By Adam Ebert
Contributing Writer

Creativity shall always seek an outlet. With Governors State University’s arts and literary journal, Reconstructed, students have an outlet to express their creativity.

Founded by a few enterprising English students in conjunction with faculty advisor Dr. Christopher White, Reconstructed’s initial aim was to showcase the artistic works of students, regardless of their major. As the staff looks towards the third issue of the journal, the mission statement remains focused on the open publication of artistic expression within the GSU community.

At the very core of the journal, the motivation behind the Reconstructed name speaks to the diverse student body on campus. According to Kara Trojan, newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of Reconstructed, the moniker represents artistic opportunity and re-establishment similar to the educational opportunities GSU presents its students with.

“[Based] on the student population at Governors State University, we are all here, for one reason or another (whether you have children, a full-time job, or are returning to school) to reconstruct ourselves,” said Schneider. “Therefore, the literary magazine acts as an emotional, creative, and intellectual output for those who creatively express themselves at GSU. Our mission is to highlight the creative crowd [here] and show not only the rest of the student body, but also outsiders, that there is a burgeoning artistic community here at Governors State.”

As GSU anticipates its first freshman class, Reconstructed stands as a much-needed opportunity for students.

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GSU’s Lincoln Laureate named

By Samantha Kaspar
Staff Writer

Governors State University has announced the winner of its 2013 Lincoln Laureate award, Psychology major Ricca Louisaint. Nominated for the honor by Dr. Terri Christiansen, Dr. Randi Schneider, and Dean Aurelio Valente, Louisaint is a student who exemplifies the qualities that make her an exceptional representative of the university.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate is awarded to an outstanding senior from each degree granting institution of higher learning in the state of Illinois. These students are recognized for their curricular and co-curricular excellence and are awarded a certificate of achievement, as well as a monetary grant of $1,000.

Schneider, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, became acquainted with Louisaint this past fall, and says she was immediately impressed with her as a student and a leader.

“I gravitate toward student leaders who have a sense of pride in the work they do,” said Schneider. “I was impressed with Ricca’s sense of pride in GSU and the role that she plays in helping other students to be successful.”

Louisaint transferred to GSU from South Suburban College in 2012, and has been an active member of the campus community since. As a peer mentor in the Dual Degree Program, she mentors anywhere from five to nine students at a time. In addition, Louisaint is the president of the Psychology Club, a member of the Forensic Debate Club and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, a psychology honor society.

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Reconstructed: A creative outlet for GSU

By Adam Ebert
Contributing Writer

Creativity shall always seek an outlet. With Governors State University’s arts and literary journal, Reconstructed, students have an outlet to express their creativity.

As GSU anticipates its first freshman class, Reconstructed stands as a much-needed opportunity for students.

“I think that Reconstructed gives many students and faculty, not only in [the College of Arts and Sciences], but also other disciplines, the opportunity to showcase their art,” says Trojan. “We're a student-run and student-driven organization that wants to cater to the creative needs of Governors State.”

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A celebration of Hispanic, LGBT history
by Maria Ramirez
Purgatorio review by Jonathan Bulthuis

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Promise Fest a success, Promise scholarships to be awarded

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Digital Content Producer

The ambitious conception of a fundraiser to raise money for low income students participating in GSU’s Dual Degree Program came to fruition last month with the kickoff of GSU’s first ever Promise Fest.

The brainchild of students Bianca Mangabhai, Daniel Ellington, Jeffrey Wyskiel, Teena Dorn, and Nia Robertson of Professor Don Wlodarski’s Advertising and Marketing class, the October 4 and 5 festivities of Promise Fest included a comedy performance by Damon Williams, a 5K run, and a craft fair. These activities garnered support, funds, and notoriety of the community college affiliated Dual Degree Program.

GSU President Elaine Maimon expressed her satisfaction with the success of Promise Fest and the accomplishment of its founding members.

“I am deeply impressed that a group of students took a class assignment and expanded it to a university-wide philanthropic program,” said Maimon. “It’s gratifying to know that GSU students are committed to ‘paying it forward’ and helping future students.”

“I think it was a great success,” said Bianca Mangabhai, an international student and one of the core initiators of Promise Fest. “I was honored to have the opportunity to work with such an ambitious group and I hope that next year this event would be an even bigger success than it was this year. It is such a great feeling to give back.” Mangabhai went on to encourage future students to “take the opportunity to not only be a part of Promise Fest but to be a part of a dream come true.”

According to Dr. Randi Schneider, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, seven students from participating colleges have applied for GSU Promise Scholarships for the Spring 2014 semester.

“To date, 25 GSU Promise Scholarships have been awarded to low income students in the DDP,” said Schneider. “This number is likely to go up to 30 after the final decisions are made for the spring semester. GSU is committed to having up to 50 students on a Promise Scholarship at any one time. For these students, GSU pays the total cost of tuition, fees, and books that are not covered by the Pell and Map Grants.”

