GSU Information Technology students compete at national level

Multiple IT/CS students recognized for outstanding achievements in regional, national competitions

By Bob Meyers  
Staff Writer

GSU’s up-and-coming IT Degree, which is in its second year, will see its first graduates in December, among them, four students that have been recognized at various inter-collegiate competitions. University Lecturer Stephen Hyzny is the advisor of the new club team.

Krishna Yalamanchili, an Indian national and GSU post-grad working in a Master’s in Computer Science, is the organizer of the new Cricket Club, and together with Josh Overcast of the Office of International Services, was influential in bringing Indian students at GSU together to revive a sport that many of them have been playing since childhood.

Governors State University has added a new sport to its growing list of club and intercollegiate sports teams: Cricket. The bat and ball game, which is over four centuries old and is widely considered to be the world’s second most popular sport (after Soccer), came to GSU last Spring with the installation of a Cricket field (between Prairie Place and the Family Developmental Center) and the founding of a new club team.

Krishna Yalamanchili, an Indian national and GSU post-grad working in a Master’s in Computer Science, is the organizer of the new Cricket Club, and together with Josh Overcast of the Office of International Services, was influential in bringing Indian students at GSU together to revive a sport that many of them have been playing since childhood.

“The IT degree is new to 4-year institutions,” said Hyzny. “Junior colleges have been teaching it, and it has grown from industry-based certifications.” Hyzny is working with Division Chair of Science Dr. Steve Shih and GSU to bring an Information Security Master’s degree to GSU as well.

GSU Computer Science students competed in a variety of competitions in the IT Degree’s inaugural 2013-2014 year. The first competition for this year, the Illinois Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, will take place in February.

The second technology competition, CyberAces, is an online training module and competition, and leads to another competition known as CyberQuest. CyberQuest is the second competition of Cyber Aces, and trains students on networks and software like Windows servers and malware, including a variety of computer security challenges.

Once training is done, participants take an online exam to see what they learned from training, and depending on how high they score, students will get to move to the next step: using their skills in a series of competitive events, scoring points in the process. GSU students have qualified to attend special competitions because of their scores in both Cyber Aces and the CyberQuest Challenge, and have received special recognition from Illinois Governor Pat Quinn for their achievements.

A cyber security challenge competition known as the Capture the Flag Competition, hosted by Mitre Corporation and the Internet Systems Consortium, is another competition in which high school and college students compete in virtual challenges. The competition is held in support of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative.

GSU students competed overnight in the 24 hour competition, scoring in the top 25% of all teams participating. According to Hyzny, “GSU has seen much success from the female students at GSU in the technology department.”

Former Cyber Defense team member and team leader Tamisha Rose was the first student initiated as a member of GSU’s UPE honor society, which she was instrumental in forming as Computer Science Club President. Rose was even invited to the White House last year to participate in a meeting highlighting cyber student work and local programs across the country.

Rose was also recognized, along with Donald Washington, as the first recipient of The Illinois Technology Foundation’s 50 for the Future Award, which recognizes students that represent the future of technology in Illinois. Four students from GSU have received the 50 for the Future Award, including GSU’s Gina Richard, Computer Science Undergraduate and Vice President of Continued on page 5
In late September, 42 year old Omar Gonzalez, a veteran of the U.S. Army, managed to jump the fence surrounding the White House, sprint across the lawn, and make it into the east room of the monument before being apprehended by the Secret Service.

To many, that fact may be meaningless, but the East Room has been used by every President to entertain guests and hold meetings between staff since the building was built, and, if the timing had been right, could have been occupied by the president himself.

The media has adamantly inquired as to how the nation’s best security force could allow an individual armed with a pocket knife to make it so deep into the President’s home.

According to reports, the alarm system that would have warned the Secret Service of an intrusion was muted, to cut down on noise in that area; hardly a satisfactory reason to risk the safety of our nation’s president.

