State in 2014, there are many academic accommodations that need to be made. To prepare for this, the faculty senate at GSU has appointed a general education task force of faculty and administrators to develop a plan. “We have to have limited choices,” said Provost Terry Allison “With that small a number of students we can’t offer 15 different classes.”

The task force, headed by Physical Therapy professor Ann Vendrely, has come up with a plan of cohort classes. “We are working hard on a general education plan that is fun and everything fits together,” said Vendrely.

The freshmen class will be divided into three cohort groups. These groups will attend the same classes together, usually built around a common theme. The task force sees this as a way for students to get to know each other and learn together early on.

“The cohort model will allow students to choose a theme and link their classes. It’ll create a learning community for them, which is an exciting part of the program,” said Allison.

The university also hopes that its older students will become role models for incoming freshmen. “We plan on assigning students to help teach and serve as mentors to help the new students get used to the campus and their courses,” said Vendrely.

All of the classes in the general education program will be part of the Illinois Articulation Initiative, which is a set of courses covering particular content that can be transferable to any other public university in Illinois. “We obviously hope that all our students will stay with us after their first two years,” said Vendrely. “But if they do decide to leave, their credits will transfer.”

Teaching these classes is going to be a mix of new staff and current faculty. The university is currently looking at faculty to help write and develop new course based on their expertise. “We already have a hiring plan for next year,” said Allison “And we’re

Giovanni captures the heart of GSU

Giovanni, a distinguished professor of English at Virginia Tech University appeared right at home before the packed house gathered in GSU’s Performing Arts Center on November 7.

“I work for a university. It’s not a lot but it’s steady,” said Giovanni.

Lively, relatable, and unapologetically authentic, she took the audience on a ride aboard the “Giovanni Express” and allowed all a glimpse into the world as she sees it.

With candor and undeniable wit, Giovanni shared her poetry as well as her insight on some of today’s most pressing topics, including abortion, marriage equality, and student loan debt.

“I am the only person that is pro-abortion, everyone else is pro-choice. I am not. If you don’t want it, I don’t want you to have it,” Giovanni said. “I get to make some decisions for myself and I am tired of men treating women’s bodies like they own us.”

Giovanni added, “If they get to vote on abortions, we should get to vote on erections.”

On the topic of marriage equality, she stated that it is very
What does GSU’s Student Senate actually do???

Over the past month, Student Senate has participated in numerous events and activities, including the distribution of a survey to students about campus communication preferences. We appreciate all the responses we received in order to better serve our campus community. Out of all the surveys that included additional questions, comments, or suggestions, 30% of students still had questions about the purpose of Student Senate on GSU’s campus.

The mission of the student senate is to promote the general welfare of GSU students. This is accomplished through the representation of student concerns, viewpoints, and interests regarding governance issues to the administration, staff, and faculty.

The Student Senate strives to improve the quality of academic and co-curricular experiences at GSU and provide developmental opportunities for its members.

It may be easier to understand the purpose of the Student Senate if we hear from those who are most engaged with the group – the Senators themselves. I asked a couple members of the Student Senate why they decided to become a senator, and here are their responses:

“I became a student senator in order to create a positive impact around my community and university. My position on the student senate enables me to fortify Governors State University programs, and form new efficient programs for the student body.” – Christopher Apata, Student Senator

“Being a student senator allows you to affect change, to network with other future professionals, to gain valuable leadership skills, and to learn about university policies and how they affect me as a student.” – Eric Williams, Student Senator

Are you interested in making an impact and meeting other student scholars on campus? Stop by Student Life Suites in room 2100, and pick up an election packet for next semester. You can also download the packet from the Student Senate website at www.govst.edu/studentsenate. Don’t forget to visit us on our Facebook page to find out more information about current Senate events and activities. Good luck on your finals, and I look forward to writing more for you next semester!

Kayla Randolph-Clark
Senator at Large
On Behalf of the GSU Student Senate

A note from the editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to our efforts here at the Phoenix this semester. In addition to all of the hard work put in by our regular staff, we received several student submissions. I would just like to say thank you to all who contributed stories, or who reached out to us to let us know of important events happening on campus. This was a great semester here at the Phoenix, and a large part of that is thanks to our contributing writers. Thank you!

