Phoenix conducts informal survey of GSU Wi-Fi connectivity

By Kyle Horn
Associate Editor

At the October 10th Board of Trustees meeting, it was agreed upon that GSU’s wired and wireless infrastructure will be upgraded.

On October 24th, The Phoenix conducted an informal study of the Wi-Fi connectivity of the GSU Main Campus, that, when combined with student input, revealed relevant and practical information about Internet accessibility. Accessibility was judged based on reliability and speed of connection, and depicted on a Likert scale of 1-5 (No connections – Optimal connections). 36 locations were tested, in total, using an Internet speed test, available online, and by loading commonly visited sites such as Facebook, Google, Dropbox, Youtube, and GSU’s website.

Overall, the study shows that connectivity on campus is reliable and quick with download speeds as fast as 16.2 mbps (Megabytes per second) and upload speeds of 18.2 mbps. Wi-Fi blackout areas included the gymnasiums and Center for Performing Arts: locations that do not lend themselves to Internet use. In terms of strongest connection, the new Science building (G) bolstered ratings of 5 (Optimal) on all four floors.

It is important to note, however, that this study is representative of a low traffic time during GSU’s school week. On the day (Friday) the study was conducted, campus population was particularly low.

To give a broader scope of GSU’s Wi-Fi status, a smaller study was conducted only on high traffic areas of the school on October 27th, a more populated day of the week. In areas such as the Hall of Governors (D), the Student Commons (B), and the Library Reference Area (D), which are all areas with high student volume, there was a distinct drop in connectivity of at least one tier.

Campus population difference has an inverse relationship with Wi-Fi connectivity; the greater the student population, the worse the Internet connection. This is likely due to larger numbers of Wi-Fi enabled devices in use in those areas such as smartphones, tablets and laptops that automatically connect to the network regardless of if they are in use or not.

To alleviate Wi-Fi degradation during peak hours on the main campus, turn off Wi-Fi connection on devices when they are not in use. Also, using networks in less taxed regions of the school such as the F Wing or G Wing would lighten the load on more commonly used hotspots.

Maps continued on page 7.
Mindful media consumption

By Brian Bock
Assistant Editor

We are the pick and choose generation. For the majority of our lives, technology has allowed us to engage in solely what we want. We no longer buy albums, we pick the one track we like and store it to our hard drives. We don’t spend time perusing the newspaper; we’d rather much rather only read the stories that interest us as they scroll across one of our many screens. We get the job done quickly, but if we have to go outside our comfort zone to do it, there will be problems.

There’s a lot to be said for how this helps us move forward as a generation. Our critical thinking is now narrowed to a pinpoint, allowing us to instinctually address and judge trends in all aspects of our lives. Our ability with technology is unparalleled, much to the chagrin of older generations. Millennials are defined by their ability to seek knowledge, but only knowledge they assume will be impactful. Though this heightened priority on knowledge has afforded us many luxuries, it has also acted as a detriment.

This quest for knowledge and enrichment was not always so linear. Much of the world we operate in happens is based in real time, and questions need quick answers. We no longer have the opportunity to pour over a textbook; we assume we need an answer instantly in order to be pertinent. What we lose from this hasty process is learning from osmosis, and a true understanding of what we are trying to comprehend.

Think about the last time you read a full book about a subject you were researching. Try to remember the last time you bought an album and listened to it the entire way through. When we engage fully with the knowledge and media around us, we let knowledge wash over us. This refreshing feeling of understanding lets us be susceptible to context. When we search so actively for the answer, we’re liable to misinterpret the context in which information is presented.

Media is there for us to interact with it, media represents artifacts that connects us to far off places and with eachother. The more we take an honest effort to try to really determine what the insight the media we consume, the more we get out of it. Thinking about media doesn’t mean that one must totally devalue its merit as artistic expression; rather it allows for these pieces to become pieces of ourselves.

The scope of media in the digital age is as overwhelming as it is awe inspiring. The vast mixture of media that saturates us can be draining, both physically and emotionally. The constant barrage of advertising and promotional messages has made us “hear” media, but not “listen”. We frequently disregard the painstaking effort that goes into creating a media artifact, no matter how miniscule it may seem.

