GSU Website overhaul aesthetic, modern

By Adam Ebert
Associate Editor

As Governors State prepares to welcome its first Freshman class in the Fall of 2014, preparations are being made to accommodate the incoming students. Over the Winter Break, GSU’s website received a massive overhaul and redesign.

Rhonda Brown, Assistant Vice President of Marketing & Communications at GSU, is in charge of the operation of the site. According to Brown, the redesign was overdue, and functions as a marketing initiative to enhance all facets of GSU as well as to increase and improve the online presence of the university.

Brown spearheaded the production of the site, which began in February 2012 and launched December 20, 2013. The overhaul took about two years. Many consulting and design firms made bids for the job, and Mind Over Media Consultants was ultimately selected.

Construction of the site was administered by a large team of almost 100 people, consisting of representatives from every area of the university as well as the consulting firm.

“When I saw the scope of the project, I thought it was really important for us to incorporate a large university presence into the overall project,” Brown said.

Committees were formed from among the university faculty and staff, including WREST (Website Redesign Executive Sponsored Team), WRIG (Website Redesign Implementation Group), and a subcommittee of representatives working in unison to create the content for the site. These groups will continue to work on the site indefinitely. Each committee examined bigger issues as well as the overall implications of the complete design overhaul.

The operation was led by Geb Ejigu, Executive Vice President, and Deb Bordelon, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Continued on pg 3

Severe winter a trial for Public Works, Public Safety

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Editor-in-Chief

It’s no secret that weather conditions in northern Illinois over the past month have been debilitating. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has issued scores of Hazardous Weather Outlooks and Winter Storm Warnings for Chicago-land since late December 2013, as periodical polar fronts continue to sweep through from the north-west, combining record low temperatures, unusually high winds, and a large amount of snow in a series of blizzards that has beset the area with power outages, school closures, and untold scores of accidents.

University Parks Director of Public Works Ross Burgess and his road crews have had a brutal time keeping the streets clear. “It’s been a tough winter,” said Burgess. “We’ve had to deal with equipment breakdowns and driver fatigue. We’ve been effected by the shortage of road salt all across the Midwest, with salt barges stuck on the Mississippi.”

Regardless, Burgess is optimistic about the dedication and capability of University Park’s snow plows for the duration of the winter. “Things take an effort, and it’s ongoing,” said Burgess in a phone interview last Friday. “It was terrible yesterday. It’s been a tough winter, but we’ll get through it.”

“We’ve had the busiest January on record for the last six years,” said University Park’s Emergency Services Department Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios. “The record wind-chills we’ve had in the area have created a lot of havoc with interior sprinkler systems.”

Continued on pg 3

Immunizations required for all students by Fall of 2014

By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

GSU’s incoming cohort of freshman will bring more than new faces to the campus. These students usher in a new era for GSU, most notably the addition of a residence hall. The addition of the on-campus housing at GSU precludes new policies regarding public health, college-wide immunizations in particular.

Under Illinois Law (Public Act) 85-1315, all public and private collegiate institutions that have a dormitory must keep the immunization records of its students on file. Receiving all students vaccination records before the residence hall is filled with freshman is an immense process, but the Division of Student Affairs and Support Services is undertaking it with stride.

The new immunization policy has already taken effect, and a few dozen students have already submitting their records. The due date for students to submit their immunization record is March 14, 2014. Submitting these records means that many will have to contact their physicians, or otherwise provide for their own immunization. This process may be time consuming for your physicians’ office, so it’s a good idea is to notify them as soon as possible in order to meet the March 14 due date. The particular immunization records that are needed are proof of a tetanus - diphtheria (DTs) vaccination within the past 10 years, and two measles, mumps, and rubella (MMRs) vaccinations given a year after birth.

All the forms and necessary information regarding immunization requirements can be found on the GSU website, at govst.edu/immunization. When submitting an immunization form, make sure it is submitted to the Academic Resource Center. The records can be submitted via fax, mail, and in person, or can be sent as a scanned attachment within an email. Failure to comply with the March 14 deadline will result in a registration hold on a withholding student’s account.