To everyone at GSU, enjoy a nice, long, relaxing winter break! See you in January!

Melissa Hall
Editor-in-Chief

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On Facebook: GSU Phoenix
GSU unveils design for new student housing complex

By Corrie Gray
Associate Editor

If all goes as planned, GSU will be breaking ground on a new state-of-the-art housing complex in March of 2013.

The 77 unit structure will feature apartment and suite style units complete with public and private kitchens, study rooms, and laundry facilities.

Designed by FGM Architects, the complex will offer its residents all the creature comforts of home with residential services including wireless access, cable television, mail service, electronic access control, vending machines, and a convenience store.

“The first building is designed with various types of units that will attract the first year students coming in and we’ll also offer apartment style housing that would be attractive to upper-class, graduate, and doctoral students as well,” said GSU’s new Director of Auxiliary Services and Residence Life, Betsy Joseph.

Joseph added, “It is a really cool facility. The design we have with both public and private areas will give residents the best of both worlds.”

Prior to coming to GSU, Joseph was the director of student housing at Kent State University where she was in charge of 6,400 students living on campus in 25 different buildings.

Having been in her current position a little over a month, Joseph is quickly adjusting to life on campus.

“I have historically worked at institutions where the busiest class schedules were between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. I am now at a campus where the busiest times are from 4-8p.m.,” said Joseph.

There will be lots of things happening over the next 18 months in preparation for the July 2014 opening.

Among other things, GSU is looking to start a website for student housing and do some assessments to gauge the needs and preferences of the universities students.

The university will be reaching out to various student groups and doing surveys to ensure a successful opening in 2014.

“We will be working on planning in terms of transportation, whether or not students will have to drive. We will be looking at new ideas for ID cards and assessing the universities food service needs,” said Joseph.

GSU will continue its major emphasis on upper division and the dual degree program as they are an essential parts of the universities culture.

Student housing will serve as a compliment that will expand the opportunity to students who would like to live on campus.

“Everyone is excited about this next stage in the history of Governors State University and it is going to take all of us, faculty, staff, and students, to really transition the university into a 24 hour campus,” said Joseph.
The Illinois Open Technology Challenge brings governments, developers, and communities together in a common mission to use public data to create digital tools that serve civic needs and promote economic development.

This multi-month initiative aims to make Illinois’ open data platform, Data.Illinois.Gov, available statewide, and host government trainings, community meetings and hackathons that will bring together developers in technology with civic-minded individuals and organizations. Our goal is to help develop a real community where we will see sustainable civic results and developers will prosper.

Through the generous support of the State of Illinois, Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, The Chicago Community Trust, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Motorola Mobility Foundation, and Google, at least $75K in total prize money will be awarded to any individual, or team of individuals for developing innovative software applications that utilize open government data to best address the challenges in one of our communities: Belleville, Champaign, Rockford and South Suburbs.

The broad criteria is as follows:

Use at least one dataset from www.data.illinois.gov, www.metrochicagodata.org, or www.seatlas.org. Use and/or publish as much open source code as possible. Attempt to solve a community problem. The first step in all of this is to come together as a community to share code, review data, and talk about what issues we want to try to solve through technology. Here’s the schedule of first meetings:

- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association: Tuesday, November 27
- Rockford: Late November 2012
- Belleville: Early December 2012
- Champaign: Early December 2012

Are you interested in attending one of these meetings? Join our list and let us know. Remember: this is about solving local issues with data and technology. You don’t have to live in one of these areas—you just have to be interested in solving problems there! For more information, visit http://illinoisopentech.org/challenge/.
Ethno-art alive at GSU

By Noreen Chandler
Contributing Writer

The Art History department at Governors State University has had a long hidden secret. That secret has grown into a full Ethno Art Collection, thanks to Dr. Arthur Bourgeois. Mike Chandler is currently filming the treasures of GSU’s prized collection.

