Modern renovations to GSU Library begin

By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

Starting possibly as soon as this week, the GSU Library will begin minor construction and major interior design work. The work being done is expected to last until the middle of August. Featured aspects of this project include new technology, new furniture, and a more open layout for the library.

The library is undergoing this upgrade in order to modernize the facilities and meet the demand of a new incoming class of freshman.

Included in the physical renovations are the expansion of the ACS lab to include eight new computer workstations. The library layout and the current entrance will be replaced with large glass windows. A new technological feature to the library will also be moved, and the current entrance will be replaced with glass windows. The entrance to the library will also be moved, and the current entrance will be replaced with large glass windows.

The entrance to the library will also be moved, and the current entrance will be replaced with large glass windows. There will also be two new group study rooms added to the library layout. A new technological feature added to the library will be a charging station, where students are free to power-up their laptops and tablets. New service and information desks will be added to allow students to navigate the library with ease.

Continued on page 3

Mascot Mashup tips off GSU transition to NIAA Sports

By Jonathan Bulthuis, EIC

The April 10 “Mascot Mashup” game between members of the GSU Basketball Club representing four contending mascot nominees – the Gladiators, the Bengals, the Wolves, and the Prairie Wolves – tipped off GSU’s transition to inter-collegiate sports in a big way. The well-attended event introduced the student body to newly hired Athletic Director and Head Men’s and Women’s Basketball Coach Tony Bates, as well as a handful of GSU’s up and coming athletes, in addition to showcasing the new gym floor.

The two energetically paced, frequently interrupted co-ed games ruled in favor of the Gladiators, who scored 24 points against the Prairie Wolves’ 14 in the second game. The first game pitted the Bengals (16 points) against the Jaguars (10 points). Meanwhile, a gregarious and outgoing costumed chicken did its best to subvert the proceedings by absconding with the ball, and was escorted out of the gymnasium by Campus Police, who apparently released it on its own recognizance in less than twenty minutes.

The transition of GSU to a four year college means great things and a great many changes for the GSU Sports Department. The new sports agenda is already underway, and includes the recent hire of Coach Bates, the newly completed renovation of the Gymnasium, the construction of several new ball fields, a Fall Men’s Basketball exhibition game schedule, the formation of several new university sports clubs, and applications by the Sports Department to join the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

GSU Recreation and Fitness Program Director Dean Jennings, who refereed the Mashup and did his best to restrain the antics of the unfortunate Chicken that attended it, is excited about the future of GSU sports, which are nothing new. GSU’s Table Tennis team won the Midwest Championships this year, and finished 4th in the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association Tournament in Pittsburgh. “We beat Northwestern, Purdue, the University of Wisconsin, Ohio State, and Columbia University,” said Jennings. “We also beat last year’s second ranked team [in the nation].”

Continued on page 7

Family Development Center an Early Head Start childcare leader

By Jonathan Bulthuis, EIC

To many local parents that are Will County residents or GSU students, faculty, or staff, the Family Development Center is a bright, colorful, stimulating school environment for their children that is filled with sunlight, art supplies, sand boxes, and the very best of educational equipment and Early Childhood Educators.

“You really have to come here to appreciate it,” said Family Development Center Executive Director Carol Morrison. “You cannot tell how really cool it is until you get inside.”

Continued on page 4

Public Safety raises funds for Torch Run for Special Olympics

By Sean Johnson
Contributing Writer

The Law Enforcement Torch Run, a global organization that raises money for athletes who participate in the Special Olympics, is the single largest year-round fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics athletes. The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois has raised nearly $31 million over 28 years while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments. Some 3,000 law enforcement officers will carry the Flame of Hope about 1,500 miles on 23 routes throughout Illinois. The Torch Run will conclude on June 13 in Normal, Illinois, at the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in Illinois in 1986, and Governor’s State University started helping with the event in 1999, according to GSU Chief of Police James R. McGee.

Illinois’ first Torch Run raised just $14,039.93, but the seed was planted for future growth. The Torch Run raised $500,000 in Illinois in 1997.

Continued on page 8

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Continued on page 8
Concealed Carry and College Campuses:

Phoenician: What is unique to GSU in terms of the Concealed Carry Act?

Chief James McGee: The law regardless Concealed Carry at GSU is different from other state colleges because it is firearms and weapons won't be permitted in the campus. Upon exiting a vehicle, any firearms or weapons must be secured in a closed compartment, like the trunk or a locked glove box.