Continued on pg 5
OpEd

Currenty, our online publication reaches an important but small percentage of the student body, a fraction of the readership we receive from printed publication; but the potential to expand our digital readership is right in front of us. The standards of publication and our network of contributing writers at the Phoenix has waxed and waned, but we can now boast a fantastic group of both returning and emergent voluntary contributing writers, undoubtedly more than ever before. Our potential to generate income through advertising is exponential and relatively untapped, and increased advertising in the future could help to defray our publication costs and increase the length and scope of our issues. Perhaps most importantly, collaboration between the Phoenix and the university broadcast department, This Week At GSU (T.W.A.G.), is just beginning, and it is quite reasonable to anticipate a strong working relationship and the reciprocation of information between both news outlets in the future.

With these objectives in mind, it’s pertinent to reflect on the meaning of the Phoenix itself; both the mythological bird rising from the ashes of civilization, and Edwina Straumann’s flightless red I-beams resting eternally in the sculpture park (about a hundred meters north of the Hall of Governors). The stark iron triangles of our namesake framing the setting sun each evening in a vast and powerful rebirth. Similarly, the purpose of the paper each year must be to reflect divergent aspects of the broad scope of human events, both locally and globally, while improving and expanding on the example of the past by meeting the needs and opportunities of the future. Bottom line: if you’re interested and informed, we’re not doing our job. Captivating your interest is as much an aspect of our responsibility as is comprehensive reporting of the facts. Rest assured we will endeavor to do just that.

Staff Editorial

The collective GSU community in the early twenty-first century stands on the precipice of development and change. Our academic, professional, and social worlds continue to shift to adapt to the needs and expectations of the future; and as students and as citizens we are tasked with modifying ourselves in regards to these changes. The way ideas are communicated is also perpetually changing; becoming faster, more accessible, and more convenient. We are all attempting to figure out how we will communicate and learn within the ever-changing social and technological environment.

The GSU Phoenix is similarly in flux; becoming stronger and more diverse in conjunction with the changes ahead for the university. The first change is the hiring of new staff to restructure the production of the publication. The Phoenix is pleased to welcome Brian Bock as Staff Writer, Kyle Horn as Staff Photographer, Adam Ebert as Associate Editor, and Jonathan Bulthuis as Editor-in-Chief. As a publication, the Phoenix hopes to extend its communicative reach by broadening our reporting scope, revising our editorial content and design, and heightening our standards of professionalism. Many ideas, organizations, and conversations at GSU are either initiated or advertised by the articles and information provided within the pages of this paper. The strength of the writing in these pages is integral to the communicative reach by broadening our reporting scope, revising our editorial content and design, and heightening our standards of professionalism.

That being said, our role as editors is to capture the essence of our namesake frame the setting sun each evening in a rebirth. Similarly, the purpose of this issue must be to reflect divergent aspects of the broad scope of human events, both locally and globally, while improving and expanding on the example of the past by meeting the needs and opportunities of the future. Bottom line: if you’re interested and informed, we’re not doing our job. Captivating your interest is as much an aspect of our responsibility as is comprehensive reporting of the facts. Rest assured we will endeavor to do just that.

Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Student Trustee

Happy New Year, GSU! Despite the record-breaking low-temperatures and ridiculous amounts of snowfall, I hope that everyone has enjoyed their “extended” winter break. I know that I personally appreciated spending time with my friends and family, getting caught up on my favorite shows, and having the unexpected days off to continue to prepare for the semester.

As we begin a new year, GSU will embark upon many changes that have been in the works for quite some time. This period has been appropriately described by the administration as Renaissance 2014, a time for our institution’s rebirth. Everywhere you look on our campus, there are new programs and facilities emerging throughout the university.