Regardless of the he said/ she said facts and details of the incident, there is a more startling precedent within this whole event. The fact is that this is one of many attempts by Americans to break into the white house with intentions unknown, so the nagging question is: What could motivate a citizen to risk their entire life on an attempt to cross a lawn?

Statistics aside, the nation is divided in terms of satisfaction with the government, especially with President Obama, for his military policy towards ISIS and his political choices over the course of his near six years in office, but disagreement is expected and characteristic of a democratic society.

The key here is that Omar Gonzalez, the man that made it into the East Room, is a war veteran, and a U.S. citizen, as much as any of us; not a foreign terrorist.

Incidents like this are hallmarks of a growing disposition in the United States, where people are unsatisfied with the acceptable modes of communicating their needs and beliefs; so much so that they make themselves a spectacle, or even (for their intentions are unknown) an agent of extremist action, in the pursuit of what we may presume to be mankind's most nefarious and heinous goals.

By Jonathan Bultius, Editor Comrades:

Probably the greatest part of participating in the Phoenix this year is the sort of shared-freethinking socially analytical discussions that keep shaking popping up in the newsroom; fueled by our mutual fascination with the social-political climate of the world we occupy, and a mutual obsession to describe it.

Over the last few months, the activism we’ve seen in Missouri, Chicagoland, and GSU, the global crisis that has been unfolding in the Middle East, and the ongoing lectures surrounding Latino Heritage Month have truly sparkled our desire to expand our dialogue in a way that seems profound, new, challenging, and important.

Probably the greatest local influence on our discussions has been the involved and elaborate articulation of the complexities of national belongingness and ethnic and cultural heritage within the Spanish-speaking global community. A big part of articulating the rich complexity of this impossibly broad demographic is pointing out how inaccurate the conception of a single Latino or Hispanic culture really is.

Obviously, Spanish-speaking persons in the New World represent as broad a range of ethnic and cultural roots as can possibly be conceived, from Argentina to Hawaii, and all stops in between.

Naturally our discussions have began to explore the other demographic titles that we apply to one another: dubious words like “black”, “white”, “Asian” and “European”, which convey basically nothing about our rich ancestral histories, but only serve to limit our conceptions of them. If it is necessary for us to describe one another physically through the pigmentation of our skin and our areas of origin, then why isn’t our language more specific?

Some observations, and questions we can’t answer on our own.

Albino’s from every ethnicity are perhaps the only human beings with actual, gossamer white skin, and only some African ethnicities and Australian Aboriginals are truly, beautifully black. So why do we use the words to describe each other physically in the first place? Aren’t we really all just lovely gradients of tan and brown?

Shouldn’t we be more specific? Why aren’t we pink, chocolate, and olive? Light chocolate perhaps? Hazelnut? Almond? Or are we stuck to using demographic terms that the powers that be have decided for us, long ago?

What about our ancestral explanations for ourselves? Surely they’re more complicated than Crayola colors (let’s not get started on Crayola). Howard Zinn, the author of “A People’s History of the United States,” argued that demographics like black, white, and brown, were created by the powers that be in an effort to divide us in the first place: because together, we represent the Proletariat, the single most powerful revolutionary force the world will ever see.

One thing is for certain: if we look back past the 1950’s, the one thing we all have in common (except for the few of us that are descended from Srohwali and Prussian and Punjab aristocracy, etcetera, ad infinitum) is that we are all descended from peasants. Our ancestors throughout human history have been slaves and serfs, the servants of wealth: forever condemned to work for the ruling class, which always stays wealthy, while for the most part, our ancestors stayed indebted and poor.

So are we really that different as US Americans? Can’t our archaic color-codes fade away now? We are Congolese, Zulu, Sin, Turkhan, Russ, Polish, and Japanese! We are Indian, Latino, and Cherokee! I don’t know about you guys, but I’m done checking the little demographic box on job applications. From now on, I’m checking “other” and leaving a detailed explanation about how my grandparents and everyone’s grandparents that I know of were poor as bricks.

