GSU Family and Friends Weekend

Pep Rally, Basketball exhibition games highlights of campus-wide, inaugural community celebration event

By Dorian Daily

Governors State University held its first ever Friends and Family Weekend from October 9-12. With GSU becoming a full-fledged 4-year university, friends, parents, families and alumni visited the campus to join students, faculty and staff for this exciting three-day inaugural event.

Friends and Family Weekend kicked off with the pep rally on Thursday, October 9. At the pep rally, the student body witnessed the introduction of the Men’s and Women’s basketball teams, and GSU’s new mascot, Jax the Jaguar, made its big debut.

The Men’s Jaguars faced off the Trojans of Trinity International University for the basketball season’s exhibition kick-off game. The Fatal Dance Company performed during the half time show, in a game that proved the GSU Jaguars are a force to be reckoned with.

Friday afternoon presented a wide variety of events throughout the campus. Friends and Family Weekend participants first registered near the Hall of Governors and participated in various activities, such as exercising in the Student Fitness Center, dipping in the indoor pool for Open Swim, learning to line dance, and even taking funny pictures in the photo booth.

GSU students were also able to “Get Connected” through GSU Connect. GSU Connect is a media campaign aimed at connecting the student body to GSU in directly via their Smartphones, with the myGSU mobile app, the Eat Well App, and GSU Library’s Cube. Students also got “Connected” on the site by downloading the apps and following GSU on Twitter @Governors_State.

The Family and Friends Weekend activities took place in the Hall of Governors and throughout the university. Activities included the Student Art Show at the GSU Art Gallery, a reflection of the history of the GSU Library and free games of Bingo in Engbretson Hall sponsored by the College of Business and Public Administration.

Friday night’s highlight performance starred hypnotist Jim Wand in the Center for Performing Arts at 7pm.

Members of the GSU community try some Palestinian wares at the International Students Club exhibit of Passport World.

Student Senate Vice President Addison Jackson and his daughter Madison.

Rebirth Jazz Band brings the Hall of Governors to life last Saturday night.

FFW included many curiosities, including a balloon man on stilts and a facepainting kiosk.

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Continued on pg 5
The Box: a spoke in the wheels of Social Justice

As a social work undergraduate student I would like to take this time to bring light to a subject matter that I found interesting and important. The Fall 2014 admissions application has added the question “have you been convicted of a felony?” to the application. I would like to term it as “The Box.” Ironically, The Box goes against the advocacy of Social Justice. Condoning or remaining silent would mean it is acceptable. It is amazing that there is a process to eliminate the box off the employment application discrimination and pre-judgment of a convicted felon.

This is the New Jim Crow all over again. How far has Society come? I wonder who dropped the ball on this one, or better yet, why was The Box validated as a standard part of the GSU student application? The Box is an example of institutional racism disguised. For felons, The Box is an injustice to them and a cause of great disappointment. The same institutions that are designed to help everyone succeed must take you to a higher level of consciousness, a second chance, since societal law states that once a crime is punished by the law, your release is your chance for redemption. Is The Box a set up to fail? The federal government will allow FAFSA for all individuals to receive student loans. Ed. So not only is The Box a civil cause, it is a discrimination and pre-judgment of a convicted felon.

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discrimination and pre-judgment of a convicted felon.

I am not much of a sports person... the only sport that interests me at all is boxing. Let me tell you why I hate most sports. National athletes tend to get a free pass whenever they commit a crime because they play a sport.

Domestic violence is definitely not appropriate under any circumstance. I know people love sports but, for me, why would I even want to watch a sport when the league, the NFL in this case, is full of hypocrites who consider the impact of a game more than they have even bother to consider the impact that their petty suspension penalties has on women.

The NFL clearly has a domestic violence problem. Why does the commissioner need to see a video of a man punching a woman in the face in order to realize it’s unacceptable? If it weren’t for the backlash and uproar of others, Roger Goodell would still have kept his eye turned and Ray Rice would still be playing for the Baltimore Ravens.

FREE PASS.

Why is it that, back in 1994, it took Nicole Brown Simpson’s murder to help us realize that domestic violence is a problem and, 2 decades later, Janay Rice’s beating in an elevator forces us to come to terms with how much we will tolerate it? Decades pass and the NFL still has done little to help the problem without the protests of others first.

I consider myself an advocate for women as I have a lot of passionate feelings as to their rights and why we should have had a woman president years ago. Katie Nolan, of Fox Sports 1, gave her stance on the domestic violence problem in a YouTube video. In part, she said, “Women in sports television are allowed to read headlines, patrol sidelines, and generally facilitate conversation for their male colleagues. Sometimes, they even let us monitor the internet from a coach. And while the Steven A. Smiths, Mike Francesces, Dan Patricks, and Keith Olbermanns of the world get to weigh in on the issues of the day, we just smile and throw to commercial.”