At the past December meeting, GSU’s Board of Trustees approved the renovation of our current gymnasium to meet the standards for competitive athletics. It’s also hard to miss the major improvements being made to Engbretson Hall, right next to the Hall of Governors; and of course Prairie Place, GSU’s new on-campus housing, seems amazingly close to completion.

With the university’s first freshman class arriving in the fall, the first graduating class of the Dual Degree Program crossing the stage in the spring, and many new programs being created throughout the year to offer to students (including the most recently approved BA in Theater and Performance Studies), it’s easy to see why some would describe this period in GSU’s history as a Renaissance. We’re becoming a bigger, better, and brighter GSU!
Some buildings have had heating issues, which causes frozen pipes and ruptures. “We’ve had several calls from broken sprinkler pipes.”

Stranded vehicles have become a typical sight for motorists and commuters throughout the winter, but few of these have resulted in serious injury or exposure.

“Believe it or not, we have not had that many accidents,” said Chellios. “We’ve only had six auto collisions in January. We were called for quite a few, but we often run into a situation where a car is stuck in the snow, someone drives by and reports an accident, and we show up to a very surprised motorist. If there’s no one injured and there’s no damage to anyone’s property, we really don’t log them in as an auto accident.” Stranded motorists comprise a minority percentage of emergency response calls in the area.

Inclement weather naturally creates an incredibly dangerous situation for itinerants, but Chellios is confident that the entire population of University Park is being provided for. “We did not get many incidents of people exposed to the elements,” said Chellios.

Chellios. “When the weather does get extremely cold, the village opens up warm shelters for people. Thankfully most everyone was able to maintain heat and energy in their homes.”

“We had a lot of carbon monoxide alarms going off because heaters are running for such a long time,” said Chellios. “When we go to those kinds of calls, we can find all kinds of reasons for the alarms going off, it can be a faulty detector, or oftentimes people are just finding out the hard way that they have to get their furnace and vents cleaned every year.”

Dealing with the influx of emergency calls is a challenge for University Parks’ overworked Emergency Services Department, but so far its staff has been able to deal efficiently with the inclement weather. “The fire department is staffed with five personnel at all times, and during extreme weather, whether its extreme cold or a winter storm warning - when we’re able to, and when we have enough notice - we can assign additional personnel to the fire station for emergency response. During serious weather events, call volume increases, so it’s better to have extra people on hand. If we’re bringing off duty personal in during the storm, it puts them at risk, and takes them longer to get here.”

When asked if he was ready for winter to be over, Chellios laughed. “Yeah,” he said wearily. “It’s been a busy one so far; it’s been cold, it’s been snowing like crazy, and I think everyone is ready for the weather to break, and just get out of here.”

Governors State University Police Chief James McGee assured the Phoenix that from a public safety perspective, the weather has not been more difficult than other storms have been. McGee advises students to refer to the Center for Disease Control Extreme Cold Guide. “The guide tells you everything you need to know about personal safety in this kind of weather,” said McGee, “including the amount of time it takes to acquire frostbite, winterization tips, and safety items to keep in your car.”

The guide can be accessed as a downloadable pdf file at http://emergency.cdc.gov/disas ters/winter/guide.asp.

While the website is currently operational, changes are still being made to bring the site up to its complete potential. The next step is the update of the myGSU portal, to be as organized and aesthetic pleasing as the main GSU website. Other digital components like mobile apps are being created to encourage accessibility and popularity of the site. “A huge percentage of students are not even using computers anymore,” said Brown. “They’re using tablets and other devices. So, we’re working on updating our technology to meet the needs of our technology-centered student base.”

Brown and her team are calling for student feedback on online marketing components, as well as students’ thoughts on content and style changes. “We want to continue to communicate and engage prospective students,” said Brown, “and understand students’ motivation in coming to GSU.”
To welcome back students, GSU hosted many events for students throughout the week in the Hall of Governors to inform students of the various services available to them. The Student Leadership Exchange, which gave students a chance to meet with various student leadership departments, took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21 and 22, and the Student Resource County Fair was on Thursday, January 23.