“Millenials are defined by their ability to seek knowledge, but only knowledge they assume will be impactful”

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

First Access to higher education can be a serious challenge for many students who face barriers after entry in college. The Student Enrichment Program focuses on effective practices that prepares students academically for college, assist them in completing the steps to college beyond entry, a great help to could improve their likelihood of staying in college.

“The Student Enrichment Program is specifically designed to support and motivate first generation, low-income and academic probation undergraduate students in achieving academic, personal, and professional success.”

By Brenda Torres
Online Editor

Greetings readers, my name is Brenda Torres, and I’m the new Phoenix Online Editor/Social Media. Jonathan Bulthuis, Editor of the Phoenix, approached me for the position. I was very hesitant of applying for the job because I only know the basics of social media.

However, the Phoenix staff has been very welcoming and genuine. I cannot wait until I know the full gears of the social media position.

Currently, the Facebook page, GSU Phoenix, is being given lots of attention; of course with the help of Bulthuis. Future ideas for the Facebook page include polls and surveys, based on events that happen on campus and in the GSU community and the world at large. Updating the GSU Phoenix website, which was subject to an unexplained loss of data, articles, editorials, photographs, and formatting information over the summer when our web provider shifted, is next on the list.

All articles, editorials, and photos will be published on the website imminently, and then shared throughout the week on our Facebook feed. We have many ideas in mind for the online presence of the Phoenix, including uploading podcast interviews to our YouTube page during the Chicago Live Open House. Development of the YouTube page is, at the time, in the works too.

Another form of social media that is being looked into is Instagram. The page would probably have pictures of staff and the interviewees, as well as events on campus.

The wheels are spinning! I look forward to working here at the Phoenix with the staff and keeping you, the reader, informed via all things social media.

GSU’s Student Enrichment Program

By Dr. Deborah James
Faculty Advisor

The S tudent Enrichment Program is designed to support and motivate first generation, low-income and academic probation undergraduate students in achieving academic, personal, and professional success.

By Bob Meyers
Associate Editor/Staff Photographer

The Student Enrichment Program (SEP) does just that! Through continuously adapting the multiple facets of the SEP to best fit the needs of our diverse student population. Whether you are looking to increase your GPA, advance your professional skills or are seeking an extra “edge” in your classes, the SEP is dedicated to work with all GSU students towards the goal of college graduation.

The SEP accepts new members at the beginning of each academic term (Fall, Spring and Summer).

Student Success Workshops:

- Time Management
- Stress Management
- Test/Proctoring Anxiety
- Note Taking Skills
- Study Habits
- Graduate School

For further information contact Tamekia Scott Interim Director of Community Standards or Student Affairs. You may also go to http://www.govst.edu/sep

Social Media / Online Editor position, taken!

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

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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 submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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Students and members of the community who are interested in writing for, learning more about, or otherwise contributing to the development of GSU’s student newspaper are more than welcome to attend. Phoenix staff will be available to describe the production process and field editorial content and insightful ideas from all of you about potential improvements and story and formatting concepts for the Phoenix.

We look forward to your support, as well as seeing all who love the writing process, are interested in writing, or are eager to let their voice be heard and let their inner writer out. Tickets cost $20 dollars. We will see you there!

Have an idea? Got something to say? Want your voice to be heard?
Submit a student editorial!

The Phoenix is always accepting student editorials. Student editorials are a great way to add your voice to the discussion, and have the entire campus know what you think about the pertinent issues of the day.

Submit potential editorials to our email, phoenix@govst.edu

“Student Editorial” in the subject line
No. 4 election ballots include proposed amendments to Illinois Constitution

By Brian Bock
Assistant Editor

On November 4, 2014 Illinois citizens will have the choice to change their state constitution. This year’s midterms elections feature two ballot measures that could potentially change two wording of certain amendments, and add a completely new section. The proposed changes deal with crime victims’ rights and voter development.

The proposed changes would greatly impact Section 8.1 of Article I of the Illinois’ constitution. These measures affect Section 8.1 or Article I and Article III itself. Section 8.1 deals solely with the rights of the victims of crime. The proposed changes include changing the wording of the section so it is more inclusive and allows for greater influence by the victim. Article III of the Illinois’ constitution deals with suffrage and elections. The proposed additional section would include a clause that would prohibit any law or process that would keep a citizen from voting.