Here at GSU, we don’t just represent the diverse roots of U.S. culture, we represent the whole world. We got folks from everywhere, from the Philippines to India to Korea to Russia, and here in the Phoenix, we’re resolved to discuss it until we’re blue in the face and we’ve celebrated as much culture as we can fit in a newspaper. Please – don’t just ask the bold new questions this year, give us your answers! There is nothing we cannot discuss! This is OUR world. It’s up to us to define it.

Want to know more? We’re just posing questions here. Your voice is so important, please send us your thoughts and opinions. There are no “safe” subjects. You can talk about whatever you want. We’re resolved to expand that discussion to you, here, but we can’t do it without your help.

The PHOENIX is published twelve times annually. We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership. All submissions must be signed, and include the submitter’s full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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The US is unique as an imperialist power in ways that immigration has never reflected before, according to Gonzales. “We have the longest Third World land border that has ever existed,” said Gonzales, and we are engaged in “the most massive deportation process in human history.”

Gonzales spoke passionately about the need for reform in US History education. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in East Harlem, Gonzales said he “learned virtually nothing in school about [his] own home,” and was instead confined to fictional stereotypes projected by the white male majority, and “ignored and minimized the role of non-white members of society.”

“People deeply need to understand the racial justice and cultural diversity of the United States and Latin America,” said Gonzales.

SWSO remembers former GSU student in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Jonathan Bulthuis, Editor

The Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) at GSU are recognizing former GSU student Nina Lee, who passed away from breast cancer last year. “Nina was an outstanding student.”

“Despite her condition, she set for herself to complete her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work,” said Newson. “Therefore, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in memory of Nina Lee, we are asking the faculty and students of GSU and the social work department to wear something pink for the entire week of October 6 through October 10.”

Students who are interested in joining Phi Alpha, SWSO, or participating in Breast Cancer Awareness Month events should contact Newson at lnnewson@student.govst.edu.

Info/ Tech Club to host events in October

By Kyle Horn

The IT/CS club will be holding speaking events throughout the rest of the semester. All members of the GSU community are invited to attend. Event dates are September 28th at 7:30pm, October 14th and 28th at 7:30pm, all at Engbertson Hall. The first event will cover Information Ethics, and the third will cover Information Security. Also, join IT/CS for movie discussion nights on October 3rd and 17th at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy a movie and stay for the discussion led by Lecturer Steve Hyzny and members of the IT/CS club.

The IT/CS club will be fundraising by selling refreshments at the movie/discussion events. Computer Science and Information Technology students who are interested in competing in CS competitions should be sure to sign up for the free flow of capitalism over borders that are closed to labor,” said Gonzales. “You cannot allow for the free flow of capitalism over borders that are closed to labor,” said Gonzales. “And you must have a humane policy for dealing with global immigration issues.”

“I do not come to these views lightly,” said Gonzales, who was pounding the pavement for a decade as a student activist at Columbia University, in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, four decades ago. Gonzales’ work as an activist and later as a reporter led him to challenge ingrained historical paradigms; among others, “the notion that civil rights was a black and white issue.”

“I made up my mind to embark on my own journey through the historical record,” said Gonzales. The fruition of much of his work can be found in the pages of “Harvest of Empire,” which examines the relationship between the United States and Latin America, from the invasions of Mexico and Panama in the early 1800s, to the “Harvest of Empire” the US yields today, which includes 53 million US Latinos, in addition to the 3.5 million citizens of Gonzales’ home state, US protectorate Puerto Rico.

“I’m hopeful that young people will take action and enforce change,” said Gonzales, referring to the 2006 Civil Rights demonstrations in Dallas, Denver, Nashville, Los Angeles, and New York City as the “Coming of Age” of the US Latino community: many of which were the largest demonstrations those cities have ever seen. “These are the freedom-writers of our time,” said Gonzales.
Gay-Straight Alliance takes new direction at GSU

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

GSU’s Gay-Straight Alliance Club was re-formed this semester to educate others on issues surrounding the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community and their allies (LGBTQA), and to encourage people in various places here at GSU to unite as allies on issues that affect all of us.