“A lot of people like to justify women’s supporting role in sports media by saying, ‘well, they’ve never played the game, so they just aren’t qualified to speak about it,’ said Nolan. “Because God forbid someone misspeak about the game. But topics like domestic violence, racism, and corruption, let’s let Boomer handle those between downs. It’s time for the conversation to change, or at least those participating in the conversation. It’s time for women to have a seat at the big boy table, and not where their presence is a gimmick or a concept, just a person who happens to have breasts offering their opinion on the sports they love and the topics they know.”

In closing, it is up to the media to change their tolerance of domestic violence before the NFL does. The NFL answers to the media. It’s time to make a change.

-Bob Meyers, Staff Writer

The Importance of Funding NASA Research

The space race has grabbed the attention of humanity since long before the first Russian Sputnik launch, and has directed our vision toward the sky, to imagine what possibilities exist above our heads. But besides the science fiction stories its’ research has inspired, NASA operations and research have lead to innovations that have shaped modern society from it’s very foundations.

On the surface, it is easy to question what flying astronauts to space has to do with anything other than flying astronauts into space: but the list of inventions that have come from research done by those astronauts is astounding. Examples of products we take for granted are prosthetic limbs, improved vehicle tires, temper food, solar power systems, fire resistance, and many more.

It is important to note that NASA’s research is not necessarily dedicated to providing the public with new amenities and improved technology. Many of the items from the list above came from research done in space.

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“...the space program... had the collateral affect of improving common technology.”
The Paradigm of the Moment

By Terry Banies, BSW

“Paradigm,” according to Merriam Webster dictionary, is a “philosophical or theoretical framework of any kind related to two prevailing set of ideas in the paradigm that I am about to reveal. The first being the idea of chance, here the operational definition of a situation favoring some purpose. The second idea here is the choice of change. Today after class about 9:30pm a friend of mine dropped me off at Harvey bus terminal. After exiting his vehicle, I walked to where I was supposed to board the 349 page bus to 79th and Western. As I stood there smoking a cigarette, a man walked up to me and asked where he should board the bus heading towards 95th and Western. I responded to him that he was standing in the right place. He then asked me if I wanted to sell him a cigarrette. I gave him two as he attempted to hand me a dollar; and I said to him to pass the blessing of a dollar to someone else. He stated to me that he should have donated the extra dollar to his addiction. The gentleman looked at me waiting for me to ask him what is what, only I simply smiled and waited for him to finish. After a short pause I asked him how much clean time he had, and he responded “two days.” I said “Wow.” Anybody that knows me knows that when I say wow, a sense of humility or amazement comforts my spirit. “Two days!” I said, and I shook his hand again and asked him for a hug. That’s right: I asked a total stranger for a hug, because I sensed the undertones of words, and the optical hidden to the thoughtfulness of passing it along was valid because it came from him. We continued to talk, and he disclosed to me that he just came from the Harvey 100 club. Most people would think that this was a bar of some kind by the name, allow me to inform you that it’s quite the opposite. The Harvey 100 club is a place that holds AA, NA and other types of meetings daily for those recovering from addiction. This gentleman looked at me waiting for me to ask him what is what, only I simply smiled and waited for him to finish. After a short pause I asked him how much clean time he had, and he responded “two days.” I said “Wow.” Anybody that knows me knows that when I say wow, a sense of humility or amazement comforts my spirit. “Two days!” I said, and I shook his hand again and asked him for a hug. That’s right: I asked a total stranger for a hug, because I sensed an apprehension or desperation in his voice. He began pacing and saying why he can’t get it right, and I looked at him and said “you are getting it right. Here it is after 10pm and you’re on your way home from the Harvey Club? Right?” He responded “yes.” I said, “did you get high today?” He said no. I asked him if he was afraid of the uncertainty of tomorrow, and again he said “yes.” and responded, “you are getting it right.”

The gentleman began describing the dilemma that he was facing, his being released from the penitentiary in February, and his daughter getting sick while he was somewhere getting high. This was enough to get us both to reflect back on the pain we no longer had to be a part of. It also made me appreciate gratitude, and disclose to him that I had eight years clean. I sensed he needed proof that staying clean could be done. I explained to him that this was not some meeting of chance: this meeting was arranged by something greater than ourselves, to remind the two of us that‘staying the course. This meeting took me back to those dark days of sitting on an orange milk crate in someone’s basement with only the smidgen of hope for one more. It took me back to a bathroom stint in my own dilemma, if I should get one more, or not; if I should settle for less of myself, or not; if I should stay as easy, or if I should walk with faith. I will soon graduate with my Masters in Social Work, because someone else offered me hope: not in the apparent reality of existing in life, but in the unseen possibility of living life with hope.