Tom Fitzhugh, a current Joliet Junior College student, is ecstatic about being one of these recipients. “When I applied last semester, I didn’t expect that I was (going to) get it. I didn’t know how many people had applied, or how much people had invested in this. Knowing that I’ve been accepted... I don’t have to stress about paying for school, and I don’t have to take out loans. I can work my job full time, I can pay for my apartment, and I can survive.”

Fitzhugh is looking forward to graduating this fall at JJC, and attending GSU this coming spring. “My degree is in communications, and I am basically trying to get myself involved with extracurricular activities,” said Fitzhugh.

“It gives me an opportunity to advance myself. This is my last semester at JJC, and I’ll graduate with my Associate’s. It’s made my life work out perfectly the last couple months. It’s just perfect, I can’t express it enough.”

Applications for the Fall 2014 semester will be available over the next few weeks to eligible Dual Degree Program students at local community colleges, and are due in mid-February.

Want to write for the Phoenix?

The Phoenix is seeking beat writers!
All interested students are encouraged to apply!
Cover one of many exciting beats for the Phoenix:

• Campus news & events
• Local area news
• Theater events at the CPA
• Business
• Technology
• Politics
• Finance
• Science
• Sports (GSU sports clubs & the Recreation & Fitness Center)
• Health & fitness
• GSU Success Stories

Interested students should email a writing sample of 250 words pertaining to the topic they are interested in covering to Melissa Hall, Phoenix Editor-in-Chief, at phoenix@govst.edu with the subject line: Beat Writer. The writing sample should be sent as an attached Microsoft Word document. Please give a brief statement in the body of the email (three to five sentences) as to why you are interested in covering a specific beat for the Phoenix.

Be sure to include contact information!
GSU Global Entrepreneurship & International Education Week 2013

Dancing • Discussions • Contest
Helpful Information • Free and Open to the Public

November 11
- Indian Cuisine in the GSU Café
- Small Business Development Center presentation, 2-3 p.m. in D2444
  Sponsored by IL Small Business Development Center and International Trade Center
- Multicultural Festival, 'Around the World in 80 Days' 4-7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors with performances, food and cultural activities

November 12
- Thai Cuisine in the GSU Café
- Funding your Education Abroad, presented with Financial Aid, 2-3 p.m. in D34050
- 'What It Means to be a Global Citizen', Panel Discussion with Dr. Levinson, Dr. Culverson, and Dr. Marrar in Hall of Honors, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by School of Arts and Sciences and the Office of International Services

November 13
- Spanish Cuisine in the GSU Café
- Film Screening of The Bicycle Thief, 6-9 p.m. in E Lounge. Popcorn and refreshments served. Sponsored by Student Life and the Office of International Services
- Veteran's Entrepreneurial Boot Camp, 7:45 am-2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the IL SBDC International Trade Center in E Lounge

November 14
- Turkish Cuisine in the GSU Café
- Presentation, 'The Unique Ethiopian Writing' by Dr. Petros, visiting scholar, 1-2:30 p.m., in D34090. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Office of Continuing Education
- Globalization of Business Open Lecture, 10:30-11:45 a.m., in the Hall of Honors
- GSU Cultural Conversational Café and Potluck, 2:30-4 p.m. in A2110. Bring a dish of food and join in the conversation! Sponsored by Forensics Debate Club and International Cultural Organization

Student Life will have country flags on display in the Hall of Governors to celebrate IEW.

Weeklong contest, 'Test your Cultural Knowledge' check out the display case by the Center for Performing Arts for a new question daily. Think you have the right answer? Stop by the Office of International Services in C3370 to submit your answer to win a prize.

Coming back daily will increase your chances for a chance to win the grand prize!
A...My name is Alice takes center stage at CPA

Starring in Alice are cast members Killeen McClowery, Aarika Hughes, Lorell Jones, Lois Nemeth, and Deirdre Webb. The play is directed by Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor of Theater and Performance Studies, with Joshua Young as stage manager. Music Direction is by Dr. Stacy Eckert, Adjunct Faculty in Communications, with choreography by Megan Lindsay, Adjunct Faculty in TAPS. Audience members will be seated on-stage with the performers, creating an intimate experience for the audience. Due to the on-stage seating, only 90 people will be admitted to each show.

Tickets are $5 for GSU students, $10 for the general public.

The TAPS program at GSU has grown since the first TAPS courses were offered at the university in 2012. This fall, a minor in TAPS was added to GSU’s course catalog. TAPS courses to be offered in the Spring 2014 semester include TAPS 3210: Advanced Acting; TAPS 4090-08/COMS 4090-08: Theatre Design and Production; TAPS 4690-09/6090-09: Dance for Musical Theatre; TAPS 4200/6200 & COMS 4090-06/6090-06: Writing as Performance; and TAPS 4250/6250 & COMS 4090-07/6090-07: Performance and Social Change.