PH: Does Concealed Carry just apply to firearms?

CJM: According to the law, the Concealed Carry Act does not just specify handguns. Tazer guns, gas propelled guns, air soft guns and ball bearing guns are all considered firearms, and in addition to knives, mace, and other weapons, they can not be brought on campus.

PH: What about pepper spray? Is it illegal?

CJM: Many forms of pepper spray are illegal, and students shouldn’t be in possession of [illegal sprays] in the first place. As long as it doesn’t contain lethal noxious gas, then it’s legal to carry it, but not on campus. Students can own a pepper pocket knife, but [the blade] has to be less than three and a half inches.

PH: What concerns do you have about the Concealed Carry Act?

CJM: My biggest concern with Concealed Carry is that vehicles will now be targeted for theft, which is part of why a parking lot specifically for Concealed Carry card holders was not designated at GSU. Another concern is that those that are carrying a firearm will store it improperly when they get back home. I think there will be an up-rise of children getting hurt from weapons that are left unattended at home.

PH: What should we as students be aware of in regards to the new law?

CJM: Believe it or not, there are some institutions out there that are considering whether guns should be allowed on college campuses. My opinion is that firearms don’t belong in an educational setting, but that’s difficult to say when there are so many [violent] crimes taking place. The preventative measure is to circumvent these problems. That’s why we have a Campus Threat Assessment Team in place and a Student Concerns area. All of these are in place to prevent the possibility of an active shooter on campus. In each incident where an active shooter was on a college campus, there had been some sort of previous counseling interaction with that student. If that interaction would have prevented just one [violent crime], that would have been significant. Intervention is key, prior to something becoming a act of violence. That’s why its important that we all communicate with each other, not just law enforcement to law enforcement.

PH: Do you guys carry guns?

CJM: Yes. All GSU Public Safety officers are sworn in Illinois Police Officers. We’re a 24 hour operation that has trained at the same police academies as everyone else, and there are a certain amount of hours of firearms training that each law enforcement agency has to acquire, per officer, per year. We have at least four officers on staff that are firearms certified and are capable of teaching the Firearms Certification Course for Concealed Carry, although that is a service that we do not provide.

PH: Thanks very much for your time. Is there anything else students should know?

CJM: We have a Campus Safety Booklet that’s posted on the GSU website that describes fire, tornado, bomb threat, and active shooter procedures in the event of an emergency, and we will be giving an upcoming class on things to do in the event of an active shooter. The class is located in the F1622 Lecture Hall, it is free, and it is open to all students, staff, faculty, and members of the community. The class will be held April 21 at 9am, April 22 at 4:30pm, April 23 at 2 pm, and April 24 at 4:30pm. There is no cost to attend the class, which will be a brief 20 minute presentation of what to do in the event of an active shooter.

Letter from the Student Trustee

By Kayla Randolph-Garbe GSU Student Trustee

Finals are just around the corner, and it is definitely a bittersweet time in the semester. It is perhaps the toughest task assigned in all of your courses, but once it’s over, you can breathe a sigh of relief because the semester is finally over and done with. Regardless, having pages upon pages to read and reread, preparing for tests and essays, or creating the presentation that determines your grade can be quite daunting and stressful. My recommendation: start preparing for your final assignments as early as possible, and next semester, it may be smart to start your preparation on the very first day.

At GSU, there is a program on campus specifically designed to help students achieve academic, personal, and professional success. The Student Enrichment Program, also known as SEP, provides programming, support and services to students, including workshops on time and stress management, test and presentation anxiety, study habits, and more.

Manar “Mimi” Jaber, a student worker for SEP, believes that this is a program that most GSU students could benefit from since they don’t have a “one size fits all” approach. SEP has collected research many different strategies that have been effective for students from various backgrounds and circumstances. They just might have the perfect individualized approach for you, so finals can be a breeze – or as much of a breeze a final can actually be.

Everyone can use a little help sometimes, and if you believe these services can be of use to you, please visit the Student Enrichment Program in room A2126 or online at www.govst.edu/sep. The time you spend to foster better study habits can save you much more time in the long run!
New Student Senators, Student Trustee elects

Continued from page 1

Darren Helt received his B.A. in Business at GSU and is currently working towards his Master’s in Business Administration at GSU. Helt is the current Student Senate treasurer, and is grateful for the opportunity to promote awareness to the student body. “Money doesn’t make the world go around,” said Helt, “work does.”

