President Barak Obama holds off on U.S. intervention in Syria urging Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad to surrender all chemical weapons during his UN speech September 24.

Accusations that the Syrian government’s usage of chemical weapons on civilians have, in response, led to international involvement. The United Nations has confirmed the usage of chemical weapons in Syria but have not been able to target who is responsible for the attack.

In his speech to the U.N. Obama states that he believes with ‘high confidence’ that the Syrian regime is responsible for the chemical attack. However, Assad has indicated that the chemical weapons have not been used by the government but rather by rebel groups within Syria.

President Obama declares if the Syrian government does not relinquish chemical weapons, a military strike will occur. The strike may create a backlash against the U.S. and its allies and lead to sustained U.S. military obligation in Syria as seen in past interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After the 2011 Arab Spring uprising in Egypt and Tunisia, Syrian protesters, now known as the Syrian rebels, were motivated to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with Assad’s regime urging a
The holiday season is fast approaching, and many will be getting into the spirit of giving. But why wait until the holidays? You can give the gift of giving at any time of the year. There are many ways to donate money or time to organizations that benefit others. You can volunteer at a local shelter, charity, hospital, animal shelter, wherever you feel that your personal interests, strengths, and abilities can be most useful. If you don’t know where to start looking for volunteer opportunities, you can begin right here on campus.

Student Life has just welcomed Neel Rana, an AmeriCorps VISTA intern, who will be helping in the development of the new Civic Engagement and Community Service Center. Some of the programs currently underway are the GSU Food Pantry and the Community Service Council.

The GSU Food Pantry, located near the Student Life commons in A2141, is open every first and third Tuesday of the month, and offers a bag of groceries to students, no questions asked. All students have to do is present a student ID. The Food Pantry can always use more non-perishable items (both food and non-food goods), or volunteers to help with the services offered. Donations can be made at the Center for Civic Engagement, located in A2130, Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

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Kayla Randolph-Clark
Promise Fest: dreams realized

By Anna Soloff
Associate Editor

Governors State University is hosting the first ever GSU Promise Fest October 4 and 5. The GSU Promise Fest will feature one evening of entertainment, as well as 5K run and craft fair, in support of the GSU Promise Scholarship.

The Center for Performing Arts October 4 will feature comedy by Damon Williams, of Showtime at the Apollo fame, as part of the GSU Promise Fest festivities.

GSU Promise Fest is the result of a class project by a group of marketing and advertising students at GSU. The idea was formulated last semester in Professor Don Wlodarski’s Advertising and Marketing class. Bianca Mangabhai, Daniel Ellington, Nia Robertson, Jeffrey Wyskiel, and Teena Dorn, all students in Wlodarski’s class, worked together to create the GSU Promise Fest. Mangabhai, an international student at GSU, is excited to see the group’s idea come to life.

“I come from a country (Zimbabwe) where the economy is drastically changing and the opportunity for a great education seems so farfetched for many who dream of getting a higher education,” said Mangabhai. “Therefore I think the Promise is a great thing and I took on this project fundraiser to help others who come behind me to get the education they need and deserve. To those who have and will benefit from the Promise Scholarship, I say the sky is the limit. Be grateful for the opportunity you have been given because others can only dream to have what you have.”

The GSU Promise Scholarship was established in 2012 by GSU President Elaine P. Maimon to help students who are economically disadvantaged. The scholarship is for undergraduate students who are participants in GSU’s Dual Degree Program. The Dual Degree Program was designed to help community college students earn both their Associates and Bachelors degrees in an affordable manner. Randi Schneider, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, cited low college graduation rates in the south Chicago metropolitan area as one of the key reasons for the creation of GSU’s Dual Degree Program.

According to Schneider, “In response to the low rate of college completion in south metro Chicago and the national call to increase Associates and Bachelors degree completion, ten community college presidents collaborated with Dr. Maimon to create the Dual Degree Program. The Dual Degree Program provides full-time students at these 10 community colleges with a pathway to earn quality, accessible and affordable Associate and Bachelor’s degrees in the shortest amount of time possible.”

Schneider said the university’s goal is to have 50 Promise Scholars at GSU at one time and to award approximately 25 scholarships each year. There are currently over 130 students at GSU who are Dual Degree Program participants and approximately 300 students at the 10 participating community college systems who are part of the program. Participating community colleges include Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, South Suburban College, Triton College, Harper College, College of DuPage, Morton College, and the City Colleges of Chicago. Students enrolled in the Dual Degree Program are guaranteed admittance into GSU. In addition, those in the program have a locked-in tuition rate for their first two years at GSU, based on their semester of enrollment at GSU.

In addition to being active in the Dual Degree Program, students must be eligible for a Pell grant and must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 in order to be eligible for the GSU Promise Scholarship. The Promise Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition, fees and $1200 towards books. Additionally, the scholarship covers expenses not covered by Pell and MAP award grants and can be awarded for a total of four semesters.