“...The addition of Section 8 to Article III would protect Illinois’ citizens from any law or process that would block the right to vote.”

Those in favor of the revision to Section 8.1 contest that it will allow victims better protection from harassment, and help shield their confidential information such as mental health records. The opposition to this revision believes that these changes would conflict with criminal defendants’ rights. The measures would potentially block evidence from being discovered that may exonerate the defendant from guilt.

The addition of Section 8 to Article III would protect Illinois’ citizens from any law or process that would block the right to vote. Those in favor of this additional section believe that this amendment will help to include all eligible Illinois citizens in elections. This measure would place any proposed law that could possibly deter members of a particular group, such as race, under judicial scrutiny. Those opposed to the amendment contest that under federal law, there is already equal access granted to those eligible to vote. The opponents to this amendment also believe that this particular section serves no other purpose but to increase litigation.

These two proposed measures will be voted on this upcoming Election Day, along with congressional and gubernatorial candidates. For more information regarding these proposed changes, visit Illinois’ Secretary of State website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

First inaugural Pi Alpha Alpha ceremony honors scholarly achievement

By Brian Bock
Assistant Editor


Library supports veterans on Make A Difference Day

Left: Dr. Susan L. Gaffney, Coordinator of GSU’s MPA program, Provost Deborah Bordelon, and Faculty Advisor Dr. Mary D. Bruce. Center: State Representative William Q. Davis, 30th District. Right: MMP4 Division Chair Dr. Jun Zhao, Pi Alpha Alpha Inductee and Treasurer Sharon A. Colbert, and Provost Deborah Bordelon.

By Brian Bock
Assistant Editor

On October 23, the Governors State University Library held an electronics drive to help support the Vet Tech program. This event coincided with Make a Difference Day, a national day of volunteerism. The event brought in students’ older used electronics, as well as clothing. The electronics were collected by Vet Tech and used to train veterans, whereas the clothes were donated to a local homeless shelter.

“...Inspired by the Story of Stuff, this event was an excellent example of how collaboration can make a difference” said Lydia Morrow Ruettten, Dean of the GSU Library. The Library worked with Kevin Barto, Director of Campus Services, Facilities Development and Management, and The Sustainability Club in order to execute this event. This collaboration highlighted the University’s heightened sustainability awareness.

Students were asked to bring their donations throughout the day and place them in bins located in the foyer. Aside from donating, students were engaged by learning about how sustainability has such a large impact on the world around us. The event channels the theme of One Book, One University choice The Story of Stuff, a nonfiction work centered around the lack of sustainability in the lifespan of a product.

“This thanks to the generosity and giving spirit of our GSU Community. We collected well over 100 pounds of textiles and clothing, and a number of small appliances including computers, tablets and much more”, added Ruettten

The donation rally is one part of how the Library is focusing on The Story of Stuff. The next event surrounding the book will be a reception and talk held on November 13, 2014, and feature the artwork of Tiffany Gholar. Gholar is a GSU graduate who creates works of art from useless objects.

For more information, visit the Governors state University Library Facebook page, or visit the library’s website.

Int. Student Profile

Continued from page 5... if you are not making eye contact, then they feel that you are lying to the person. In India, if you are speaking with an elderly person, it is expected that you speak softly and that you look down. That is a sign of respect. But in the United States, it is the opposite.

P: Do you feel that your experience is similar to the experiences of other Indian transfer students?
M: We are pretty much the same, but when it comes to me, I think I am a bit different when it comes to the way I lead a life. I don’t take stress. Whenever I have a problem, I will sit and search for a way to work around it; and this mentality is lacking in a lot of students. You have a problem? Just find solution, and do your best. You cannot do anything else, you know. Taking stress, getting worried, and making calls to India is not going to help you. Do whatever you can, and just live it up. That’s it.

P: Do you think that Indian students here are homesick?
M: No, because there are almost 40 Indian students at GSU. That is also one of the reasons I came to GSU.

P: What’s your favorite part of your home culture that you think GSU students would find fascinating?
M: In India, when you go to a party, there are a lot of people attending, and there are a lot of dishes being served. We tend to meet each other and hug each other, and spend some good time, and every weekend I used to have a party with all of my relatives. And in India, you don’t have to pay and meet a person. But in the U.S., you have to call them and let them know that you are coming.
Phoenix: Thanks so much for agreeing to do this interview. Mohammed, where are you from?