Tyler Mueller, the president of GSU’s Gay/Straight Alliance Club (GSA) is facilitating events planned to promote GSA throughout the month of October, which is LGBTQ Awareness Month. A kickoff party will be held in the Cafeteria Annex from 11 am-2 pm on October 2. There will be music and games, such as Velcro darts and Bean Bag Toss.

From October 6-10, the Gay Straight Alliance Club will be wearing t-shirts provided by the Fine By Me Initiative to identify the wearers as advocates for gay students. On October 13, GSA will be watching the film “Prayers for Bobby” in room F1622 and the club will provide popcorn and other refreshments for those in attendance.

GSA will also begin a clothing drive, benefitting homeless LGBTQ youth, for the entire month, with bins located in the Hall of Governors as well as the first floor of the B Building and the base of the D Building.

On October 28, GSA will co-host a bake sale with SWASO from 10 am-6 pm in the Hall of Governors. A “Cake Off Bake Off” during the bake sale will be open to students and faculty with a $1 dollar admission.

Whoever wins the “Cake Off Bake Off” will win 15% of the proceeds from the bake-off. An auction for all of the cakes will follow after the winner is announced. GSA will also be hosting an event with Safe Zone on the October 28, providing training to students to act as allies for gay and straight students, as well as how to respond to potential problems in order to provide a safe environment for everyone. GSA will also host a Halloween party on Oct. 31 in the Hall of Honors at 6pm.

Students who are interested in becoming a GSA advocate, involving themselves in any of the events listed, or joining the Gay/Straight Alliance Club should contact club president Tyler Mueller at tmuellerr@student.govst.edu.

Cricket comes to GSU!

By Kyle Horn
Associate Editor

Students seeking to take advantage of the employment opportunities here at GSU might be interested in some of the rules pertaining to payment. With the arrival of freshmen, the protocols surrounding pay have become more specific.

For freshman shouldering a full-time class load, work hours are capped at ten hours per week. “We don’t want them to overdo it. They’re at a full load with their class schedule, and they’re new on campus, so we’re just capping them at 20 hours (per pay period) to give them a little pocket money,” said Brenda Moore of the Financial Aid Office.

Students above the freshman level are not prevented from working more than 20 hours per pay period. This does not mean that they may work as much as they want.

All federal student workers have a budget under the Federal Work Study Program, for example $1500 per job period. Some students may work 40 hours a week, but when they deplete their respective budgets their federal work study ends, regardless of whether the job itself has ended.

GSU Student Senate members have been awarded deputy registrar status, and can help facilitate the voter registration process for GSU students. “The GSU Rocks the Vote initiative is an important part of commitment to civic engagement at GSU,” said Dean of Students Dr. Aurelio Valente, in a press release earlier this week. “This is a critical part of our responsibilities as citizens,” said Valente.

GSU is using Turbo Vote, an online registration service that mails registration information and return envelopes to voters or prospective voters requesting absentee voting ballots, or wishing to change their address. In person voter registration will be open on October 1st, from 2pm to 6pm in room A2122, and in the Hall of Governors on October 2 from noon to 6pm.

Students who are not registered to vote are encouraged to take this opportunity to register.

By Jon Bulthuis

GSU is recognizing National Voter Registration Day this year by joining colleges across the country in a proactive recruitment process. GSU Student Senate members have been awarded deputy registrar status, and can help facilitate the voter registration process for GSU students.

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The installation of the Cricket field and the founding of the Indian Student’s Club speaks volumes about GSU’s intentions to support and promote the Indian populations coming from such countries as Ethiopia, Moldova, Nigeria, and Vietnam.”

GSU students who are interested in joining the Cricket Club or the Indian Students Club should contact Krishna Yalamanchili at ryalamanchili@student.govst.edu, or Josh Overcast at jovercast@student.govst.edu.