Could YOU be the next Editor-in-Chief of the Phoenix?

The Phoenix is now hiring for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the Spring of 2014 semester!

Interested applicants should email the Phoenix@govst.edu.

Students interested in the position 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 previous coursework in newswriting is essential. Previous experience with layout software is a plus.
A mix of Arabic and English at GSU

By Nesreen Ballut
Contributing Writer

Governors State University displayed a sense of diversity on campus with the showing of Im Hussein Jubilee Show in the Center for Performing Arts on October 19.

With a show both in Arabic and English, the performers of Im Hussein Jubilee Show kept the entire audience enticed and on the edge of their seats. The Ajyal Theatrical Group has been in business for 25 years and continues their success with the various tours to over 15 locations in the United States.

GSU student Jineen Natour enjoyed the show. “It was great to see a mix at our school,” said Natour. “It was hilarious and I can’t wait for the next show.”

The main character, Im Hussein, is played by Najee Mondalek, who is also the producer and writer of all Ajyal Theatrical Group plays. He was eager to have one of his shows take place in Chicago, a city which holds one of the largest Arab populations in the United States.

Im Hussein is a female character played by a male actor, which gives the show a funny twist on the reality of the daily life of Arabs and Muslims.

“The audience fell in love with this character and I don’t know what the secret is,” Mondalek says. “Im Hussein is a mix of so many personalities and I meet a lot of people in real life that I compare to her. She is a symbol of our problems, our life, what we find funny or sad.”

The first show the Ajyal Theatre produced is titled What a Shame. There were a total of nine actors in the show with barely anyone in the audience to watch. Slowly but surely, year after year, the audience grew and Mondalek continues to compose new skits for their upcoming tours.

Mondalek indicated that the main goal of the theatre is not to solve the issues that are presented but rather to put them in the spotlight in a comedic way, to allow the audience to have a connection on an emotional and intellectual level.

The Center for Performing Arts continues to bring diverse performances to the university for the entertainment of students and visitors alike.

Unwind in GSU’s Reflection Room

By Anna Soloff
Associate Editor

Governors State University has a hidden utopia called the Reflection and Restoration Room. GSU created this space to give students who need a break a place to decompensate, meditate, and contemplate after a long day. The room is intended for use by all students, regardless of religious faith or beliefs.

The Reflection and Restoration Room is open to individuals or groups of fifteen who want to gather for quiet reflections in a safe place for all, with no judgments or disruptions. The room is located in the room A2150 and is open every day from 8 am to 10 pm.

The room can be rented through the designated protocol in place and during such time, users may display religious materials as long as they are removed at the end of their session. Groups may also engage in devotional song, chanting or hymn singing during their worship or meditation time as long as they remove all items at the end of their session.

Pat Clay, a student in GSU’s Masters of Public Administration program, uses the room simply to gain some peace and perspective prior to her classes and even sits away at times during her fifteen minute break just to center herself.

“Every time I walk in here, I feel a sense of calm immediately slip over me and all my tension seems to evaporate. I am so happy they’ve created a place such as this,” said Clay.

One student’s tranquil place is another’s prayer session. A graduate student who requested to be referred to only as Bobby uses the room to communicate with a higher power.

“I am so busy with work, driving and school that I don’t always get a chance to worship the way I would like, and after a trying day I really need to have some time to connect. I was worried I would feel awkward, but regardless of one student or five, I’ve only ever felt at peace in here,” said Bobby.

The Reflection and Restoration Room is a welcome reprieve after a long or trying day, a quiet and peaceful place for students and faculty alike and gives a much needed time to center themselves, reflect or simply let their mind go and breathe.

Inquiries about the room and reservation requests can be directed to RandR@govst.edu.

Lincoln Laureate Continued from pg 1

Club and is a mother of three boys, two of who have high functioning autism.

“I have a very full life and I work really hard,” said Louissaint. “I take my academic career very seriously.”

According to Valente, Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Louissaint excels academically while juggling life responsibilities as the head of a household.

“I really admire Ricca’s persistence and her desire to make a difference,” says Valente. “In addition to juggling a family, she does all that she is.”

Schneider says that aside from being a really good student and student mentor, Louissaint is also involved in the community through volunteer opportunities.

“She sets her sights on academic and professional goals and works hard to obtain them,” says Schneider. “She will be a terrific member of whatever community she chooses to live in when she finishes school.”

Louissaint credits her success to the relationships she has made at GSU, the support that she receives, and the impact Valente, Christiansen, and Schneider have made on her professional and personal life.