NaTasha L. Dillard is a graduate student in the College of Education Counseling Program. Dillard is involved with Treasures of Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma. “I will continue to represent the entire student body,” said Dillard, “in all affairs that affect students’ success here at GSU.”

Shamqua Jones holds a B.A in Interdisciplinary Studies and is a full-time student of the Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership program at GSU, and has a diverse professional, personal, and academic background. Jones believes that higher education is important to social development in young adults, by facing societal challenges in cultural diversity and in the environment.

Angela Miranda received her AAS in Addiction studies in 2012 from Moraine Valley Community College, and is enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work program at GSU, where she is Vice President of the D.R.E.A.M. Club, an active member of the Social Work Student Organization, and a member of the Tau Sigma National Honor Society. “I hope to establish a level of rapport where I can be approached about the needs and concerns of the College of Health and Human Sciences, said Miranda, “and effectively address them in the Student Senate.”

Jeremy Joyce, GSU’s new Student Trustee, received his Associates in Arts at Prairie State College where he served as Treasurer of the Protégé Club. Joyce is working towards his B.A. degree in Business Administration with a concentration in finance, and served GSU previously as Orientation Coordinator Assistant in the Admissions Department. He is currently active in many GSU clubs and activities on campus. “I want to help voice the opinions of the student body and bring them to the higher board to see a change happen,” said Jones.

The clean-up project stems from Governors State University’s partnership with Energy Systems Group. According to the Governors State website, GSU will, “assist in meeting its sustainability commitment by implementing energy conservation methods. ESG projects that GSU’s carbon footprint will be reduced by more than 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.”

One of GSU’s sustainability projects is the University of Illinois’ initiative to acquire all GSU student’s MMR and Rubella immunization records is underway, as holds will begin to be placed on students’ accounts. The original deadline to have the records in was March 14, 2014. This deadline was extended to April 9, 2014 to give students more time to find their records. Students also had the option of filing for an extension that moves the deadline to September 2, 2014.

The records are needed for GSU to comply with Illinois Law (Public act) 85-1315, which states that all collegiate institutions with a dormitory must keep the immunization records of its students on file. Failure to comply with submitting immunizations records or filing for an extension results in a hold being placed on a student’s account. Holds block results or filing for an extension of GSU’s own website, “Ten plots are designated for GSU students to sustain a Student Food Pantry, for the Family Development Center to educate our youth on how to grow their own food, and for The College of Health and Human Services for a raised garden that is fully accessible.”

To request a plot, GSU students, staff, and faculty must bring the gardener’s application and signed rules agreement to the Facilities Department, located at B1230 in the main campus building. For more information, call the Facilities Department at 708.235.7458.

Those who cannot commit to a long-term sustainability project, however, can still contribute to Governors State’s sustainability project by participating in the clean-up. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up by April 11th at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/earthserve. All questions are directed to Rima Nimri at 708-235-2206, or at civicengagement@govst.edu.

Immunization Update

By Kara Trojan

On April 15th, over 500 students and employees of GSU will participate in annual Earth Day of Service. The event, which celebrates the majesty of earth, will help clean up the preserve in Park Forest. According to the Governors State’s sustainability office, the clean up will help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide annually. The initiative is part of the university’s sustainability plan, which aims to reduce the university’s carbon footprint by 30% by 2020.

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Orbis

GSU volunteers to participate in annual Earth Day of Service April 15

By Brian Bock

The decision for the GSU mascot has begun. There are four choices: The Gladiators, The Jaguars, The Prairie Wolves, and The Bengal Tigers. Voting open to students, faculty, and the community began April 7 and lasted until April 14. Out of 400 submissions and 200 original submissions, the final four were chosen to symbolize the GSU community. Basketball teams represented each mascot and participated in the Mascot Mashup on April 10 in order to psych the mascot search. The voting will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision.

Operation: Mascot, using social media to get the word out. “We have a big presence on social media, Twitter, [and] Facebook; a huge presence there with #OperationMascot”, said Dent. Dent and everyone working on Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision. The Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally will take place May 6, from 12 until 1:30 in the Hall of Governors. Operation: Mascot has used both events and social media in order to get the entire campus pumped for the ultimate decision.