For a list of GSU events sponsored by the Office of International Services, check out their page on the GSU website, at http://www.govst.edu/ois.

Fall 2014 GSA student advocates with faculty advisor Dr. Jim Howley

GSU student employment

GSU student employment

Fall 2014 GSA student advocates with faculty advisor Dr. Jim Howley

GSU student employment

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The introductory event was followed by an introductory match that gave interested students a chance to participate, followed by a few serious matches by members of the GSU Cricket Club.

Office of International Services backing of Cricket as an up-and-coming collegiate sport is coming hand-in-hand with the founding of GSU’s first Indian Students Club.

“Several students have also begun the process of forming [the club],” said Overcast, “which they hope to inaugurate as an official student organization within the coming months.”

The installation of the Cricket field and the founding of the Indian Student’s Club speaks volumes about GSU’s intentions to support and encourage the cultural roots of many of the universities foreign-national and immigrant students.

“GSU’s Office of International Services supports the international student population and promotes international programming at the university,” said Overcast.

“Currently, the university hosts students from approximately 15 different countries,” said Overcast, “with the largest populations coming from India and China, and smaller populations coming from such countries such as Ethiopia, Moldova, Nigeria, and Vietnam.”

GSU students who are interested in joining the Cricket Club or the Indian Students Club should contact Krishna Yalamanchili at ryalamanchili@student.govst.edu, or Josh Overcast at jovercast@student.govst.edu.

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Reactions from students, faculty, and members of the GSU community

By Sean Johnson
Contributing Writer

GSU Men’s Global Leadership Initiative kicked off an expanded portfolio of student leadership programs last Saturday, September 27, 2014. The initiative brought together a total of 35 registered participants, in addition to the 20 members of the University community who volunteered their time to help students achieve their highest potential as male leaders.

A panel of guest speakers were asked a series of questions pertaining to leadership, government, and networking. Student Senators Jeremy Joye and Jim Rink, newly enrolled in GSU’s Leadership Doctoral Program, introduced the guest panel. Rink supplied the panel members with nicknames during the discussion, some of whom are mentioned below.

Waldo E. Johnson, Jr. Ph.D., (nicknamed “The Voice”), is Associate Professor, School of Social Service Administration and Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago. “As students,” said Johnson, “sometimes we’re waiting for someone to give us the permission to go. Preparation is a must!”

Michael Hopkins, (“The Brain”), is an Attorney at Spies & Ayers in Joliet, GSU alumni, and a former speechwriter in the Public Relations and Marketing Department. “I did not have a focal point when I was younger,” said Hopkins. “Do not wait until it’s too late. If I was your age now, I would be attending the Men’s Leadership Initiative, sitting in those seats and taking in the lessons.”

William Q. Davis, (“The Eye”), is the District 30 IL State Representative. Davis is a MPA Alumni of GSU. Davis is a member of the Appropriations for Higher Education committee. “If a person comes to you with an issue,” said Davis, “be respectful about whatever issue they’re bringing to you.”

Jason Thomas, (“The Heart”), is the Director of the TRIO Talent Search program at Prairie State College. Thomas has worked with 500 first generation/low income students from six schools in the Chicago Heights community. Thomas believes that without purpose or direction young people will continue to be stuck in survival mode, willing to do anything for the pursuit of monetary gain. “Your culture affects everything, as well as gender,” said Thomas. “Imagine a single mother raising her children. Female leadership is entirely different than a man’s leadership role. Be consistent. Don’t wear a mask, and mirror what you say.”

Freddy Flores, (“The Fist”), President of UBM Elevator Solutions, provides leadership to position his company at the forefront of the industry. “Be true to yourself!” said Flores. “Surround yourself with people who you can learn from. Be transparent. Ask yourself, What have I done to make that person successful? Start with yourself first then pass on what you know shows leader qualities.”

