Beginning in 2014, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) goes into full effect. The ACA, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, requires that all Americans have health insurance.

Beginning October 1, the United States government (as well as some state governments) launched health insurance marketplace exchange websites, where consumers can shop for insurance plans that fit their needs. Open enrollment for 2014 runs from October 1 to March 31, 2014. According to becoveredillinois.org, an educational website set up by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, individuals must enroll by December 15 for coverage starting on January 1, 2014.

While many employers provide employees with health insurance, there are still many people who have not had access to affordable health insurance in the United States. The ACA was signed into law with the intention of providing those citizens with affordable access to health care insurance.

According to Michael Deering, Media and Public Relations Director at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, the ACA will provide several benefits to individuals in need of insurance who may not have had access to affordable health care in the past. “Individuals will be assured of getting health coverage, regardless of health status,” said Deering. “This means that all Americans have access to coverage, including those with pre-existing conditions. Adult dependent children can remain on a parent’s policy until age 26, regardless of student, marital or residency status. Your policy cannot be canceled, except in cases of fraud or intentional abuse of coverage.”

Additionally, the ACA requires all insurers to provide coverage for basic health concerns. This requirement extends to all insurance plans, including those offered by employers.

According to Deering, “New policies and plans must comply with the ten essential health benefits...”
Do you like to write?

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 to help in making the Phoenix a success. If you are interested, please contact the Phoenix office at 708-534-4517 or phoenix@govst.edu.

Wanted: Editor-in-Chief

The Phoenix is, and continues to be, in a great state of transition. Efforts are being made every day to improve the quality of the stories, reporting, and writing that are featured within the pages of the Phoenix. It has been gratifying to be the Editor-in-Chief during such a transformative time. I’ve only been the Editor-in-Chief since last fall, but in the short amount of time I’ve been with the Phoenix, I have seen this newspaper change and grow into a more reliable source of news for GSU students, featuring increasing coverage of campus events and news that is relevant to GSU students.

I am proud to have been part of the effort to bring GSU students a student newspaper of increasing quality and reliability. However, my part in the Phoenix journey will soon draw to a close. This is my last semester here at GSU. I will soon make the happy transition from GSU student to GSU alum. While I will be sad to say goodbye to GSU and everyone here at the Phoenix, I must admit that I am looking forward to finishing my degree and moving on to life as a college graduate.

With my graduation, the Phoenix will be in need of a new Editor-in-Chief! While I will, of course, be with the Phoenix until this semester ends, the process of finding a new Editor-in-Chief for the Spring 2014 semester begins now.

Students who are interested in applying for the position of Editor-in-Chief should email the Phoenix, with the subject line Editor-in-Chief, phoenix@govst.edu for more information. Interested applicants should possess excellent leadership skills, be highly organized, have excellent communication skills, and be able to maintain a flexible schedule, keeping regular weekly office hours. Previous experience working on a student newspaper, or coursework completed in newswriting is essential. Previous experience with layout software is a plus. In short, the ideal applicant should have prior experience in student journalism.

I have one more bit of exciting news. I am happy to welcome Jonathan Bulthuis to the Phoenix staff. Bulthuis will be serving as the Digital Content Producer for the remainder of this semester. In addition to writing stories for the Phoenix, Bulthuis will be responsible for maintaining the online home of the Phoenix, www.gsphoenix.com, as well as the Phoenix Facebook and Twitter accounts (by the way, if you haven’t yet visited us online, check us out!)

Bulthuis is in his first semester here at GSU. He is majoring in Communications, with a concentration in Journalism. Prior to GSU, Bulthuis attended Joliet Junior College. Additionally, Bulthuis has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia. In the short time that I have had the pleasure of working with Jon, he has shown an enormous amount of energy and passion for journalism. I have no doubt that he is going to be a fantastic contributor to the Phoenix this semester and beyond.

Find the Phoenix online @ www.gsphoenix.com

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!
The leaves on the trees are now changing as a new season approaches us. Coinciding with the change in season are the big changes that will soon be happening at GSU. On October 11, I sat as the student representative on the Board of Trustees for Governors State University as they voted on numerous items that will begin the implementation of new projects and ventures for the institution. Some of you may have noticed new programs being offered to students, such as Economics in the College of Business and Public Administration, Urban Teacher Education in the College of Education, Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Family Nurse Practitioner Track in the College of Health and Human Services. The creation of these and other programs are an initiative of the Academic Master Plan – Strategy 2015. Over 30 programs have been proposed since 2010 to meet the needs of students and growing fields. At the October board meeting, a new unit of instruction has been approved to begin the implementation process: a Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Sexuality Studies may be offered to students of the College of Arts and Sciences in the near future.