Student Senate Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark is a recipient of the GSU Promise Scholarship. According to Clark, the GSU Promise Scholarship, “represents how GSU is committed to helping students earn their degrees, no matter what their background or socioeconomic status may be.”

Clark is grateful for the educational opportunity the GSU Promise Scholarship has provided her. “I would say to future Promise applicants that to receive this scholarship is an honor and a blessing, and if they should be so lucky to receive this award, it would behoove them to pay it forward-by helping other students, getting involved on campus or giving back to their community,” said Clark.

Tickets for the Damon Williams GSU Promise Fest performance can be purchased at centerTickets.net or by calling 708-283-2222. More information regarding the event can be found at http://gsupromisefest.wordpress.com.
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Addressing sexual violence

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Contributing Writer

The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago hosted the forum Addressing Sexual Violence in Immigrant Communities in Engbretson Hall on September 20. GSU students who attended the presentation learned about the YWCA’s sexual assault advocate programs, and were asked to challenge cultural norms that ignore widespread incidences of rape and other forms of sexual assault.

Debbie Perry, YWCA Manager for Prevention and Advocacy Service, emphasized the increasing need for sexual assault resources in immigrant communities, particularly in the Latino population. Cultural barriers that stress the predominance of private traditional family communities vastly lower the incidence of reporting of sexual assault.

According to Perry, a large discrepancy exists between the number of sexual assault victims (primarily females) who call rape crisis hotlines, and the incidence of sexual assault crimes being reported to the police. While one in six females ages 13 or older is raped in the United States, the actual reporting of these crimes is between two and six percent.

“In the event that someone is the victim of sexual assault, Perry says, “The first step is to go to the emergency room and call the hotline.”

In the event that victims are ambivalent about going to the hospital, a visit to a clinic or family doctor is vital. Victims are highly encouraged to contact an advocate for assistance, counseling, and support.

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The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago offers three rape crisis hotlines. The number for the greater Chicago metropolitan area is 888-293-2080. Those in the south suburbs can call 708-748-5672. In Dupage County, victims of sexual assault can call 630-971-3927. All three hotlines operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Carts and Cocktails Continued from pg 1

In addition to Lewis, the event featured speeches from GSU President Elaine P. Maimon, as well as Rick Kogan of the “Chicago Tribune” and WGN radio’s “Chicago Live”! Susan Ormsby, Intermediate Past-President and Event Chair; Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park; and Jeanna Bridges, the U.S. Head of Diversity and Inclusion at BMO Harris Bank, also spoke at the event.

In her speech to the crowd, Maimon spoke of the unity between the sculpture park and the campus of Governors State University. “The sculpture park and the campus are one,” said Maimon. “Nathan Manilow’s dream was to have the combination of a great university with very close access to a rail line, you know, going into the city, with the Park Forest community being part of that whole vision of community, access to all the great things in the center of the city in Chicago, and then the great cultural center here. And we have what we have now is really, in many ways, a fulfillment of Nathan Manilow’s dream.”

Maimon also spoke of the park’s impact on GSU’s student body. “Our students, our faculty, our staff, live in a sculpture park. It is something that is part of our daily existence. It’s something that we have to say, ‘let’s make a plan and go to a museum,’ and the museum is somewhere out there. The art is in here, for Governors State University. And it’s in here for everybody,” said Maimon.

In his address, Kogan expressed his admiration of the park, and discussed how the original vision of GSU’s first President, William E. Engbretson, lives on through the sculpture park. Kogan said that Engbretson believed art could help to overcome dehumanization.

“Art can do that. Art does do that. And these sculptures began to come here in the 70’s, and 35 years later thousands of students and parents and people like you have had the chance to see, and think, and discuss these (sculptures).”

“Guests were treated to a golf cart tour of the park, with stops at the sculptures Paul, Yes! For Lady Day, House Divided, and the parks most recent addition, Windswept. The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is open to the public 365 days a year from dawn to dusk, and admission to the park is free. Scheduled tours of the park are also offered for free from May through October. For more information, please visit www.govst.edu/sculpture for the current tour schedule.”

GSU President Elaine Maimon
Creative strategies for funding graduate studies

By Katrina Koltz
Contributing Writer

These economic times have presented students with the particularly challenging task of funding their graduate education. With the national student loan debt reaching $1.2 trillion, it has become apparent that students must come up with innovative ways to fund their education. This mission will require a combination of traditional budgeting strategies, efficient resource utilization, and wise borrowing practices.