Many students attested that the program was informative and enriched their academic experiences. Aaron Magee (Freshman): “I think the leadership program was an outstanding experience. I’ve met others who have similar goals to accomplish. Also, I have learned different leadership roles.”

Derrick Brown (Transfer Student): “The leadership program was a great experience. The information given was helpful in understanding what makes a great leader. Being able to communicate and be around men geared towards leadership was helpful and intriguing.”

Scott Slager (Transfer Student): “It is these types of extra-curricular activities that truly exemplify GSU’s commitment to helping its students not just academically, but in developing real life skills that have a powerful effect on their day-to-day reality.”

Justin Smith (Freshman Student): “This program was by far the best I’ve been to of its kind. GSU is doing a great job at raising and developing leaders.”

The Men’s Global Leadership Initiative doesn’t just stop at this event. In case you’re interested, tweet #GSULeaders or join the GSU Mens Global Leadership group on LinkedIn.

GSU IT/CS Students recognized, compete in national competitions

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the Computer Science Club, Kimberly Poole, Treasurer and Secretary of the Computer Science Club, McClinton Hoover, President of the Computer Science Club, and Joseph Ponton, Computer Science undergraduate and former Collegiate Cyber Defense Team member.

The most recent honors in the GSU IT department go to Jennifer Elenteny-Mejia for being a winning team member with Alex J. Rams of DePaul University, in the United States Cyber Challenge (USCC): an rigorous, exclusive, invitation-only four-day program catered toward students seeking careers in Information Technology. Elenteny-Mejia and five other students were invited to participate in scoring in the Cyber Quest competition. Elenteny-Mejia received a $1,000 scholarship and an invitation to compete at the national competition, and was the first of two recipients of the Stephen R. Hyzny Sr. Memorial Scholarship, the other being Kelly M. Wehrley. The scholarship was created by Steve Hyzny for women in the IT field, in honor of his father. If you are interested in obtaining an IT degree or participating in these competitions, contact Stephen R. Hyzny, Jr. at shyzny@govst.edu.

Prairie Place holds first annual Resident Housing Council elections

By Dorian Daily and Jon Balthuis

On September 11, 2014, Prairie Place held resident elections for its first ever Hall Council.

The Prairie Place Hall Council is a residential, student-run organization, striving to enhance residential life, promote community, and to provide a voice within the residential community.

“The purpose of the Housing Council is to provide a voice for students, and to encourage the development of student leaders,” said Felice Kimbrew, newly elected PPHC President. “We work hand-in-hand with the Resident Advisors and Hall Director Kyrie Kirkland, we get the students together to voice their concerns at Hall Assemblies, and we represent that voice at Student Senate meetings. We try to come up with solutions, rather than just problems,” said Kirkland.

The Housing Council is well represented across platforms throughout GSU. “Four of us serve on the Program Council Board, one of us serves as an officer in the Black Student Union, and we have two representatives on the Student Senate,” said Kirkland. Questions? Email fkimbrew@student.govst.edu.
Reel Reviews: The Equalizer

By Walter Banasiak, Columnist

2014’s “The Equalizer” is based off a TV series of the same name that aired on CBS in the mid to late 80’s. The series followed a middle-aged retired intelligence officer with a mysterious past who helps people in trouble.

In the modern version, Denzel Washington plays McCall, a man living a new, quiet life. But when McCall meets Teri (Chloe Grace Moretz), a young girl under the control of ultra-violent Russian gangsters, he can’t stand idly by; he has to help her. Denzel Washington’s contemporary interpretation of this character definitely earns its R rating.

There are some brutally violent scenes in this movie. Denzel himself is great as always. It’s not a stretch to compare him in “The Equalizer” to Liam Neeson in the “Taken” series. Both actors are well over 50 and have solid action franchises that they can, and will continue to, build upon.

While “The Equalizer” is a lot of fun, it definitely isn’t perfect. The movie was a bit long and dragged just a tad. It probably should have wrapped a little sooner.