The Department of Student Life facilitated the events surrounding the mascot search. The voting website yielded 1300 votes for the new mascot on the first day, a great student and community response. Dennis Dent, Coordinator for Campus Programs and Community Service, was a key figure in the Mascot Unveiling Pep Rally. Be sure to attend the Mascot Unveiling, and be sure to wear a mascot shirt to show support.
Campus

Early Head Start program unique in GSU’s Family Development Center

Continued from page 1

The 35,000 square foot FDC building, which was designed and constructed in 2004, won the 2007 American Institute of Architects Design Excellence Award. The FDC can accommodate up to 245 kids at one time, and contains 13 classrooms, three greenhouse playrooms, an art room, a main lobby, staff offices, a conference room, a small gymnasium, and a kitchen.

To top it off, each wing of the building is separated by a street-light festooned “alleyway” play area covered in glass and flooded with natural sunlight, at any time of year.

GSU has been providing daycare, preschool, and other childcare services for GSU students and faculty since around 1988, according to Morrison, but the scope and diversity of services childcare services currently offered by the FDC ranks it among the best childcare centers in the nation.

“We’re a big agency,” said Morrison. “We have about 55 staff, so as far as childcare centers go, we’re quite large, and our participation in the Early Head Start program allows us to provide services that other centers just can’t afford.”

“We’re the best childcare center in the area,” said Morrison, “and that’s what we strive for; we want to be the best because we’re lab experienced for students, who get trained here.” The FDC is the only NAEYC accredited childcare center in Will County, and the only center offering the Early Head Start program in 35 miles, according to Morrison.

“We’re a really high quality learning center,” said Morrison. “We have a curriculum, and we do a lot of assessment.” Many of the assessment tests and health screenings offered by the FDC, which include vision and hearing tests, are performed by GSU students in the Education, Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Communication departments. GSU students in the Psychology and Health departments are also able to engage in observation assignments to learn about child development and to conduct research. “Everyone gets a lesson plan, screenings, and learning assessments,” said Morrison, “and every teacher here is qualified to be a daycare director. At the minimum, all staff have already completed an A.A. degree and 18 [Early Childhood Education] credit hours.”

The FDC offers infant childcare, part-time preschool, full day

Give your baby a Head Start

with the Early Head Start Program
for pregnant women, infants and toddlers at the
Governors State University
Family Development Center
University Park, Illinois

PACE bus route #367, close to Metra Electric station.
Shuttle service available.
Childcare, prenatal programs, home visits, educational opportunities, support services and more.

Free or low cost services to qualified families. Children with disabilities welcome.

708.235.7300 • www.govst.edu/children
preschool, and childcare services for school age children up to age 12. The FDC also employs a preschool teacher from 7am until 6pm close daily, and the proportion of childcare teachers to children is comparatively low, another key factor in improving the quality of education at the FDC. Every four babies, ten preschoolers, and fifteen school age students are afforded their own teacher. "A typical childcare center might have ten to sixteen babies in one room," said Morrison. "We have eight. Half of our [Early Head Start Instructors] have Bachelor’s degrees, and half have an Associate’s degree."

GSU’s FDC is also unique in that it offers prenatal programs to expectant mothers under the Early Head Start program, including home visits for moms without reliable transportation. "We have a nurse on staff, and we work with pregnant women," said Morrison. "The advantage of coming here when you’re pregnant is that we can provide you with childcare through EHS. It might not necessarily start on the day you need it, but it will be very close."

On April 26 the FDC and its community partners will host a Health and Wellness Fair in the GSU Hall of Governors. All GSU students, staff, faculty, and any other members of the community are welcome to attend. On May 29, the FDC will hold its annual end of the year party for enrolled students and their families, which gives preschoolers and school age clients a chance to say goodbye to their instructors and classmates, and gives parents a chance to explore the FDC building and grounds.

Funding for the FDC and its services comes from the federal government, the State of Illinois, Governors State University, and the parents of enrolled children. "We’re not the cheapest childcare center around, but we are the best," said Morrison. Discounted childcare is available to the university faculty and staff, and sliding-scale services are available to low income parents, pregnant moms, and homeless parents.

"If you’re eligible for a Pell Grant, you might only have to pay a dollar a month," said Morrison, "although that is becoming rare, since subsidies are getting harder to come by."

Parents seeking assistance with child-care costs can apply for help at the Department of Health Services website, or by contacting the Family Developmental Center directly.