The moral of the story is that everyday we’re faced with a challenge of choice: some of us take the challenge of choice to change, and some of us become comfortable settling for what our perception of reality is. Reality can change like the232 character in the story of Benjamin Button. We can be easy, or if I should walk with faith.

OpEd

Illinois State Gubernatorial Elections
November 2nd Midterms
Who’s Running, And Why You Should Vote.

By William Wright

When compared to the spectacle of the Presidential election, it can be easy to overlook the midterms. The U.S. media isn’t as frenzied, and there are so many candidates running for so many positions, that it is almost impossible to keep track of them all; which is probably part of the reason only 37% of eligible voters turned out in the 2012 midterms. But midterm elections are just as important; they’re the elections in which citizens choose the men and women who will make laws on everything from the state minimum wage, to what our children will learn in school.

This year, the people of Illinois will vote on a plethora of state officials, from U.S. Senators, right down to school board members. One of the highest profile races is the Gubernatorial election. The Illinois Governor is the head of the state executive branch, with powers mirroring those of the President at the federal level. In this year’s election, incumbent Pat Quinn (D) and his Lieutenant Governor Paul Vallas face challenger Bruce Rauner (R) and his prospective Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti.

Quinn has been a key player in Illinois politics since the ‘70s, and was elected Governor in 2009. Key issues in his campaign include improvement in education, an environmentally friendly economy, the belief that healthcare and equality are human rights, and a budget plan called “securing Illinois’ Financial Future”, a five-year blueprint Quinn proposes will keep Illinois moving forward.

Gubernatorial Candidate Fact Sheet

Governor Pat Quinn (Democrat):

Born 1948 in Illinois
Education: Bachelor’s from Georgetown University’s Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service, Law Degree from Northwestern University’s School of Law
Founder of Non-Partisan volunteer group Coalition for Political Honesty in 1975
Fought 40% increase in legislator salaries in 1978
Elected Cook County Board of Appeals Commissioner in 1982
Helped created Citizens Board (CUB) to advocate for consumers against unfair utility rates in 1983
Elected State Treasurer by landslide in 1990, a position in which he helped to pass the Illinois Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act
Elected Lieutenant Governor in 2002.
Takes office as Governor of Illinois in 2009

Governor Bruce Rauner (Republican):

Born 1957 in Illinois
Earned his Bachelors from Dartmouth College, and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University.
Began working for Golder, Thoma, and Cressy Retirement’s (GTCR), a company which oversees Retirement investments. In 1981, Rauner became one of GTCR’s first partners.
Rauner has supported various causes, such as the YMCA, local hospitals, and the development of charter schools with his wife. Rauner wears an $18 watch, has six children, and loves hunting, biking, and fishing.

Rauner on the other hand, is a businessman, who, according to his campaign website, “isn’t interested in a political career” and who’s motivated to run exclusively because he “refuses to stand by while career politicians drive [Illinois] into the ground.” Rauner is running on a platform mandating fiscal responsibility, with a focus on job creation, decreased government spending, decreased income and corporate taxes, and pension reform. Illinois elections are usually anything but close, but in a surprising turn of events, the gubernatorial race is tight in 2014, with Quinn leading by just two points after several lead-changes according to a September 30 poll by Rasmussen Reports.

On the national level, Illinois voters will elect their members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. Most LSU students will most likely live within the Illinois 1st, 2nd and 3rd Congressional districts, whose races are shaping up as follows:

The 1st district, incumbent Democrat Bobby Rush will face Republican Jimmie Lee Tillman; in the 2nd, incumbent Democrat Robin Kelly will face Republican Eric Wallace; and in the 3rd, incumbent Democrat Dan Lipinski will face Republican Sharon Branigan.

In the race for a seat in the U.S. Senate, incumbent Democrat Dick Durbin will face Republican challenger Jim Oberweis.

The state-wide midterm voting period will be held on November 4th. For more information on all Illinois races, students can go to ballotpedia.org/Illinois, or Illinois. state-election.info.

*Facts compiled and reported by Phoenix writer and GSU student William Wright. Voter registration for the upcoming elections are now closed. Still need to register? Go to... http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/register.aspx

http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/register.aspx

The Phoenix exists as an editorial platform for the GSU student body and the extended GSU community.

Editorial can be submitted to the Phoenix via email, at phoenix@gsvesta.edu

Please sign your submissions with your full name and graduate status.
We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity and libel.
Immigration Day: Civic Engagement, GSU Student Volunteers to assist residents with U.S. Citizenship documentation on October 18
By Jonathan Bullhuis, Editor

This Saturday, October 18, is National Immigration day. GSU’s Civic Engagement and Community Service Center, in association with the New Americans Initiative, will be transporting GSU students who are interested in volunteering to the Logan Square Neighborhood Association office in Logan Square, Il, to assist legal U.S. residents who are applying for U.S. Citizenship.