Additionally, the film starts as a completely different movie from where it ends up. The way it begins makes it seem like it’s going to be this subtle, smaller revenge action flick, but as it goes along it gets bigger and bigger to the point where by the end, it’s going all out.

The villain, Teddy, played by Marton Csokas, is a part of this problem. While the movie is still in its early stages of quieter moments, Teddy pops up as a pretty cartoonish bad guy. However, as the movie keeps going it adjusts to the Teddy character and becomes as excessive as he is.

Those issues do not impair this film very much. There’s still a lot of fun action with a great lead in an interesting story. It’s worth checking out in the theaters, especially if you’re a big Denzel Washington fan. Reel Reviews is giving “The Equalizer” a rock solid 7/10. Make sure to follow our video reviews at youtube.com/user/TheReelReviewsShow and “like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/ReelReviewsShow.

A rundown on GSU pricing

By Bob Meyers

Ever wonder how the Cafeteria prices its food? Have you ever wondered how the bookstore prices their books and apparel? Auxiliary Serves & University Housing Director Betsy Joseph sat down with us for an interview last week to answer this question.

Cafeteria prices are set in a contract with Food Services, Inc. and go by the Consumer Price Index to see what is happening with food services away from home. Prices of convenience stores are also considered and compared before GSU food prices are set. CPI prices this year increased by 2.7% compared to last year, but cafeteria food has actually not increased the full 2.7%. Instead, the Cafeteria has increased food costs by 2.5% compared to last year, in an effort to ensure that students can afford the food.

Prairie Place’s C-Store works in collaboration with a company that sells products at convenience stores, and prices at Prairie Place are compared to stores in nearby areas. Joseph acknowledged that “some product prices are very concerning” but Prairie Place is “looking to provide more value products, to find the right product mix that students want to see in the store,” said Joseph.

The C-Store uses the MyOneCard exclusively, and it is up to each individual student to determine how much funding they want on their My OneCard. However, Joseph is hoping Prairie Place sets a Declining Balance Meal Plan in the future, which she says is on the horizon.

“Students sign up for the meal plan to just buy food,” said Joseph. The amount on the Declining Meal Plan varies from $500-$1,500. MacGray, the company Prairie Place partners with for laundry services, set the laundry price currently at $1.25 per load.

Prairie Place itself has their prices set depending on rate structure, and a pro forma business plan helps pay for our new housing building, as it “projected our ongoing expenses and revenues”, said Joseph.

The GSU Bookstore partners with Follett, a company that sets the prices in over 900 college bookstores nationwide. Follett sets prices based on the national market and the National Bookstore Apparel Standards, which insure that the people who made our GSU t-shirts make a living wage making good quality clothing.

“Follett is expected to charge industry standard, competitive and fair prices for pricing books and other course materials,” said Joseph. “Our concessions agreement with Follett outlines specific pricing rules related to the various types of textbooks and course materials that are offered out to students.”

Follett also has flash sales to help make students can afford everything the bookstore offers, at fair prices. As for prices for memberships with the GSU Recreational & Fitness Center, all students are already members with their My OneCard.

“Community pricing (for the Rec Center),” said Recreation and Fitness Program Director Dean Jennings, “is based on the low end market value of our services, compared to local facilities with similar amenities.”

Got an opinion on GSU Bookstore pricing? We’re going to do our best to address textbook pricing in detail in our next issue. If you have an opinion about textbook markups or other fixed costs of education, let us know what you think! Send us an email at phoenix@govst.edu

By Dorian Daily

Motorists who text and drive generally spend about five seconds looking at their phone screen: at 55 mph, that act is the equivalent of driving through a football field blindfolded. According to the National Safety Council, one accident every 24 seconds is attributed to distracted driving with a cell phone.

Distracted driving is driving while engaging in an activity that can distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of a crash. There are three main types of distractions while driving:

Visual distraction: taking your eyes off of the road.

Manual distraction: taking your hands off the wheel.