In order to give the Hall of Governors a feel for the country, a Country group performed for a period of time. Following the performance of the country band, more music was played. Students and staff were given a chance to indulge themselves in sweets, such as cotton candy and funnel fries. The most important thing that the County Fair gave the GSU community was a rambunctious sense of unity. Represented clubs university-wide got a chance to intermingle with one another, and most of the school clubs manned tables in the Hall of Governors in order to promote and recruit their clubs and upcoming activities. Clubs in attendance included the Psychology Club, The Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice, and the Criminal Justice Club, to name a few. Some clubs gave away treats, and the International Services department provided the GSU community with a free henna tattoo, giving students an opportunity to experience an artistic tradition of Indian culture. GSU's bowling team also made an appearance at the resource fair. President L. Dillard stated, "The bowling club meets every Friday at 5:30 P.M. in Lakewood Bowl off Sauk Trail in Richton Park." She welcomes all GSU students to join the club, and encourages them to make a commitment to come out and bowl every Friday.

Didn’t have time to pick up your myONECARD yet? No worries, you still have time to exchange your old ID for the updated one. GSU has implemented the new ID system for students, faculty, and staff. The myONECARD will ultimately operate not only as an identification document, but as a debit card and controlled access card key as well. Currently, the myONECARD has the same functionality as the old card – barcode swiping that provides proof of enrollment at the Financial Aid Department, the Registrars’ and Admissions Offices, the Welcome Desk, and the Recreation Center, and student discounts at the Center for Performing Arts – but by Fall 2014, all of the myONECARDS will be linked to a loadable debit account for transactions on campus; in the dining hall, the bookstore, copiers and printers in the library, campus vending machines, laundry machines in the soon-to-be-completed student residence halls, and other on-campus transactions.

Additionally, the myONECARD will work as a controlled access door key for faculty, staff, on-campus residents, Resident Assistants, and other student workers. The myONECARD is free for students, but a replacement fee is in effect if it is lost, stolen, or otherwise misplaced. Students can pick up their new ID card at the Welcome Center desk, or at the Auxiliary Services office at C1330.

The Communication Student Initiative Organization Invites You!
February 18, 2014 from 3-4pm
Student Life, A Building, 2nd Floor

Civil Rights, Incarceration, and the New Millennium

The Conversation Café hosts guest speaker, Caron Jacobson, Senior Lecturer of Political Science at GSU who will discuss civil rights in the new millennium with a focus on those incarcerated.

Please join us for a lively discussion. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more information contact Arness Krause, Lecturer, Communication Program at

AKrause@govst.edu

The Phoenix newspaper sponsors this event.
Prairie Place Construction remains on schedule for August move-in, arrival of Freshman Cohort

Residence applications now available to all qualifying students

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Editor-in-Chief

Construction of GSU’s new student residence hall, Prairie Place, has remained on schedule despite the inclement winter weather, with a finished move-in date of August 20 for the new incoming freshman cohort, and transfer students.

The department of Auxiliary Services is anticipating ninety percent occupancy of the new on-campus housing project by Fall of 2014.

The completed residence hall will boast state-of-the-art facilities and amenities, wireless and cable access, laundry facilities, a university-operated internal convenience store, and 24 hour myONECARD dorm access. Four bedroom (single room occupancy), two bedroom (single room occupancy), and two bedroom (double room occupancy) suites are available, with 12 month and Academic Year (nine months) contracts available. Floor plans, room rates, housing contracts and applications, and computer generated images of the completed interior can be found under the University Housing section (under the Campus Living tab) of GSU’s new website. Fall and Spring semester rates vary between $4,406 for single-room occupancy, two bedroom apartments, and $2,619 for double-occupancy semi-suites.

In addition to finalizing approval of student housing applicants, the department of Auxiliary Services is still in the process of selecting new Resident Assistants from among GSU’s current student body; keep an eye out for future GSU News feature profiles of these responsible folks.

Applications for student housing for all qualifying GSU students were made available on Monday, February 3.