Student participants will have the opportunity to help applicants fill out their N-400 citizenship applications. Bi-lingual students particularly are encouraged to volunteer, but all volunteers who are interested will be able to fill a real and relevant need for persons who are completing their application.

The citizenship-team will depart by bus from the GSU Circle Driveway at the main entrance to D Building at 7 am on Saturday. Any GSU students who may be interested are encouraged to contact AmeriCorps GSU Campus Contact Taneisha Palmer at civicengagement@govst.edu as soon as possible. A free lunch will also be provided for all student volunteers.

Freedom Summer Student Conference
By Gregg Greer Contributing Writer

On Thursday November 6, 2014 Governors State University is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Passing of the Civil Right Act and “Freedom Summer” with, among other events, a Student Research Conference with the theme of How Far We Have Come, How Far We Have Yet To Go?


Freedom Summer was a campaign in the United States launched in June 1964 to attempt to register as many African-American voters as possible in Mississippi due to widespread voter and economic suppression which occurred at the time.

The Freedom Summer Conference is an opportunity to present your work publicly and provide a forum to re-commit to the goals and hopes that inspired the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Freedom Summer. Please direct all questions to: Commemoration Committee of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Freedom Summer. Larry S. Levinson, Ph.D. at LLevinson@govst.edu

2014 Crime Report
Governors State University ranked as Safest College Campus in the State of Illinois
By Kyle Horn Associate Editor

GSU’s 2014 Crime Statistics Report And Fire Safety and On-Campus Student Housing Report have been published. Since the enactment of the College and University Security Information Act and the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, it is required that information and statistics regarding crime rates on campus be distributed to students and faculty.

Within the report is a trove of information about the definition of potential crimes on campus, how to prevent them, and what to do if you are a victim of a crime. Statistical charts of crime rates since 1983 are also included.

“Compared to other universities, Governors State has always had relatively low statistical numbers, making GSU the safest campus in the State of Illinois” said Police Chief Lt. James McGee in E-mail correspondence. There are only two incidents noted within the entire Security report over the course of three years, both occurring in 2013 (Auto theft and domestic violence).

Lt. McGee also made a point to explain that the “Public Safety approach to the criminal element is to raise awareness, that safety is everyone’s responsibility and it takes full participation from all to continue to see low the statistical numbers that have been reported over the past several years.”

The facts speak for themselves: GSU is a safe and secure community. Never the less, crime can happen to anyone and anyone. Were the unfortunate incident to occur that one of GSU’s student were to be the victim of a crime, the Annual Security report explains what do under such circumstances as sexual assault, theft, burglary, assault etc. The first step in any situation is to report it immediately.

To view GSU’s Annual Security report, visit the Police Services page of the GSU website. A link to the report will be on the left side, first from the bottom of the selection menu.

Lost Items:
Reward for Safe Return of Two AWOL Newspaper Racks
The Phoenix Student Newspaper has lost two Newspaper Racks in the hubub of construction to the Library and causeway this Fall.

If you know the location of our Library and second floor D-Building newspaper racks, please let us know immediately.

The missing newspaper racks look exactly like the racks from which you acquired the helpful, informed student periodical that you see before you.

Please help us get our racks back. Please email the Phoenix at phoenix@govst.edu or call us at 708 - 534 - 4517

Preparing for the Interview
By Katrina Koltz, Columnist

Once you have created a stellar resume, submitted your application, and set an appointment for the interview, there are some important steps you will want to take to prepare for it. Remember that an interview is a vital part of employer assessment of your value to a company. Being prepared, asking the right questions, and making the right impression are all key to your future with the company and will determine whether or not you get the job.

Consider the types of questions you will be asked in the interview. These will vary greatly based on the field you are in and the size and structure of the hiring company such as small independently owned or large corporation. One way to do this is to Google search common interview questions. Another is to hone in specifically on the company you are applying for through glassdoor.com, which has job listings, company reviews from past and current employees, salary listings, and information from real interviewees. Each review highlights the application and interview details, the types of questions they were asked, and whether or not they received the position.

Conversation during the interview should not be one sided, but well-balanced and reciprocal. The best way to do this is to research the company and look at their mission statement. This will give you insight as to what the company values, expectations of how their clients or customers will be treated, and how they run their company. From this information, find ways in which you can relate your values, and how you can implement or promote their mission statement.