“They are the best role models a person could have, each in their own capacity,” says Louissaint “Dean Valente and Dr. Schneider are not my professors, but they are still my teachers.”

Louissaint is a first generation college graduate, as well as the first Psychology major to win the award.

“I was really naïve to how much this would mean to my life. I can’t wait to say I’m Governor State University’s Lincoln Laureate” she says.

On November 2, Ricca traveled to Springfield, IL to represent Governors State University and receive her award. The day included a tour of the state capital and a ceremony in which she received her certificate.

Following her May 2014 graduation, Louissaint plans on attending law school with the goal of eventually becoming a judge, ideally in a mental health court. She also hopes to one day be a full-fledged member of the Lincoln Academy, whose members include Ronald Reagan and Walter Peyton.

“I want to make a difference,” says Louissaint. “I think that it’s important to absorb information and improve your circumstance and society with what you’ve learned.”
Professional communication for grad school and beyond

By Katrina Koltz
Contributing Writer

Communication in graduate school requires a unique balance among written, non-verbal, and verbal forms of communication. These skills need to be able to convey information efficiently, concisely, and correctly with a variety of audiences. While in school, this will enable you to proficiently interpret information in the classroom and feedback from faculty and colleagues in a timely manner. Once in your professional field, this will empower you to confidently approach every situation and adeptly communicate with supervisors and coworkers.

Written communication can be tricky for some in our text speak and #hashtag savvy world. Many often find it difficult to convey a message without the added visual and verbal cues that accompany face to face interactions. Because those conversational components are missing when communicating through e-mail, it is essential to use correct grammar rules and omit slang and other forms of non-professional language. A prompt response time is equally as crucial to efficient and effective communication; it also shows that you are able to quickly process and synthesize the necessary information.

Non-verbal communication is everything that is conveyed through one’s body language, presence, gaze, expression, touch, and distance. The human mind picks up on these tiny messages subconsciously. Subsequently, they play a large role in our thoughts and opinions. In a professional or academic setting, one can never go wrong with a clean-cut appearance and professional attire. Maintaining personal space is essential for making those around you comfortable, as this will aid in creating a nonthreatening presence. While everyone has their own personal opinion of how large or small their “bubble” is, refraining from excessive physical contact, touch, appropriate gaze, and maintaining a distance of about two feet will help to alleviate any feelings of encroachment.

Verbal communication is not only spoken word but also a variety of interpersonal skills including listening, asserting, influencing, persuading, empathizing, and exercising sensitivity and diplomacy with the appropriate tone. One who can master this delicate balance will enhance every team project, council and committee they serve on. These skills require a fluid balance that can only be improved through practice. One way to gain practice in this area is to join a club or organization on campus like the Graduate Professional Network, Student Senate, the Society of Collegiate Entrepreneurs, and many more. Becoming involved in groups like these not only looks good on a resume, but also shows that you are an active and involved student who is continually trying to cultivate these skills and develop into a dynamic professional.

Submitting work to be published, journal editing and reviewing, writing proposals and scholarship applications are excellent ways to practice your written communication skills. Verbal communication skills can be enhanced through presenting work at conferences, symposiums, and seminars. Accepting a variety of roles, such as mentor, teacher, colleague, leader, committee or board member places you in a position to give and receive feedback, which requires a combination of these communication strategies.

If there is a topic specific to graduate students that you would like to see featured, please e-mail the author, Katrina Koltz, at kkoltz@student.govst.edu.

Reconstructed
Continued from pg 1

Both the horizons and staff of Reconstructed are expanding. The staff of Reconstructed has been hard at work in efforts to raise awareness of the journal on campus. On November 18, they will be hosting their first poetry reading in the Cafeteria Annex from 3:30-5:30pm. All are welcome to perform in what will be an open mic event. The poetry reading will provide a chance for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to participate and showcase their writing.

In the coming months, the Reconstructed staff is also planning a weekly newsletter, a blog roll on the site that will showcase writings from their off-campus Writer’s Workshop group, more public reading events, and a possible collaboration between the journal and GSU’s Art Forum. Trojan and staff are also planning for a Civil Rights-related event next April in which the team will collaborate with other departments.

“In the spring semester, we’re planning a social justice event with Dr. Larry Levinson in which we will not only host a public reading, but present some art, films, and storytelling,” says Trojan. Reconstructed is currently accepting submissions for its Spring 2014 issue. The deadline for submissions is November 28. Reconstructed accepts submissions in poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, visual art, and short films. Please send all submissions to Reconstructed@govst.edu. All guidelines and other information can be found on the Reconstructed website as well as their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/gsureconstructedjournal.
Comics

XKCD: by Randall Munroe

PHD: by Jorge Cham

GSU Happenings

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

“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

Crossword

Sudoku