In the first Phoenix issue this semester, I mentioned the potential for competitive athletic programs to exist at GSU. It is now official – the beginning stages for GSU to have recreational and competitive athletic programs on campus have now begun. Though the exact sports teams to be offered are not yet set in stone, the possibilities are for GSU to have both a men and women’s basketball team, cross country, soccer, and golf. We may also have men’s baseball, women’s softball, and women’s volleyball. For now, only the costs to improve our facilities to meet competitive standards have been approved by the board. As developments progress, more stages of the process will come to the board for approval. In addition to a new program and the start of athletic program expansion, there were many other items voted on by the Board of Trustees at the most recent meeting, including the approval of differential tuition for international students from GSU’s partnering universities and the approval of additional individuals to be placed on GSU’s list of honorary degree candidates. October agenda items can be found at www.govst.edu, under the About GSU menu. From there, you can follow a link to the Board of Trustees page. Of course, you can always email me your questions, comments, or concerns at KRandolph-Clark@govst.edu. Thank you for making the effort to become an informed member of the GSU community.
Fall has set upon us once again, and with that comes pumpkins, chili, warm apple cider and Halloween fun. There are many events to celebrate the season, both here on campus and in the communities surrounding GSU. No matter what your favorite activity is this time of year, there is something for everyone.

The fun kicks off on campus October 24, when GSU hosts its annual Fall Harvest Festival. The Harvest Festival is an all-ages event featuring a costume contest, karaoke, and laser tag. For those who are brave enough, there will also be a haunted train ride. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria annex. Reservations to the event are suggested, though not required to attend the event. Those who are interested in reserving a spot at the event can contact Dennis Dent in Student Life at 708-235-7609.

The Village of Park Forest will be hosting the village’s annual Safe Halloween event. There will be scarecrow contests, costume contests, games, and candy for all. The event will take place on October 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. behind Village Hall in downtown Park Forest.

Calvary UP Church, located at 425 N Orchard Drive in Park Forest, is hosting a haunted house on October 25 and 26 from 7 to 9:30 pm. The event is being held in support of the Rich and Monee Township food pantries. Those that bring a canned food donation will be given a discount on admittance. The price is $3 per person with a canned food donation, $4 without, and $2 for children five years and younger. The church is also hosting a Trunk or Treat event, as well as a free chili dinner, on October 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will feature vehicles decorated for Halloween. Children can have fun trick-or-treating, while parents can enjoy a warm bowl of chili.

The Village of University Park hosts Haunting at Hickok on October 25 and 26 from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is $5 per person. Guests makes their way through the haunted Hickok Aquatic Center surrounded by screams, howls, ghosts and ghouls. The Hickok Aquatic Center is located at 711 Hickok Avenue in University Park.

There is also the Riegel Farm Harvest Tour. In addition to touring the farm, families will be able to choose a pumpkin to take home from the farm’s wide variety of pumpkins for sale. The event runs from October 21 to October 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Admission to Riegel Farm is $6 per person. Riegel Farm is located at 580 Farmview Drive in University Park.

University Park is also hosting Octoberfest, a Halloween party for all ages. There will be candy, games, costume contests and more. The event is free to all and will take place on Wednesday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 90 Towncenter Dr.

The Village of Richton Park is planning their own Halloween festivities with their Trail of Treats on October 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be games, trick or treating, crafts, spooky stories, music and dancing. The event is free to residents and $5 for nonresidents. Advanced registration is required. The Trail of Treats will take place at the Richton Park Community Center, located at 4445 Sauk Trail in Richton Park.

Richton Park is also hosting a craft show and chili cook-off at the Center on November 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be jewelry, candles, purses, home goods and more for sale. The craft fair is free and the chili cook-off is $5.

Chicago Heights is also offering some tricks, treats and scares this year. The town is hosting Haunted Halloween Trails on October 18 and 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is $6 per person. There will be games, trick or treating, crafts, spooky stories, music and dancing. The event is free to residents and $5 for nonresidents. Advanced registration is required. The Trail of Treats will take place at the Chicago Heights Park District Recreation Center on October 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be candy, popcorn, and games, as well as a scary movie. The party is open to children between the ages of five and 10. Admission is $2 in advance, or $3 at the door. The Chicago Heights Park District Recreation Center is located at 1400 Chicago Road in Chicago Heights.
Transgender equality awareness at GSU

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Digital Content Producer

GSU kicked off LGBT History Month October 2 with a presentation by T.J. Jourian entitled “From Accessing to Shaping: Re-Thinking Trans Inclusion on College Campuses.”