The new housing project is projected to house up to 296 students, so incoming freshmen and transfer students who are interested in living on campus should submit their applications as soon as possible. Students who are enrolled in at least six credit hours for the Fall and Spring semesters, or three Summer credit hours, are eligible to apply.

Prairie Place residence hall will offer a variety of room and styles for incoming students. Computer generated image courtesy of GSU Website.

Dr. Randal Horton fields questions from students during his presentation at GSU on January 22nd. Photo by Staff Photographer Kyle Horn.

By Adam Ebert
Associate Editor

On Wednesday, January 22, award-winning poet Dr. Randall Horton - a recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, The Bea Gonzalez Poetry Award, and the National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in Literature - gave an hour-long seminar to members of the Reconstructed staff (GSU’s literary periodical) as well as a selection of English graduate students. Later in the evening, dinner preceded a public reading collective. The Lingua Franca of Ninth Street and Pitch Black Anarchy: Student and faculty members of the English department were in attendance at the event. Dr. Horton is an assistant English professor at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, as well as a fellow of Cave Canem and a member of both the Affrilachian Poets Organization and The Symphony: The House That Ethernet Built.

Further noncompliance with the new public health policies will result in a $25 charged placed on the student’s account. It is a very exciting time to be a student at GSU during this transformation to a traditional 4-year university. Though this particular initiative requires a small amount of work on the students’ behalf, the end result ensures that GSU can comply with state regulations. Ultimately, the initiative will preclude a healthier campus. For more information about immunization requirements in Illinois or to register with the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE), visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/shots.htm.

Civic Engagement and Community Service Center students volunteer at Riegel Farm

By Neel Rana
Guest Columnist

The Civic Engagement and Community Service Center has scheduled service days that have been an exciting experience for our students and the communities served. We work with different organizations on different themes depending on the time of year we are having the service day. Each undertaking is a brand new adventure for the participants, and you never really know what to expect. This was definitely true for our service day at Riegel Farm this past November.

When I took the train that morning to the farm I only had a vague notion of the service we would be doing. I must admit I was a bit nervous. I hadn’t even been on a farm since I was a kid, and I really had no experience working on farms or with farm animals. But, like the rest of the volunteers, I showed up that morning in bright-eyed anticipation of whatever the day might hold. As we waited for Rob, the farm manager, to open up the barn, the volunteers quickly chattered at each other at perhaps an octave too high for the occasion; I could tell I wasn’t the only one who was nervous. My first step into the barn was a bit of a shock. The smell was worse than I could have imagined or prepared for. As I scanned my new surroundings I saw not only the usual assortment of farm animals - chickens, horses, rabbits and goats - but a bevy of more exotic creatures: llamas, ponies, miniature horses (which, as Rob took the time to explain to us, are very different from ponies) and even an alligator!

Our work for the day consisted of cleaning out the chicken coops and the stables for all the animals, cutting and resizing mats for the horses, providing feed for the animals, and sweeping out the barn. The work was, as we expected, difficult physical labor; however, over the course of the day I think we all realized it was something else too: It was a lot of fun!

For Neel’s complete article, and for online access to all Phoenix articles and many past issues, please visit www.gsuphoenix.com or find us on Facebook and Twitter at GSU Phoenix.
GSU Student Creates TWAG App

GSU student Amanda Ziaja created the first GSU mobile app that incorporates easily accessible university related content.

By Kyle Horn
Staff Photographer

In November of last year, GSU student Amanda Ziaja, in conjunction with the university Media Broadcast Department, This Week at GSU, commissioned our schools’ first smartphone application, inspired by students’ ever growing use of smartphones. The new TWAG app, designed by Ziaja working closely with fellow TWAG staff member Arika Rogers, will feature a new logo and new design style. While still in production, the app will help usher in a new era of connectivity between GSU, its staff, and its students.

So, what does the app do for the students of GSU? Its key feature is convenience. Everything TWAG-related will be available through the TWAG app. Features such as the Educator, a program in partnership with South Suburban College that is normally only available on cable TV, will be available through the app.