The first place to start is with your own finances. This entails a serious look at your spending practices and priorities. Attaining a graduate degree is a privilege that many will never have the opportunity to complete. This being said, it is imperative to “live within your means” or avoid overspending. While this may seem like a simple concept, unemployment and underemployment make this difficult for some. One creative idea is to apply your tax refund specifically towards tuition or books. This will decrease your student loans and total debt upon graduation. Another option is getting a flexible part-time job. Many retail, food service, and private businesses recognize how valuable it is to employ developing professionals and will accommodate school schedules.

Your next step should be your academic department as they may have scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, and graduate assistant, research, or federal work-study positions available. These are excellent resources to employ, as these opportunities provide funds that do not have to be repaid and can build professional connections with faculty and staff. Another avenue is rotary clubs, like the Elks or Rotary International, as they have essay, service, and need-based scholarships. They usually require letters of recommendation or evidence of community involvement. Similarly, employee tuition assistance programs are often available to employees and sometimes their children as well. Eligibility for these programs is often contingent upon employment with the company for a specific period of time. If these terms are not fulfilled, the employee typically has to repay the company for the tuition.

Lastly, wise borrowing practices are absolutely essential to avoid crippling loan payments after graduation. Students often forget to look at loan rates and read the contracts they are signing. With fixed rates ranging from 5 percent to 6.41 percent for graduate students, federal loans are usually a better option than private loans. Private loans may appear to be a better deal, as they tend to have higher borrowing limits, but have fixed or variable rates anywhere from 3 percent to 13 percent. A good rule to follow when considering additional loans is to not borrow more in total than your first year salary in an entry-level position with your degree. This will help ensure more manageable payments once you graduate. Another component of wise borrowing is to not borrow beyond the cost of tuition and books. Many students rely on extra funds from student loans to cover their rent, bills, and groceries. While this may look convenient or necessary in the moment, it can result in some sobering consequences in the future.

FC14 campaign in full gear

By Samantha Kaspar
Staff Writer

Governors State University’s efforts to recruit freshmen for the schools first class of freshmen in 2014 are in full swing. GSU has started the FC14 campaign, or the First Class 2014 campaign, to recruit freshmen students to the school.

Recruitment is mainly being done through fairs at various high schools and school districts. In addition, GSU is attending major college fairs, including the National Admission of College Counselors Fair, where the school will join various universities across the country in recruiting students at Chicago’s Navy Pier.

According to Kristy Goodwin, Director of Recruitment and Outreach Admissions and Student Recruitment, the university already has found a lot of interest in GSU among prospective students.

“(Prospective students) are really on the bandwagon of being the first class,” said Goodwin.

GSU is hosting an open house for freshmen and parents on Saturday, October 19. The university is also currently accepting early enrollment applications. The deadline for early admission is November 15, with applications being reviewed from October 1 until January 31. Admission requirements include a minimum high school G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, an ACT score of at least 18 or an SAT equivalent score, as well as a letter of application of 500 to 750 words.

Because GSU is the only public university in Illinois south of the Chicago city limits and north of Bloomington, it is focusing recruitment in high schools within that area. According to Courtney Sanders, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing, GSU is focusing on this area to recruit students who wish to obtain a quality education at a four year university close to home.

“If students want to live at home and commute, they have to go into the city and a lot of students don’t want to do that,” said Sanders.

The university anticipates that although their recruiting focus is local, some of those students may still want to live on campus.

“We are focused on, but not limited to commuters,” said Goodwin.

Syrian conflict

Continued from pg 1

democratic reform within the region. Capturing the attention of the international community, the situation escalated from diplomatic protests to conflict.

Michele Torbik, a student at GSU, stated “A number of our allies are not on board with us. I think it will create tension.”

The office of United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees reported that over 100,000 civilians were killed in Syria and two million reported refugees have fled Syria since the turmoil began. Rebel fighters from all across the Middle East joined anti-Assad Syrian insurgents making the civil war scene unclear to many as to what is really going on in the region.

One hundred students were surveyed at Governors State University on the current situation. With 29% for intervention, 52% against intervention and 19% that don’t know, we decided to take a closer look as to why these conclusions were reached.

First in a two-part series. Watch the Phoenix online for academic perspectives on the U.S. role in Syria.
Information overload

By Steve Luzzo
Contributing Writer

With so much going on in the world, I feel left behind on all of the hot stories. On a daily basis we are being inundated with news ranging from celebrity gossip to countries on the verge of war. I think we have reached the point of oversaturation. There is so much information being thrown at us from the minute we wake up that it begins to become difficult to realize what actually matters.

In the last hundred years or so this country has changed drastically in how connected we are to the news. In the early 1900’s the only news sources were newspapers and radio. Today, everywhere we look there are screens showing TV channels with scrolling dials discussing our impending demise and how we are on the brink of governmental implosion. Facebook may be one of the largest culprits of this intrusion of news reports in my life, with posts ranging from every political spectrum to pro-life stances and discussions about home schooling cluttering up my feed.