First impressions matter! Do not underestimate the power of the first impression—whether positive or negative. Studies have found that nonverbal cues have a greater impact on the impression you make than anything you say. You will want to appear confident, and not cocky or desperate. Straightening your posture, making eye contact, smiling, raising your eyebrows, shaking hands, and leaning in slightly can achieve this. These non-verbal signs convey that you are approachable, competent, energetic, interested, and engaged. This will also help to build rapport with potential employer and more memorable when they are reviewing candidates later. And this is all accomplished in the first seven to ten seconds you meet!

At the closing of the interview, be sure to thank them for their time, request a business card, and shake hands. You can also ask when you can expect to hear back from them but be brief. Expert recommend sending a thank you note two to three days after the interview. This should be hand written, neat, concise, and contain your contact information.

Good Luck!
Social Justice Class holds Book Drive

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

The GSU criminal justice department Social Justice class is holding a book drive all through November. The goal of the book drive is to improve the library of Statesville prison. Boxes to put your used school books into are located throughout the campus as well as outside GMT 108.

The criminal justice Social Justice class here at GSU asks for your help in assisting those in need. For more information, contact Caron Jacobson at cajacobson@govst.edu. Jacobson’s office is GMT 108. Students who are intersted in participating in the book drive can reach her by phone at 708-235-2136.

WSWO: October benefits schedule

By Jonathan Bultthuis, Editor

The Social Work and Social Organization club, along with other GSU students, rocked the color pink last week in the honor and memory of exemplary GSU student and breast cancer fighter Nina Lee (see photos on the page 6).

WSWO and the Gay Straight Alliance will be holding a bake sale and bake-off on October 28th in the Hall of Governors. WSWO will be partnering with the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society on an Old Skool vs. New Skool Candy sale, with a tentative date set for October 21st, pending confirmation.

WSWO and the Phi Alpha Honor Society will also be holding a Toiletries and Cellphone throughout October, in honor of domestic violence awareness month. Donations from the event will benefit the South Suburban Family Shelter.

GSU Table Tennis champs gear up for competitive season

By Jonathan Bultthuis, Editor

GSU’s Table Tennis team, which took 1st place in last year’s Midwest Regional National Collegiate Table Tennis Association, and 14th in the NCTTA Nationals, is gearing up for the 2014-2015 competitive season. Team Captain and GSU Table Tennis champion Nie Nee (Nee) (center) is both leading and coaching the team through its preliminary practice period. The competitive schedule, which is still being determined, will begin in November.

The GSU Table Tennis team includes Captain Nie, as well as GSU students Oladele Iyodo, Ato Anderson, Chris Robinson, ChengPeng Li, Jia QiLiu, Jordan Wauters, Rowacek Mudiappa, Hinal Mehta, and Yu-chuan Wang (check out the team in our photo montage on page 6).
Campus

GSU happenings, early October, 2014. Clockwise from top left:
GSU’s Olympic-style pool rests in perfect placidity before the storm of children, students, and community members that took a dip during FFW's free pool admission.
GSU students Mike and Britney get a chance to meet Jag during Thursday’s pep rally.
The Jaguars and the Ramblers scramble for the ball during Saturday’s heated game.
Doria Scott assists a young community member at the GSU connect table at FFW.
The inside cover of the International Student Clubs’ inauguration of Passport World, which gave kids and students alike a chance to sample foreign wares, pass through customs, and even get a free Henna tattoo.
The GSU Table Tennis team meets for practice last Wednesday afternoon.
GSU Center #21 takes a penalty shot during Saturday’s game against the Ramblers.
Campus Chorale practices on Monday, Oct. 13, for their Oct. 26 performance.
Lisa Carra gets her caricature drawn by caricature artist Bruce Carelvato at FFW.
Al Jackson, GSU Campus Chorale director, pantomimes instructions to the choir during Monday's unexpected Extreme Weather Warning. Al and the chorale went right back to work after the extreme weather excitement without missing a beat.
Take Control of your Finances

Life Span Financial Education Fair

October 16

5 - 8 p.m. • Hall of Governors

Presented by the Psychology and Stress Research Lab
For more information, contact Dr. Crystal Harris Blount at cblount@govst.edu, 708.235.7569
Sponsored by the Intellectual Life Grant
Khalil Norman: “home a pleasant aroma.” beds. You can even grow citrus plants in old wine boxes or flower it is a close to impossible task for save money. Growing your own food is very difficult at times for many class has come up with troves of ideas that describe alternative options for grow your own food. These are just a few highlights of what the student’s wrote.

Rachel Walker: “College can be very difficult at times for many students planning to eat healthy and save money. Growing your own food is a way to save plenty of money, but it is a close to impossible task for someone living in an apartment or densely populated area.”

“You can put your indoor plants in old wine boxes or flower beds. You can even grow citrus plants in old wine boxes or flower beds.”