Dr. Bourgeois started collecting artifacts over 30 years ago to show his students how the art of various people in foreign places looked. Chandler says that he is amazed by the collection featuring African Art of the Lobi, Hemba, Yaka, Yoruba, Baoule and many more. He recently shared his enthusiasm with a friend at Clarion University and was invited to share a sampling of the Ethno Art Collection on film.

The Ethnographic collection also has works from Mexico, Papua New Guinea and the Oceanic region. Dr. Michelle Niguesen of GSU’s Library has been a valuable resource and is a native Baoualian of the Ivory Coast. Thus far this project has been a collaborative effort between the Art History department, Independent Film studies, Library and Gallery staff. By spending time and talking with Dr. Bourgeois it’s easy to see just how much he loves the Teaching Art Collection treasures.

Chandler plans to complete the Ethno Art Teaching Collection project in the spring. There are also plans to showcase part of the collection in an exhibit by gallery director Jeff Stevenson.

Nikki Giovanni continued from pg 1

important that the black community support same-sex marriage because they know what it is like for someone to say that you cannot enter into a contract with somebody else.

“We let the slaves get married they are human beings, if we let the gays get married they are human beings, if we let the gays get married they are human beings,” said Giovanni.

She credits exercise and falling in love with helping her apart, Giovanni admitted that her mother and sister six weeks to circulate, she fell into a serious funk. “I recommend it and whatever you do get the poem.”

As a result of her falling in love, she was inspired to write one of her favorite poems, “Bicycles.”

“Because falling in love is like riding a bicycle. It takes trust and balance,” said Giovanni.

Business students honored

By Melissa Hall
Editor-in-Chief

The Governors State University chapter of Delta Mu Delta recently inducted the 2012-2013 class of freshmen in a ceremony on the GSU campus.

Delta Mu Delta is an international honors society that recognizes the academic excellence of students in the field of business. Both undergraduate and graduate students can be honored by the society.

There were 28 business students inducted into Delta Mu Delta in a ceremony on November 14 in the Hall of Governors. According to Delta Mu Delta Chapter President Monique Burey-Ballard, being inducted into the honors society is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a business student at GSU.

“Student in Delta Mu Delta will enjoy the benefits of professional networking, academic scholarship, and community recognition. The membership is also a lifetime membership,” said Burey-Ballard.

Business undergrads must maintain a 3.7 GPA, as well as be in the top 20 percent of their class, in order to be eligible for the honors society. Graduate level students must have a minimum 3.8 GPA in addition to being in the top 20 percent of their class.

In addition to honoring the new inductees, the ceremony was also grounded for announcing a new chapter president and treasurer. Jill Marie Linkous was named chapter President for the 2012-2013 class, while Ewa Rzeminska was named as Treasurer. Dr. Jun Zhao was also inducted as an honorary member into Delta Mu Delta.

Delta Mu Delta was founded in 1913 at New York University. It was incorporated in 1952, and admitted into the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) in 1963.

freshmen curriculum continued from pg 1

hiring new people to specifically develop courses for the following year.

The university is also adding a two credit course for second year students in which they will explore different majors. At the start of their third year, students will also take their introduction to their major classes. “This will help them to form a new learning community with other students in their field,” said Vendrely.

These fields will also expand with the addition of freshmen. With a six-year plan, Governors State plans to add more than 30 new majors. This fall, the university has already added a few, including Anthropology, Sociology, and Information Technology. Among others, History and Economics will be added in the fall of 2013.

As for accommodating for time and space around campus, freshmen students will attend full time daytime classes. “We have plenty of space in the mornings,” said Allison. “We also really underutilize our Fridays and Saturdays.”

The University is also discussing expanding it’s extra-curriculars, adding more clubs, sports, and different activities. “We’re trying to work with student life to give freshmen the college experience,” said Vendrely.

Along with majors and extra-curricular activities, GSU would like to expand in other areas as well. “Assuming that the demand is there after the first 300, we would like to build a larger bookstore, dinning commons, recreation center, and meeting rooms to have that multi-activity space,” said Allison.