Spring into Wellness — Empowering Healthy Families

April 26
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Presenting resources for health and wellness for the whole family
• Learn from experts
• Healthful demonstrations
• Health and developmental screenings
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For more information 708.235.7300 • www.govst.edu/children

Sponsored by the Governors State University Family Development Center, Early Head Start and the Health Services Advisory Council
Spring Career and Internship Fair at GSU

Meet with Employers - Get a Job

Thursday, April 17
2 to 5 p.m. • Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts Lobby

Dress professionally. Bring plenty of resumés.
Students, alumni and community members are welcome.

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The Importance of a Support Network
By Katrina Koltz
Guest Columnist

An effective support network can make or break one’s grad-school experience, which can be a long journey that is difficult to pursue alone. Because of the powerful influence of others on our success, it is essential to establish a support system of family, friends, and others who are invested in your career. While family and friends are typically supportive right in the beginning, their support can begin to gradually dwindle; you begin to notice comments and signs that remind you that your others are more than ready for your graduation. Engaging parents and spouses in your academic journey will help to diminish these negative feelings and help build a rapport where encouragement and support prevail.

First, you will need to find at least one committed partner. This individual will be different for everyone: a spouse, parent, best-friend, long time mentor, but whoever it is; just get one! This person is going to help keep you focused and accountable and encourage you when you are down. This partner should be someone who has a positive attitude, understands the importance of your education, and is invested in you for the long haul. Extra points if they are flexible and a good team player.

Next, you will want to lay out clear expectations. This should include what your family and friends can expect from you, like how much of your time will be spent in or at school, how much time you will need to study, and other responsibilities on your plate. This is the best time to let them know what you will need to depend on them for, and specific ways in which they can help you. Whether it is something simple, like doing the grocery shopping or laundry, to something complex, like having them keep you focused by saying “no” when you need a break. Just make sure you have that big project due next week.

This support can make a world of difference in decreasing your stress and keeping you accountable.

Finally, involving your family and friends in your successes and failures will help them be an involved partner rather than a bystander in your education. Update them on projects, exciting opportunities, and even the little things that happen in class on a daily basis. When you graduate, you will know that you did not do it alone. Instead, you will have a whole community that traversed the peaks and valleys of graduate school with you.

Table Tennis isn’t the only competitive sports organization at GSU. “We have six active club teams, in addition to the Table Tennis Collegiate team,” said Jennings, “We have Men’s Basketball, Women’s Volleyball, Men’s Softball, Co-recreational Bowling, and Co-recreational Golf, and we are always looking for more people to participate.”

The evolution of the GSU Sports Department will be ongoing throughout the 2014 – 2015 school year. “The team we’re going to see in the fall will be a hybrid of our current Basketball Club team, with some of the incoming freshmen. They’ll start playing in November,” said Jennings.

The November games will be an exhibition schedule of the GSU Basketball club versus preseaon local junior college teams, followed by a circuit of games against junior varsity teams of the NAIAs. “We’re also applying for admittance into the Chicago-land NAIA Conference,” said Jennings. The application will be submitted by the university this fall.

GSU has hired new Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball Coach Tony Bates to facilitate the transition. “We’re hoping to have some decisions from the NAIA by March of 2015, if everything goes well,” said Bates. “We’ve already started the recruiting process for prospective fall students, and some of the current club team members are going to get the opportunity to participate.” When asked if he had high hopes for GSU competitive sports, Bates was optimistic. “Absolutely,” said Bates. “I have very high hopes. People are going to be surprised when we open up in the fall.”

Program Director Jennings feels the same. “We’ve already proven that we are able to compete at a Junior Varsity level,” said Jennings. “Our Women’s Volleyball Club won the Orland Park District League in December, and Men’s Basketball played one exhibition game against Jetson Universities JV team in November, and won,” said Jennings.

Men’s and Women’s Golf and Cross Country teams are also on the horizon, and may be organized as early as 2015, according to Jennings. “Other sports are being discussed, and almost every sport in the NAIA is being looked at by the University,” said Jennings.

In the meantime, GSU isn’t wasting any time bringing the campus facilities up to speed for future teams and recreational sports possibilities. Recreational Soccer and Cricket fields are being constructed directly south of Prairie Place, near GSU’s windmill and the Family Development Center. The softball field, which is in the same area, is also having work done to it.

The biggest renovation so far is the purchase of new gymnasiun equipment and the installation of the gym’s new floating floor, which cost around $100,000. “This is one of best floors you can buy,” said Jennings. “It’s a 94 foot, NCAA size court. It’s a floating floor, so it’s easier on the knees.” The gym renovations, included detailing and painting of the gym, the installation of two new scoreboards, and new regulation hoops and backboards. Renovation of the gym began in January, and was completed last week in time for the Mascot Mashup.