Mohammed: No problem. I’m from India. The city which I belong to is called Hyderabad, in this new state called Telangana. Before applying for my masters I was working for Amazon, and that is where I was introduced to people from the United States; I liked their culture and I wanted to learn more from them. I’ve been enrolled in the Masters in Computer Science Program since August of 2014. Everybody’s kind of understanding here, and if I need help I ask for it and I get it. I’m perfectly happy here.

I am a transfer student, I originally applied from JNTU University. A lot of my friends stay in downtown [Chicago] and that was the primary reason I wanted to move here. At that time I went online and applied to a lot of Universities, and Governors State was one of them. I went through the course schedule, and enrolled myself in the subjects I was interested in. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science.

P: What’s your first language? Second language?

Mohammed: My first language is Hindi, and in the region in which I belong to, the regional language is Telegu; but the medium for instruction for educational institutions is still English. You have to learn English if you want to study in English. People tend to use it when they are studying, and when people are off the campus, they tend to speak in the regional language, which is one of the reasons why they tend to have difficulty speaking English, because they don’t practice that much. I was fortunate to have work experience from Amazon, so there are teams of Indians who used to sit in Seattle and talk with me.

The university tends to host a lot of events, but they miss out on that. They can learn American culture, and they can explore a lot of things, but they normally will be speaking to the subjects, and when the exam is over, they go home. One of the reasons for this is awareness, because they don’t know how to ask a question, and they sometimes don’t know how to ask a question. They know the stuff, they know the technology, they know the process, but there is a communication gap.

M: Do you miss home a lot?

P: A lot.

M: What’s your family like?

M: I have an older brother. He’s here. My mom and dad are in India.

M: Do you guys Skype all the time?

P: Yeah. I have an iPhone. That will be probably on weekends, because during the week I’m working on my assignments or something, so on the weekends I tend to spend a lot of time chatting with them. We sometimes celebrate online.

M: Is your parent’s communication mainly cooking, because I don’t know how to cook. She cooks Indian cuisine, because you know, you have to include a lot of spices, and I tend to forget one or two of them. If there’s a dozen of them, and you miss one or two, the taste won’t be right.

M: What do you think would be really relevant for GSU students to hear from you?

P: One thing I want to suggest to everyone is that a lot of students come over here and get enrolled in the Masters program, and they think that studying and getting the credits and getting the degree is the primary objective; but there are a lot of orientation programs and a lot of seminars, and if they participate in those they will benefit. Even when they go for an interview, they will have more professional skills.

The university tends to host a lot of events, but they miss out on that. They can learn American culture, and they can explore a lot of things, but they normally will be speaking to the subjects, and when the exam is over, they go home. One of the reasons for this is awareness, because they don’t know how to ask a question, and they sometimes don’t know how to ask a question. Whenever I attend an event, I learn something new. But I’m in the United States; I want to learn a lot of things. That’s my policy.

M: Do you think part of that might have to do with the fact that GSU is a commuter school, and that students are spending less time on campus than students at other universities?

P: Yeah, that might be the reason; and also because this university is far from downtown. A lot of international students don’t have their own cars. Some of them are trying for their licenses, and it takes them three to four hours to get here [by Metra].

M: What’s the entrance process like for international students at GSU?

P: Everyone has a Student Visa.

M: Yes. The Visa type is called F1. It’s a five year visa, and the Master’s program is for two year. After that you go to work for two years: that’s called OPT, and the government gives that to help students practice what they have learned in the home country. And that’s optional.

M: What are your intentions after graduation?

P: I will be working in software, probably in the database field; database administration, where you manage peoples data. So the degree will be helpful in that. Students tend to work on the latest or most sophisticated technologies, compared to India. If so I get an opportunity, I’ll go for that.

M: Will you stay in the states after graduation?

P: In the place where I used to stay in Hyderabad, you will find every company from Microsoft to …anywhere. So if you think there are a lot of options back in India also. If I go there, I can stay with my family, and the cost of living is much lower than in the United States. And once I earn my degree, I’ll get both my pay and a senior position. So there are a lot of benefits if I go back. If I stay here, there are other benefits. I’d tend to work with more skilled people, and stay up to date. That is my plan. Does your dad do?