Video feeds such as Conversations with Leaders, which features interviews of head faculty members here at GSU, TWAG stories, and of course all future TWAG broadcasts will be also be accessible through the new application.

The apps’ simplest and most utilitarian feature is to serve as a constant source of information on upcoming campus events. Detailed information about times, dates, and locations of events, as well as links to relevant ticket purchasing sites, will also be provided. The new app has the potential to become an invaluable tool for both current students and incoming freshmen.

“Hopefully students will find the app useful in connecting with their school,” said Ziaja, “and learning more about college life.”

The TWAG app marks the start of a period of transition for GSU. Ziaja mentioned that most schools do not have apps, or even a consistent source of weekly events and information such as TWAG; so with the new, user friendly, redesigned smartphone application, GSU’s media department is taking a bold step ahead of the competition.

Ideally, students can expect to see flyers with a QR code linking users to the TWAG app over the next month. It will be available for both iPhone and Android users.

Multiple genres blend together on Arkansas Dogjaw’s latest release

By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

Arkansas Dogjaw’s latest album, Her Shell’s Lair, is a complex study of multiple genres of rock and alternative music. The albums’ thirteen tracks are so unique and well-crafted that it’s difficult to box them into one genre of rock music. The talented trio of Champaign-Urban natives includes Danny Rio on bass and lead vocals, Ki-Joong Choi on drums and vocals, and lead guitarist and banjo player Ryan Tarazi also helping on vocals.

Dogjaw’s method of channeling the sounds of progressive rock, blues rock, alternative rock, and rockabilly - while still incorporating their own signature sound - is a reflection of their diverse musical talent. Every track on the album is a testament to the bands’ ability to synch together different styles and influences.

The album begins with the song “Ki to Life”, an up-tempo song with wailing guitars and amazing percussion that captures the bands’ intense, raw sound.

Members of Arkansas Dogjaw, left to right: Ki-Joong Choi, Ryan Tarazi, and Danny Rio. Photo courtesy of Arkansas Dogjaw

Federal Work Study freeze until end of fiscal year

By Adam Ebert
Associate Editor

The Federal Work-Study Program is an initiative that provides undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with the opportunity to earn a working wage. The funds earned can be used towards the students’ education costs, and the program includes a variety of job opportunities, both on and off-campus, for part-time and full-time students. Students in the program typically work a maximum of 15-20 hours a week for a period of time determined by the department, available funds, and the individual availability. The FWS Program is not only beneficial financially, but personally and professionally, as the jobs offered are often closely related to a student’s educational focus. The professional experience received through these positions allows the student an opportunity to gain hands-on experience while still in school.

Put in place on January 1, 2014, and continuing to the end of the fiscal year in July 2014, a Federal Work-Study Freeze has been enacted at GSU, a decision made by the Financial Aid Department. The freeze is ultimately a budgeting decision that allows currently employed students to retain their jobs and compensation, while preventing the hire of new student positions. All additional positions are no longer listed on the Federal Work-Study website, and currently employed students are required to work within their allotted hours.

The hiring freeze presents a difficult situation for campus departments, as GSU continues to expand in anticipation of the arrival of the Freshman class in the Fall. However, the mid-year termination of the freeze will give the university plenty of time to re-evaluate available funds and prioritize student positions, potentially allowing more students the opportunity for campus-related jobs.

Interested in writing or reporting for the Phoenix?

Contact us with your name, major, contact information, and area of expertise (your beat) at phoenix@govst.edu or 708 534 4517 or just stop by the Newsroom, Room E1500.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-The Phoenix Staff

Arkansas Dogjaw’s latest album, Her Shell’s Lair, features a variety of genres including rock, alternative rock, blues rock, and progressive rock. The album is available on CD, digital, and streaming platforms.
By Nesreen Ballut  
Contributing Writer

Roughly 30 percent of Governors State University students find the food in the GSU cafeteria satisfactory and appetizing, and 20 percent of students believe there are sufficient amounts of healthy options, according to a recent survey of 100 GSU students.