Jourian, a doctoral student at Loyola University, opened the presentation by referencing a sobering news article pertaining to the murder of Erica Morgan, a transgender woman who was slain in a Bishopville, South Carolina boarding house in May of 2008. Morgan’s death is only one of many in an increasing national trend of anti-transgender hate crimes. According to Jourian, The National Coalition of Anti Violence Programs, “documented 27 anti-LGBTQH murders in 2010… a 23 percent increase from the 22 people murdered in 2009.”

Jourian referenced statistics from the National Center for Transgender Equality, stating that transgender persons face a significantly higher rate of homelessness, poverty, violence, harassment, and sexual assault than others; most disturbingly in the context of hate crimes.

“Transgender persons experience disproportionate levels of violence, sexism, racism, and classism,” said Jourian, indicating the consistent brutality associated with transgender related sexual violence. “It is the bodies of transgender persons that are being perceived as so offensive.”

Jourian stated that while murder rates for the general population average about 1 in 20,000, the prevalence of homicide in the transgender community is staggeringly high – as much as 1 in 16. Jourian, a self-identified pansexual queer Middle Eastern Armenian transgender man, is eager to challenge spuriously held beliefs about transgender persons. “Trans”, derived from the Latin “beyond”, is simply an umbrella term encompassing everyone with a gender identity in conflict with the gender assigned at birth.

“Trans is a term coming from the trans community, that applies to everyone in the community,” said Jourian. “Fifty folks that identify as lesbians… might not have the same conception of what that is.”

Gender identity, according to Jourian, is as much a reflection of the host culture as it is a reflection of the chosen gender of an individual. Crossing international boundaries, for example, can be all that is needed to change the social gender context for an individual.

“In one country, a transgender person will be read as masculine, and in another, read as feminine”, said Jourian. Social constructs from one culture to another, for example, interpret body language and expressive body movements as gender specific personality traits, even though these traits may be associated with a different gender in a different country or culture. “We need to consider how we are defining our bodies, and how we are encouraging other people to find themselves.”

Gender identity in our society creates an “individual rights framework that is flawed”, stated Jourian. Social gender norms, according to Jourian, “exclude more people, maintaining and extending a power structure that disconnects and disempowers people.”

A broad range of gender specific processes exist in our society, from gender specific identity documents to sex segregated facilities. Jourian identified four major aspects of genderism/sexism that come in the way of establishing and maintaining equality for the transgender community, “a forced social labeling process, social accountability for conforming to binary gender norms, marginalization of the transgender community, and invisibility and isolation of members of the community.”

Social labeling processes constitute a constant social hurdle for transgender persons. Gender identification for student and staff IDs, academic and occupational applications, surveys, and online academic forums are just a few of the mediums that rely on gender specific declarations for transgender persons. Further, in the academic world, sex segregated facilities abound; residence halls, bathrooms, and locker rooms are just a few examples.

There is an abundance of ways that campuses and businesses can strive for equality for the transgender community. “Conversations and forums are empowering in creating environments where trans students are talking to each other,” said Jourian. “Accessing and shaping the trans community is integral in creating programs, overcoming obstacles, and finding concrete ways to improve them.”

Jourian also referred students and faculty to a transgender accessibility worksheet that may be used to assist in providing trans-equal services and facilities in a variety of situations.

“How we construct (gender identity) and the meaning we give to it is what makes it real,” said Jourian.

H20? H2...no!

By Steve Luzzo
Contributing Writer

Chicago has, in my opinion, the best tasting water in the country. This is something that you probably do not realize when you sit around at home and turn on the tap, but you notice it when water tastes differently.

Let me start off by stating that I am not a water guy. I much prefer soda and adult beverages (though not at the same time.) However, there is something about being able to go into my kitchen and having decent tasting water that really makes me appreciate this area of the Midwest.

Unfortunately, I find Governors State to be lacking in the water department. I find having a drink from the water fountains on campus to be cring-worthy.

I believe last year was the first year for Governors State to have the new type of water fountains where there is some filtration that occurs. But the filtration can only do so much, and that is a shame. There have been numerous times where I have taken the plunge and put my face down to drink from a fountain, only to immediately purchase a pop to get the rusty taste out of my mouth.

Governors State, I love you and I think you’re great and all. But please, please invest in a way to improve the taste of the water throughout the school. The new fountains were a step in the right direction, but more has to be done. I expect to receive Christmas cards in the future from students who benefit from this one day.