Khalil Norman: “The many benefits of gardening include health, exercise, environmental purposes, etc. In addition, it is performed by gardeners around the age of fifty. This is a problem for college students and other young adolescents. If college students were to grow their own food, then they would not have to be wasted on greasy foods and you could save money.”

T. Crawford: “A lot of people live in Prairie Place and a rooftop garden would be very accessible for those in need of food.”

Jasmine Boler-Smith: “If you live in an apartment, a fire escape is a handy place to grow your garden as well as the walls, windowsill, or ground. Before you start, you must pick a location to grow your food. You don’t want to grow in a spot that doesn’t get any sunlight because you will not nor grow. Growing your food on the windowsill, balcony and fire escape are great locations because sunlight will hit all these spots.”

Dominique Hunt: “People living in apartments can grow their food on the fireplace if they have one, their balcony, porch, windowsills, and, if you’re on the first floor, you could grow along the side of the building, where there is a little space.”

Sarah Conley: “For us [at GSU], we have many options to grow our own food. They include but are not limited to local district gardening organizations, local colleges, and a rooftop garden. For GSU students, it is incredibly fortunate that our school offers land plots that can be rented out during the academic term for a low fee. Many libraries or park district organizations also offer similar programs.”

Emily Metzger: “Sustainability is not always about recycling. It is also about keeping a productive and healthy earth for us as well as future generations. Growing our own fruits and vegetables shows that we know how to be sustainable and that we care for the earth.”

Elishia Harris: “If you grow your own food, you will know how it’s being planted, what is being used, and where it’s being grown at.” When you’re growing your own food, you can wash it off, clean it, and cook it while it is 100% fresh. Graining your own food is better for the environment because it would be much healthier. If you grow your own food, you would have less garbage.”

Kewaii Archie: “There are plenty of places you can use to grow your plants. It’s balconies, courtyards, greenhouses, and much more. Any area that has a lot of space can be resourceful. It can be exciting to make earth a healthier planet. The course and school helped me sustain my life by recycling more and being more mindful about what you throw away in the garbage.”

Jack Renstrom: “Lots of people have begun using rooftop gardens if they do not have yards. It is especially popular in Chicago. These rooftop gardens look beautiful and function the same way as a regular garden. Another option is using ultra-violet lights to grow food or plants inside your dorm or house. Students would then be saving money on food and helping the planet out, too. Trying to grow food with space restrictions is being driven to a store.

“Also, where the food comes from is known, harmful parasites are typically not used, so they will not affect our ecosystem. Not driving to the store to get these things cuts back on harmful chemicals being emitted into the atmosphere. Overall, a person is helping themselves, the environment, and their values.”

Greta Schutt: “You can plant herbs in jars and leave them on a table. You can also plant small pots of different vegetables. Then, you don’t even need to go to the store when you are hungry. You can also get together and start a rooftop garden with other people. The community comes together this way. You can create a cute little garden in multiple windows. A creative idea would be to start the plants in eggshells in an egg carton. You just need a little soil and some seeds.”

Alan Robertson: “If you live in a house with a front yard, back yard, or both, you can replace the grass with trees that bear fruit, bushes that grow berries, and plants that grow vegetables. Many houses already have apple and crab apple trees in their surrounding yards. Bushes in the surrounding area produce berries and also serve as shrubbery used for promoting an attractive, authentic look to a healthier and more sustainable life. It’s important to realize that we are a part of a system much more complicated than hydroponic gardens, yet they are extremely similar.”

Brandy Jeffers: “Growing your own food requires a lifestyle change. It takes a lot of time to nurture a garden. It is a very gradual process and may be harder for some. Moreover, growing your own food does more than put money in your pocket. It saves the plants. Think of how much less would be put into the atmosphere if a hydroponic system was used. It’s much more environmentally friendly and can contribute to the health of the community.”

Marcus Love: “Not only is the system cheap, but it’s also clean and dirtless. Through a complex system of pumps, tubes, and nutrient-rich water, you could be taking your first step to a healthier and more sustainable life. It’s important to realize that we are a part of a system much more complicated than hydroponic gardens, yet they are extremely similar.”

Ryan Tucker: “The world is using up all of its natural resources. This is an opportunity to gain and add to our environment together. Nothing is more important than the community and we should all work to encourage others to help our community, our school, and ourselves. We should be more sustainable when it comes to our everyday behaviors that we are slowly running out of.”

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Jamia Briggs: “Planting in containers has provided a contemporary aspect to gardening. Container gardening allows students to have access to a rooftop garden. Another idea is to plant and has expanded the horizons of gardening for homeowners and often has provided the only way to garden for apartment and condominium dwellers. Even if you’re 5 stories high, you can hang the planter outside the window and access your vegetable plants or herbs.”