Ranging from deep-fried Bosco Sticks to fruits and salad, the Governors State University cafeteria has a range of options. However, polled students reported that only a few of these options appealed to the majority of them.

GSU Food Service Director Joseph Lenard spoke optimistically about the cafeteria options available. “The GSU community tends to purchase a wide variety of food choices,” said Lenard. “Our ‘On the Go’ brand is continually evolving with snack sized portions that offer greater nutritional value at a favorable price.”

Although the ‘On the Go’ brand with a higher nutritional value is available, 65 percent of GSU students reported that they have purchased fried food more often than healthier options. Only 12 percent of students reported purchasing items from the salad bar.

The layout of the cafeteria may have an effect on student purchases, because the salad bar is less accessible than the other stations. The question that arises is whether or not the issue of healthy eating is a matter of cafeteria options, or personal student choices. “A locally grown, in-season apple is less than one dollar out the door,” Lenard said, when asked about the cost comparison.

“There are far more healthy food choices than not,” Lenard said. However, when students were asked if the GSU cafeteria serves nutritious food, over 75 percent of the students either disagreed or strongly disagreed and 15 percent said they were undecided.

The planning team is constantly seeing improvement in the quality of the cafeteria’s ingredients, and are doing their best to reduce processed food options and increase healthier ones. In the meantime, it seems that many students would be well advised to reconsider their own purchasing decisions.

By Tamike Hurley  
Contributing Writer

Plans for the televised red-carpet Black Women Rock Awards are in motion. On February 28, 2014 at 7:30pm, family, friends, community members and members of the GSU community will gather at the Center for Performing Arts to witness Black Women Rock recognize eleven women for their remarkable achievements in their 2nd annual award ceremony. Award recipients will include six students, an alum, a community leader, rising youth star, an administrator, and faculty member.

This red-carpet ready event will be televised on Comcast Channel 16, The Educator Television Channel, and will celebrate women in grand style and fashion. Black Women Rock is a movement and vehicle that empowers and recognizes women, honoring, praising and rejoicing with their fellow sisters, and thanking them for their contributions, while honoring diversity. The award show will include performances from the Electric Ladies, Four Women, Arletha Bolton and the Blue Angels, Lavalnk and De’Borah (NBC’s The Voice Season 3 Contestant). Dorothy Tucker of Channel 2 News will be the guest speaker.

Visit www.govst.edu/diversity to nominate yourself, another current GSU student, Alum, faculty member, staff member, or administrator for an award in several categories. n Rock is a free event that is open to the public.
Ludicrum

Horoscope

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): To act on impulse without proper reflection will harm more than help.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20): Honesty would be a proper use of your communication skills into the coming future.

Aries (March 21-April 20): Keep track of and hold close the things you treasure most. They will be needed when definitions shift.

Taurus (April 21-May 20): There is potential for positive news on the forefront. Keep moving forward.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): A quick getaway may be the best answer to your problems.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Now may be the time to indulge in art and culture.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A family member is not always your friend. Be skeptical of those you trust and wary of those you do not.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The sky is not falling. The ground is rising and you are growing taller.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Experience without wisdom and kindness is potential unrealized and squandered.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Go with the flow in regards to romantic opportunity. Trust your feelings as well as your gut.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take the time out of your hectic schedule to stand back, relax, and enjoy your surroundings.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Be mindful of that which you do not currently understand. Openness towards the unknown can be quite beneficial.

PHD: What To Do When You’re Overwhelmed With Work

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

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

The Black Hole of Anxiety by Adam Ebert

Part of the Secondary English education program at GSU, Adam Ebert is the Associate Editor for the Phoenix. Before taking the Associate Editor position, Adam was a contributing writer beginning in the spring of 2013.

You can find Adam on Twitter @atomabort and on Tumblr at atomabort.tumblr.com.