By the way, for those of you who were wondering, here are the answers to the quiz from my last piece in the October 1 issue:


Follow Steve Luzzo on Twitter @ImGonnaGet2It
**Affordable Care Act**

mandated in ACA. Those 10 are hospitalization, emergency services, laboratory services, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, prescription drugs, rehab and devices, prevention and wellness services, ambulatory care, (and) pediatric care that includes oral and vision care.”

One of the highly criticized features of the law are the tax penalties that will be applied to those who don’t comply with the law. According to Deering, individuals who do not have health insurance in 2014 will have to pay a penalty of either $95 or 1 percent of their income (whichever amount is higher) on their federal income tax. This penalty increases each year. By 2016, those who do not comply with the law can expect to pay the higher amount of either $695 or 2.5 percent of their income.

In addition to paying a penalty, those who do not comply with the law will miss out on the benefits of having health insurance. According to Deering, the benefits of having health insurance go far beyond avoiding any tax penalties.

“Some people view the individual mandate as negative and the penalty for not getting coverage as a negative,” said Deering. “But, the real penalty for not having coverage is getting a serious illness or injury and being financially ruined by hospital and doctor medical bills. Those bills do not go away, and hospitals typically may employ collection agencies or place liens on your property in order to collect.”

Another key feature of the law is that the government is offering tax credits and subsidies to help lower and middle class families pay for health insurance. Those whose household incomes are less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level may be eligible for financial assistance.

Applicants can find out which subsidies they qualify for when they apply for insurance coverage through the insurance marketplace. Deering also said that consumers who purchase insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois’ website, bcbsill.com, are also screened for eligibility in receiving government subsidies.

The marketplace websites feature four levels of insurance plans for consumers to choose from: platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. Illinois residents can purchase insurance through the state’s health insurance exchange website, getcoveredillinois.gov. Indiana residents can purchase insurance through the federal government’s online marketplace, healthcare.gov, as the state of Indiana does not operate its own health insurance exchange website.

**Gravity review**

Alfonso Cuaron’s latest film also stands as his most universal. The director’s work has dealt recently with teen angst in *Y Tu Mama Tambien* and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, as well as the future of humanity in *Children of Men*. With *Gravity*, he explores themes that are perhaps even wider, yet at the same time, incredibly intimate. He accomplishes this all the while setting it in the endless landscape of space.Thematically, the film demonstrates human beings enduring through near-death experiences as well as the fight and wonder felt in regards to the terror and amazement of space.

The magnitudes of the film’s technical achievements, along with performances from two of the industry’s most renowned actors, create an experience that allows unprecedented realism and intimacy. Back story and character are expressed naturally, allowing lightness and ease of empathy without the burden of flashback or heavy exposition. Right from the opening shot, Cuaron gets right into the thick of his narrative, creating a plot that is both streamlined and powerful. In not lingering on possibly redundant characterization, Cuaron allows the audience to project themselves onto the narrative situations his leads find themselves in, time after time.

The astronaut characters featured within the film encounter constant uncertainty of survival, threatened by the relentless and unforgiving environment of space. In their endurance through continual near-death experiences, the director pulls no punches in his portrayal of life outside Earth’s atmosphere. In setting his narrative in such an environment, Cuaron is allowed rich opportunities when it comes to stakes, emotions, suspense, and most importantly, character. The director builds upon these opportunities to great effect, crafting a film experience that utilizes the unique format of cinema. In combining a precise selection of elements, he has created a film that attacks its audience from many angles, yet concurrently remains focused and universal to the human conditions.

*Gravity* is a film that excites and terrifies. Even as it does these very things, it ultimately speaks to who we are as human beings, both on an intimate level and a vast scale.

**Resident Advisors**

Continued from pg 1

trained to respond to emergencies and to mediate conflicts.

“This is a very special student position,” says Dieujuste “It’s really one like no other that currently exists at GSU.”

The position is also one of the best compensated on campus. In addition to a free room, Resident Advisors will earn $500 per semester on their myOneCard for meal expenses and other purchases where the card is accepted. There will also be opportunities to earn hourly wages, as well as stipends for work done during break periods.

“I hope students really think about this opportunity,” says Dieujuste. “This is one of the few positions where they can get hands-on experience and learn to deal with people. They will learn conflict resolution, communication skills, and time management. All of which are skills that they will be able to use in life and in other jobs.”

Dieujuste hopes to wrap up the whole process before spring break of 2014. Resident Advisors will be able to move into student housing in the summer, although the exact date is yet to be determined. Early move-in for freshmen will be August 10, with the official move-in date on August 21. Resident Advisors will move in early to complete training and be ready for the opening and a successful year.

GSU will host three mandatory information sessions for Resident Advisor recruitment. While two have already taken place, there is an upcoming session on October 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All potential Resident Advisors must attend one session.