“The big thing about Club Sports is letting students know that we’re here,” said Jennings. “We’re always looking for dedicated students who want to participate, but because of the current demographic, the response isn’t overwhelming. Many of the students are mid-30s or over, or attend school part-time,” said Jennings.

Participation by GSU students interested in joining a sports club is vital for the success of each sport at GSU. “The thing about [GSU’s Co-recreational golf club] is that if we had a few more members, we could actually be competitive,” said Jennings, “and if it’s something like Men’s Basketball, you can participate with us, even if you’re not going to dress for games.”

Coach Bates also encourages students to participate in Club sports. “I like the balance that we’re going to have here,” said Bates. “It’s a nice mix with the family here at GSU.”

GSU students who are interested in joining any of GSU’s teams should contact Athletic Director Tony Bates or Program Director Jennings at 708.534.4945, or just stop by the Recreation and Fitness Center offices at A1106.
Campus

Library Renovations slated for completion by Fall 2014

Continued from page 1

GSU’s Library renovations will include new reception and service desks, modern, brightly colored furniture, new library technology, and the expansion of the Audio Communications Systems Lab to include eight new classrooms.

The interior design of the library will be revitalized with a modern, aesthetic feel. The furniture chosen for the library has sleek edges and sharp hues that match GSU’s official colors. The new look of the library will incorporate a design feel that is as modern as the new technology.

The new technology that will be added to the library is still not set in stone, but new and exciting avenues are being researched. Additions such as a laptop vending machine and the use of seamless sharing hardware Mediascape are being reviewed for their ability to help students have easy access to technology on campus.

Dean of the GSU Library, Lydia Morrow Ruetten, is thinking of these changes less of a renovation and more of a “facelift”. Having been with the university library since 1989, Ruetten has seen the library change over the years. The last renovation took place nearly 20 years ago with the addition of the computers near the reference desk. The progress has been promising.

“We’ve been moving along at a steady clip, and our people have been doing a marvelous job” said Ruetten.

Ruetten assuredly states that the process is coming along “as seamless as possible”. The computers in the library will be moved to the Hall of Honors, and access to the library will be available through the balcony doors. Students may also notice Reggie, the renovation cat, stationed at a new location in the library.

The changes to the library may affect students during finals, but Ruetten assuredly states that the process is coming along “as seamless as possible”.

Daffodils and Goslings

A clutch of goose eggs incubate beside blooming Daffodils in a sheltered and unfrequented alcove near E-offices.

Goose eggs take about a month to mature, so depending on the age of these eggs, there’s a fairly good chance our last Spring 2014 issue will include a picture of five goslings.

TAPS members stage multimedia, participatory performance art event

A clutch of goose eggs incubate beside blooming Daffodils in a sheltered and unfrequented alcove near E-offices.

Students in Performance and Social Change, one of the courses in the new Theatre and Performance Studies program, performed an original work about injustice on Friday, April 11.

Students were asked to consider their semester study of radical street performance and Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed as part of the performance’s development.

The performance, which lasted for 1.5 hours in the Hall of Governors, used provocative images, spoken word, and a soundscape to draw the attention of passersby. Audience members were encouraged to participate in the performance by adding a personalized message to a wall located behind the performers.

2014 Torch Run Hat and T-shirt

Illinois easily surpassed the $1 million mark in 2002 and first raised more than $2 million in 2006. In 2012, the Torch Run raised $2.98 million and had a goal of reaching $3 million in 2013.

People looking to participate in GSU’s Torch Run for 2014 should contact GSU Public Safety officer Colleen Buche. “We’re always looking for donors and volunteers,” said Officer Buche, “and [the Torch Run] is open to the public.” To give support to the Torch Run, interested participants can reach out to local law enforcement agencies, sponsor a runner, attend a Torch Run fundraising event or purchase a Torch Run license plate.

The GSU Public Safety Department is holding GSU’s Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois Event on Wednesday, June 11 at 11 am, when local officers representing two legs of the run will meet on the GSU campus to pass the torch. GSU students, faculty and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

GSU officers are selling official hats, t-shirts, and pins to sponsor the event throughout the rest of the semester, in addition to selling raffle tickets for a new 2014 Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. Hats and t-shirts ($15), pins ($5) and raffle tickets ($10) can be purchased at the GSU Public Safety Department.