At what point is all of this information just too much? Are people expected to know everything that is being posted? Between Syria, Miley Cyrus, the Sequester, and U2’s Bono, I don’t know what is what anymore.

There has to be a way to communicate information more efficiently. With too much information available it all becomes a big blur. Here are a few questions to see how much information you are actually retaining;

1. **Who is the President of Syria?**
a. Mohammed Morsi  
b. Hassan Rouhani  
c. Bashar Assad  
d. Walter White

2. **What is minimum wage in Illinois?**
a. $7.25  
b. $8.25  
c. $8.50  
d. $7.75

3. **The winner of Miss America was of what descent?**
a. Irish  
b. French  
c. African American  
d. Indian

4. **Where are the 2014 Winter Olympics being held?**
a. Sochi, Russia  
b. Salzburg, Austria  
c. Pyeongchang, South Korea  
d. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

5. **Apple recently released two new phones, what model were they?**
a. 4s and 4c  
b. 5g and 5c  
c. 5s and 5c  
d. 5c and 5p

Tweet your answers to me @ImGonnaGet2It. I look forward to seeing how many people can answer these correctly. The answers will be revealed in the October 15 issue of the Phoenix, as well as the number of people who answer correctly.

Steve Luzzo  
@ImGonnaGet2It

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**Sudoku solution from pg 8**

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7 4 1 3 6 9 | 2 8 5
9 6 8 2 7 5 | 1 4 3
3 2 5 4 8 1 | 7 6 9
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**Crossword solution from pg 8**

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ESTER ICED TOAD  
CHIME NOSE ACME  
RUNIC SNAP NEON  
UNGRATEFUL TANS  
PINE ORANGE  
TULA ESS YAM  
ANON RASH GOADS  
PIANIST EPAULET  
SONIC EARL NAME  
HON SEATEEM  
ANGINA PANG  
WOOL PREFERENCE  
AMIA PORT IDOLS  
RANT ELSE DIVAN  
EDGE DEER STADE
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Comics

**XKCD: Creative storytelling**

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

**PHD: Graduation**

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

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**GSU Happenings**

**National Hispanic Heritage Month**
Through Oct. 15

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**Gay Straight Alliance Meetings**
Tuesdays
5:30 p.m.
E1581

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**From Accessing to Shaping: Re-Thinking Trans* Inclusion on College Campuses**
October 2
3 - 4 p.m.
Cafe Annex

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**CBPA Grad Programs Open House**
October 3
6 - 7:30 p.m.
RSVP at bpaindo@govst.edu

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**Damon Williams**
Center for Performing Arts
October 4 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: $30;
Students: $15

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**LGBT History Month**

**Forensics Team**

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**GSU Promise**
5K Run/Walk**

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**Flamenco Passion: Quejías-Cries in the Air**
October 12
8 p.m.
Center for Performing Arts

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**GSU’s First National Graduate Fair**
October 14
3 - 7 p.m.
Hall of Governors

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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Fruity-smelling compound
6. Frozen
10. Tailless amphibian
14. Ring
15. Schnozzola
16. Highest point
17. Anagram of "Incurs"
18. Break
19. A noble gas
20. Thankless
22. Bronzes
23. A coniferous tree
24. A citrus fruit
26. A city in western Russia
30. S
31. Sweet potato
32. Nameless
33. Impetuous
35. Prods
36. Piano player
39. Chopin player
41. Shoulder board
43. Relating to sound
44. Nobleman
46. What a person is called
47. Babe
49. Ocean
50. Abound
51. Paroxysms of chest pain
54. Twinge
56. It comes from sheep
57. A strong liking
63. Dogfish
65. Graven images
66. Delver a tirade
67. If not
69. Border
70. Bambi was one
71. Ancient Greek unit of length

**DOWN**
1. Beige
2. Cold-shoulder
3. Bell sound
4. Arab chieftain
5. Summary
6. Cold-blooded
7. Admit
8. Brother of Jacob
9. Position
10. Equivalent
11. Sea
12. In the midst of 13.
13. Compacted
14. Indian music
15. Faucets
16. Pearly-shelled mussel
17. Give temporarily
18. Kill in large numbers
19. A territorial unit of Greece
20. Flower stalk
21. Computer symbol
22. Aircraft
23. Bad-mouth
24. Sleep briefly
25. Cognizant
26. Bedouin
27. Coming and_____
28. Gratings
29. Part in a play
30. Modify
31. Exploded star
32. Attired
33. Feudal worker
34. Future
35. Wings
36. Oasis
37. A strong liking
38. Ocean
39. Ocean
40. Computer symbol
41. Aircraft
42. Bad-mouth
43. Sleep briefly
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64. Bedouin
65. A territorial unit of Greece
66. Flower stalk
67. Computer symbol
68. Aircraft
69. Bad-mouth
70. Sleep briefly
71. Cognizant

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**Sudoku**

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