“We want to equip students with as much information as possible so that they know what they’re applying for and can make an informed decision,” says Dieujuste. “You really have to want to do it, and want to help others to be really successful. It’s one of those experiences that really change a person’s life.”
Building a positive online presence with Linked-In

By Katrina Koltz
Contributing Writer

With the Illinois unemployment rate at a startling 9.2 percent in August, it is absolutely crucial to utilize all of the tools available to get noticed in the job market. Social media and technology are ever evolving and shaping our world. Because of its influence, it can promote or hinder employment opportunities. 70 percent of employers have rejected a job candidate because of information they found about that person online. Conversely, 85 percent of employers say that a positive online reputation influences their hiring decisions. Utilized properly, LinkedIn is an excellent place to build a positive online reputation by maintaining an active profile, connecting to professionals, and discovering new opportunities.

An active profile consists of an appropriate profile picture, an updated resume, and additional sections on your profile. Because your profile picture is quite influential in forming first impressions, it is imperative to display a picture that portrays a professional image. This means a picture by yourself in professional attire with a neutral or solid background. The image can portray aspects of you that may not be evident in your resume such as confidence and poise. Make an appointment with Career Services to update or refresh your resume. They will ensure you are including all relevant information in a succinct and professional manner. Adding sections to your profile is a simple way to showcase your skills, qualifications, experience, and volunteer and extra-curricular activities.

Making and maintaining connections is one way to build your professional network. Connecting with faculty, alumni, past employers and colleagues, and other professionals in your field can accomplish this. When making a connection, be sure to add a personal message. The recipient will be much more likely to accept your request and endorse your skills in response. Once these connections are made, you can ask a current connection to “introduce” you to someone in their network. As you can see, this creates a chain reaction that helps increase your exposure to an ever-expanding network.

“Social media and technology are ever evolving and shaping our world. Because of its influence, it can promote or hinder employment opportunities.”

Katrina Koltz

Finding new opportunities can be as easy as getting involved in groups and organizations in your field. You can do this by researching companies, career pathways, and professional associations and groups. Many valuable connections are made in these groups. Find and follow companies that are relevant to your field. Companies may post events or workshops that provide an opportunity to attend and introduce yourself to those in hiring positions. Posting relevant questions and articles to a group page can show that you are an involved individual who can offer valuable opinions and pertinent information. These are all factors in creating a positive online reputation that can cause employers to actively seek you out.

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**Crossword solution from pg 8**

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**Sudoku solution from pg 8**

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Comics

**XKCD: Messy room**

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

**PHD: Government shutdown**

Due to the U.S. Government Shutdown, this comic is currently unavailable.

(Comics have nothing to do with politics, but neither should Science or Research!)

"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

GSU Happenings

**LGBT History Month**
October 1-31

**Gen Silent Documentary**
October 16
5 p.m.
Center for Performing Arts

**Being OUT in the Workplace Panel & Networking Event**
October 23
6 - 8 p.m.
Cafe Annex

**Non-Monogamy Program**
October 29
4:30-7 p.m., Location TBA

**First Generation College Student Experience**
October 30
3:30 - 4:30 p.m
Room A2110

**Chat With the President**
October 15
6 - 7pm
E Lounge

**Teaching Writing in the Age of Twitter**
October 17
7 p.m.
Sherman Hall

**First Year Experience Symposium**
October 18
8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
RSVP required

**Meditation Series**
Thursday’s through
December 5
3 - 4:15 p.m.
Room A2150

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Lifts
6. Steering mechanism for a vessel
10. A formal high school dance
14. Lit to a higher degree
15. Dogfish
16. Possess
17. A river through Paris
18. Require
19. Modify
20. Tympani
22. Not a single one
23. Diva's solo
24. Makes amends
26. Greeting at sea
30. Hole-making tool
31. French for "Name"
32. Have the nerve
33. Fizzy drink
35. A belligerent mongrel dog
39. Chest of drawers
41. Wash
43. Clobbered
44. Murder
46. Margarine
47. Estimated time of arrival
49. Holiday drink
gaseous element
50. Where a bird lives
51. Dung beetle
54. Male deer
56. Unrestrained revelry
57. Nutritious
63. Attraction
64. It ebbs and flows
65. Eagle's nest
66. Bright thought
67. Biblical garden
68. Electrical pioneer
69. Dox
70. Classify
71. Contemptuous look

DOWN
1. Shuck
2. Type of sword
3. Flutter
4. Hue
5. Grave marker
6. The result of one's effort
7. Green gem
8. Place
9. Misanic
10. A remarkable development

Sudoku

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