Stephanie Rademacher-Schubbe: “I have come up with a few options that may be appealing to these students. The first would be containers or pots. Or, you may consider using something you would want something that fits in or around a window or door with ample light and has a dish or coaster for overflow of water. Another option I have seen all around Chicago is a vertical garden. Even if you’re 5 stories high, you can hang the planter outside the window and access your vegetable plants or herbs.”

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Shense Vannmoore: “Apartment or dorm dwellers could utilize hydroponic systems to grow and retain small plants and herbs. We are encouraged to grow herbs, and access your vegetable plants or herbs.”

Megan Rath: “Cost reasons aside, growing your own food is better for your health, better for the environment, and even tastes better. There are different tutorials on the internet that show you how to grow a vertical wall planter. Another idea is recycling wine bottles and converting them into hanging planters. A window herb garden is another example.”

Sanjana Alvarez: “Students can grow their own foods using simple containers that have been discarded. It will help decrease the amount of waste created and can contribute to the health of both the environment and the community. The air would be cleaner, you would be saving money on fresh foods. One way to start is by purchasing seeds; either herbs, vegetables, or fruits that can grow in small areas. Once the seeds have been purchased it is simple to find a container to place it in.”

The Phoenix owes a hearty thanks and congratulations to Professor Maristella Zell’s Freshmen Seminar class for their insightful and energetic editorial submissions. Thank you all for your important contributions.

Maristella Zell’s Freshmen Seminar Class:
A collection of original editorial content on sustainability issues

Transcribed and compiled by
Bob Meyers, Staff Writer
Professor Maristella Zell’s Freshmen Seminar class recently had the opportunity to host an event that describe alternative options for space-restricted gardening, and the class has come up with troves of ideas as to how one can and should learn to grow your own food. These are just a few highlights of what the students wrote.
“A Raisin in the Sun”

Interview by Jon Bulthuis

GSU’s Theatre and Performance Studies program, under the direction of TAPS Program Coordinator Dr. Patrick Santoro, is currently rehearsing for its’ upcoming performances of “A Raisin in the Sun,” which will be shown in the Center for Performing Arts on Thursday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 pm, in addition to a matinee performance on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2pm.

Phoenix: “Why did TAPS choose “A Raisin in the Sun” this year?”

Santoro: “Why another production of A Raisin in the Sun? Because the story still matters. While racial discrimination has shifted since Raisin’s 1959 Broadway debut, it has not disappeared. 2014 is a historic year, marking both the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, the arrival of GSU’s first freshman class, and the launch of the Theatre and Performance Studies major.

Moreover, Raisin is set in our very own backyard—Chicago’s southland. Mounting Raisin at a time of such historical significance, and in close geographical proximity, feels right, and it is a production that I know our campus community will appreciate.”

Phoenix: “It sounded like you had an overwhelming response during tryouts. Did you? ...and if so, was the selection/adjudication process difficult?”

Santoro: “We had 34 [students] audition for nine roles, our best turnout yet. The audition consisted of a one-minute monologue and scene readings.

“The casting process is always a difficult one when the talent pool is top-notch, and this was the case. A director must take into consideration the entirety of the cast, so part of the casting equation is about talent, the other half fit. I am pleased with the fine cast assembled for our production.”

Phoenix: “How is involvement across platforms, and with the stage crew? Big community response?”

Santoro: “Unique to this production, and GSU productions past, is that we have students working with staff and community members, which is not often the case with university productions. This mix allows for a rich opportunity for bringing together people with varying degrees of experience—from first-time actors to seasoned performers. In addition to actors, I work with the entire crew—stage management, backstage run crew, set designer, lighting designer, properties, CPA staff, etc. This is our biggest collaborative effort yet.

“We are most definitely building a community of artists. In regards to our community response... incredible; we had just as many community members as students audition.”

Phoenix: “Not only are we engaging the community at our auditions, but we are also engaging the community’s youth: our final dress rehearsal, a matinee for junior high and high school students, has sold out the CPA’s 1100-seat capacity. What a final dress rehearsal for the cast and crew that will be!”

Phoenix: “Why is “A Raisin in the Sun” still a strong and pertinent premise and message for GSU students to hear, in 2014?”

Santoro: “Raisin is one of the most groundbreaking plays of the 20th century; it is a literary masterpiece, a significant work of activism. The dialogue—it’s honesty and rawness—it jumps off of the page. Raisin is a production that everyone should see at least once in their lifetime.”

Phoenix: “Are you pleased with the way the rehearsal process is going? Looking forward to the end event?”

Santoro: “This is one hardworking, talented cast and crew that serves Lorraine Hansberry’s words well. They are dedicated artists who understand the power and necessity of this story. They often remind me how much this experience means to them. Seeing them so happy and proud warms my heart.”