Cognitive distraction: taking your mind off of what you are doing.

Texting while driving is an example of all three of these distraction types. Texting is a visual distraction, because a driver has to take their eyes off the road to read the message; a manual distraction, because drivers have to take a hand off the steering wheel to manipulate their phone; and cognitive, because the driver can potentially become more focused on reading and replying to the text message, than on driving. The worst texting and driving offenders are usually inexperienced drivers, and drivers under 20 years of age.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting while driving increases the likelihood of a crash by 23 times during the period that a driver is sending a text. That translates to a 2.200 percent increase in accident risk.

Texting and driving carries serious legal repercussions. When 2014 began, new laws were implemented in the US prohibiting drivers from operating a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device, such as a cell phone or a mobile computer, to compose, send, or read an electronic message. Violating the Illinois Cell Phone Law comes with an initial fine of $75.

By Marton Csokas, is a part of this problem. While the movie is still in its early stages of quieter moments, it “projected our ongoing expenses and revenues,” said Joseph.

Got an opinion on GSU Bookstore pricing? We’re going to do our best to address textbook pricing in detail in our next issue. If you have an opinion about textbook markups or other fixed costs of education, let us know what you think! Send us an email at phoenix@govst.edu

By Dorian Daily, Contributing Writer

Motorists who text and drive generally spend about five seconds looking at their phone screen: at 55 mph, that act is the equivalent of driving through a football field blindfolded. According to the National Safety Council, one accident every 24 seconds is attributed to distracted driving with a cell phone.

Distracted driving is driving while engaging in an activity that can distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of a crash. There are three main types of distractions while driving:

Visual distraction: taking your eyes off of the road.

Manual distraction: taking your hands off the wheel.

Cognitive distraction: taking your mind off of what you are doing.

Texting while driving is an example of all three of these distraction types. Texting is a visual distraction, because a driver has to take their eyes off the road to read the message; a manual distraction, because drivers have to take a hand off the steering wheel to manipulate their phone; and cognitive, because the driver can potentially become more focused on reading and replying to the text message, than on driving. The worst texting and driving offenders are usually inexperienced drivers, and drivers under 20 years of age.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting while driving increases the likelihood of a crash by 23 times during the period that a driver is sending a text. That translates to a 2,200 percent increase in accident risk.

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It's all about Student Success!

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

By Katrina Koltz, Columnist

Creative strategies for funding Grad-Studies

With the national student loan debt reaching $1.2 trillion, it has become apparent that students must come up with innovative ways to fund their education. This requires a combination of traditional budgeting strategies, efficient resource use, and wise borrowing practices. The first place to start is with your own finances. This entails a serious look at your spending priorities and decisions. It is imperative to “live within your means” or avoid overspending. While this may seem like a simple concept, unemployment and underemployment make this difficult for some. One creative idea is to apply your tax refund specifically towards tuition or books. This will decrease your student loans and total debt upon graduation. Another option is getting a flexible or part-time job. Many retail, food service, and private businesses recognize how valuable it is to employ developing professionals and will update school schedules for graduate students.

Your next step should be your financial aid department for scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, and work-study positions. The federal government has fixed or variable rates anywhere from 3 percent to 13 percent. A good rule to follow when considering additional funds from student loans to cover books. Many students rely on extra loans and total debt upon graduation. This will decrease your student loans and total debt upon graduation.

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SUBMIT !!!

RECONSTRUCTED is currently accepting submissions for our Fall issue.

As part of GSU’s campus-wide commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Freedom Summer, we’re especially looking for pieces related to the theme of "How Far Have We Come, How Far We Have Yet to Go?"

Submit your fiction, poetry, personal essays, photography or other visual art to: Reconstructed@govst.edu

no later than Nov. 2nd.

We are accepting BOTH Civil Rights-themed submissions and general submissions.

Every submitter will receive a copy of the Fall issue of Reconstructed and a Reconstructed T-shirt !!!