“We want to start small to make sure that it’s a success,” said Allison. “We want to make sure that out plans work well and we are a success at keeping students. If all those things work out, then we can expand.”
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
1 University Parkway | governors.bkstr.com

RETURN YOUR RENTAL BOOKS now through DECEMBER 5
Spotlight Hour to showcase theater student’s work

By Melissa Hall
Editor-in-Chief

The GSU community is invited to join GSU’s first ever Writing as Performance class at the class’s Spotlight Hour. On Thursday, November 29 at 8pm, Writing as Performance students will share select pieces of their work at Spotlight Hour in Engbretson Hall. During the past semester, students in the class have both written and performed their own creative works.

According to Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor of Communication, Visual and Performing Arts, Spotlight Hour is a chance for Writing as Performance students to both celebrate and share their work with the GSU community.

“This is an opportunity to come see the performance work that is now taking place at Governors State. Hopefully this will pique interest in the performance opportunities to come,” said Dr. Santoro. “It is also an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of this semester.”

Students in the Writing as Performance class have studied both writing and performance and how they are intertwined and enhanced by one another. In addition to writing their own creative works, students have had to perform their work, as well as the work of their classmates.

“The work that students have done this semester deals with writing and performing from the perspective of performer, audience member, and director,” said Dr. Santoro.

Writing as Performance is part of the new Theater and Performance studies course offerings at GSU. Students who missed out on the fall semesters courses can still take part in the program’s Spring semester’s offerings. There will be two Theater and Performance studies courses offering in the Spring of 2013: Performing Culture and Identity, and Chicagoland Theater. Performing Culture and Identity will examine a diversity of cultures and identities through the art of performance, while Chicagoland Theater will give students the opportunity to experience theater throughout the Chicagoland area.

Admission to Spotlight Hour is free. Engbretson Hall is located in room B1200.

Twilight: Breaking Dawn
Part 2 review

By Jeffrey Wyskiel
Contributing Writer

No one can deny the fact that this was, by far, the best of the five Twilight movies. Fans of the Twilight saga will not be disappointed.

It had plenty of romance, which is one reason why the Twilight saga is so popular. Bella (played by Kristen Stewart) has a newfound vampiric muscle in Breaking Dawn. There is no holding back when the sweet cold-blooded lovemaking with her til-undead-to-us part hubby, Edward (Robert Pattinson) happens. It also has the ab-tastic werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) putting not only his body but also his soul on the line.

The movie really borders on being R rated. It would be best to only let kids 13 and up see this movie because of partial nudity, sexuality and violence. In Breaking Dawn, Bella has given birth to a half human, half vampire child named Renesmee. Problems arise for Bella and Edward because their quickly growing child is immortal. Immortal children become deadly vampires at age 2 and can wipe out thousands of humans with no reason, which could exploit the vampire’s secret existence. This leads to an massive battle.

The battle scenes were epic. The movie had many surprises and shocking deaths. What makes this movie such a spectacular masterpiece, however, was how much warmth and beauty it brought to hearts of many. It’s a hopelessly romantic film that creates an idealistic love worth fantasizing about.

The Gay Straight Alliance’s mission is to create a safe place for LGBTQ people and their allies to build friendships, and develop a GSA presence on campus. We accomplish our mission by conducting weekly meetings, and conducting fundraisers and events. We believe that everyone should be free to express their sexual identity and gender with out being discriminated.

Everyone is Welcome.

Gay Straight Alliance Meeting Every Wednesday at 3pm in E2590

Solutions to sudoku from Pg. 8

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Comics

XKCD: Identity

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

PHD: Powerpoint

“I lost the server password. What is it again?”

“Ooh, good question! I bet we can construct a cool proof-of-identity protocol. I’ll start by picking two random... oh, good. It’s you. Here’s the password.”

GSU Happenings

Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair
November 28
2 to 5 p.m.
Center for Performing Arts

Go Mad With Madden 2013 Tournament
November 28 & 29
9 - 5 p.m.
Game Lounge
GSU students only
Registration required
Jason Zelek
Rec Fit Center

“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

Crossword

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