Reel Reviews: “Battle of the Gods” the return of Dragon Ball Z

By Walter Banasiak, Columnist

The popular anime series “Dragon Ball Z” has seen somewhat of a resurgence in recent years. In fact, some would say its popularity never waned in the first place. Since 2008, Z fans haven’t really seen any brand new content from the series and its creator Akira Toriyama...until now.

In March of last year, a new theatrical film was released in Japan called “Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods.” The U.S. manifestation of “Battle of Gods” was released with English dubbing in a limited theatrical release in August of 2014. The DVD/Blu-ray was made available for purchase in early October with 20 minutes of added footage.

In “Battle of Gods,” the Z-Fighters must contend with Lord Beerus, the God of Destruction: but only a God can fight a God. With the recently uncovered legend and recreation of the mythical Super Saiyan God, the Z-Fighters look to defeat the new bad guy, Lord Beerus and once again save the Earth.

As a longtime fan of the series, I enjoyed “Battle of Gods” very much. There is a lot of comedy in this movie; definitely trademark Dragon Ball comedy, and almost all funny: but at points I found myself wishing it was more serious. That didn’t ruin the film by any means, but it was a much lighter tone than I expected to see. Lord Beerus opens up huge new details on the Dragon Ball universe and how it’s configured, and with a sequel to “Battle of Gods” already announced, let’s hope those interesting details are expanded upon.

“Battle of the Gods” was a fun trip to take back to the realm of the DBZ series. I sincerely hope more content comes out with heavy influence from creator Akira Toriyama. “Battle of Gods” was not the epitome of why I loved DBZ in the first place, but it was authentic enough to keep my attention, and I look forward to better movies in the near future. Reel Reviews is giving “Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods”, a 7/10. Follow us at youtube.com/user/ReelReviewsShow and “like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/ReelReviewsShow.
Student Textbook Pricing: students may see alternative to high textbook costs with new “Books on Reserve” sharing system

By Bob Meyers

Do you feel textbook prices are out of your budget? You are not alone. Assistant Professor in English Kerri Morris feels your pain. Morris empathizes with her Rhetorical Theory students and feels that publishers set their prices far too high. Morris views textbook prices to be “a crime.” She hopes the future will bring open-source textbooks with specialists in the field contributing chapters.

Morris feels this “gives students citations to find in the library.” Morris recommends Perseus Digital Library, where you can find classical texts that gives students choices. Morris says that personalized textbooks from publishers frustrate her, and bundled books are a “travesty. You could go to a course catalogue and count up the number of sections that the book has.

Morris said, “I’d like to see students throw down the gauntlet and say, ‘what are you going to do about textbooks?’ Students should get involved in student senate, contact publishers, and collaborate with the faculty and the senate to get solutions.” What does she suggest? “Maybe a task force,” said Morris.

Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Aurelio Valente is in the process of reinstating Books on Reserve, where one copy of a textbook will be available at no cost for students to sign out and use for use in the library for as long as faculty designate.

Typically, the sign out period will be 2-4 hours. This is different from a library book check out in that textbooks signed out can only be used on GSU grounds and not taken home.

Books on Reserve was launched as a response to first year students. Freshmen get less financial aid from the federal government, resulting in less funds to purchase textbooks.

Vice President Aurelio Valente told the Phoenix that “we hope to work proactively for the spring to reach out to get copies of required books.” Any faculty member can fill out a Reserve Request Form for use of textbooks on the premises.
Men's Basketball Jaguars kick-off 2014 - 2015 exhibition game season with two big wins

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

The GSU Jaguars kicked off their first Men's and Women's Basketball season with a pep rally and exhibition kick-off game on Thursday, October 9, against Trinity International University. The Jaguars followed up the game on Saturday with a skirmish against the Loyola Rammers Club. The Jaguars won both events with a substantial collective point lead of 112 points.

The Jaguars are on a natural high, and seem to be playing with greatness; and we know that something as subjective as greatness is a debate that depends on how it's defined. When most people think of great, their first thought maybe is that the GSU Jaguars are going to be league champions. Well, keep hope alive, because so far we have really great indicators.

If the final scores from Thursdays and Saturdays games are going to be the measuring stick to judge the quality of a team, we can definitely say that a lasting impression has been left for us during the first two games. Here are the stats! Judge for yourself...

Jaguar Men's Basketball Stats and Highlights

Game Scores:

GSU Jaguars VS Trinity International Final 121-50
GSU Jaguars VS Loyola Ramblers Club Final 110-69

GSU Game #2 Heavy Hitters and Highlights:

Saheed Ivey# 02 : 2-7 3-Pointers. 2 Deflects and 22 Total Points
Princeton Stewart : 17 Total Points
Chris Seaton#15 : 13 Total Points
Pierre Jolly #20 : 13 Total Points

Keep up the great work- Go Jaguars!
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 !!!