M: He was a bank manager. He’s retired now.

M: And your mom’s a homemaker?

P: Yes. And she’s a good cook?

M: (laughs) Yeah.

P: What was your cultural heritage and upbringing like?

M: Well, Hyderabad is an Orlu word. It was primarily and traditionally from the Mongol emperor who used to rule India back then. Recently, the state was segregated; there was only one state, and there was a lot of agitation, and that was wanted. As a lot of people. Three months back, the new state was created after a lot of struggle.

In India, if you want to pursue a bachelor’s degree, you have a discourse with your family. You cannot make your own independent decisions, even though you are above 18. You have to obey your parents. You cannot go and marry somebody, you have to discuss it with your fiancée, and get your families approval. You cannot do those things, but that’s not normal in India. So there is a lot less freedom.

M: I was fortunate because my mother was a homemaker. I got a lot of support from her in my upbringing. She used to come with me to school, she used to stand outside when I took my exams. It’s very emotional. In India, even when you are a grown up boy, your parents still treat you like a boy. It’s not that common in the United States – you have to be independent when you are above 18, people treat you like you are eight. But if I call my mother right now, she treats me as a child. That’s the difference I feel.

In the U.S. people are independent; that is a good thing also, because you tend to learn how to be more quickly, people are moving, and they don’t tend to stay in a particular town for years together. In India, even if we move, we have our emotions attached to it. Indian people are very emotional.

M: You’re religious heritage is Muslim. Are you a religious person?

P: I’m a Muslim, but I don’t practice religion that much. I enjoy helping people. I work for Amazon customer service because I enjoy helping people. I strongly believe that there are a lot of problems in life where it is better to stay happy, and just kind of enjoy your time. I tend to enjoy life; I go out and watch a good movie. People, sometimes, they are frustrated. The stay at home and are stressed. I tend to do the opposite of that.

M: What was really unexpected for you when you moved here?

M: You have to follow new rules. In India, you do have rules, but there are exceptions. For example, if you’re driving a car and you break a traffic signal, sometimes you can get away with that, because the technology is not sophisticated: there are no automated cameras to take an automobile photo shot. But here, you will get a ticket. You have to follow policy; you have to follow each and every regulation, which is for your own good and your own safety; but you have to get adjusted to that. If I walk downtown, and there is a red signal, I cannot cross the road, even though I have 5 minutes to catch a train. But I have to wait, and think: ok, I will miss my train. If an officer is watching me, I can get a ticket. At that time, I have to wait. But that is for our own safety.

Adjusting to the new rules was kind of weird. But though you are new, you are still accountable for each and every policy. Like maybe crossing the road or talking to people. We are often not aware what is right or what is wrong, and we tend to do the opposite of that. For example, [In India] when you are talking to elders or you are talking to your father, it’s preferred that you should not look into their eyes. But in the United States...

Continued on page 4
The newly-formed Governors State University Concert Chorale, under the direction of Albert M. Jackson, in concert on October 26 at First United Methodist Church. For more information, visit the Chorale’s website, www.govst.edu/oece/chorale/ or call Al at (708) 235-6921.

GSU holds Financial Literacy Fair

By Brian Bock
Assistant Editor

On October 16, 2014 The Governors State University Psychology club hosted the Life-Span to Financial Literacy Fair from 5pm-8pm in order to promote smart financial decision making among students. The event featured workshops from experts in the financial industry on topics such as FASFA, home buying and budgeting. Aside from the breakout workshops in the cafeteria annex, the fair also featured booths in the Hall of Governors where students could meet with industry professionals, leading institutions, and receive information about the psychological aspect of finances. The event itself incorporated financial guidance for every stage of life.

“The idea behind this was to address finance over the lifespan. We wanted something for everybody,” said event programmer and graduate assistant Sarah Ezell. Ezell touched on the fact that the fair wasn’t for just those students who had difficulty with finances or of a certain age, but for any level of financial competency. Attendee’s to the event had the opportunity to explore a broad range of topics, from opening a checking account to buying real estate.

The fair itself was in part sponsored by a grant from the Intellectual Life Committee. The grant was given last spring to Professor Crystal Blount, Professor Darlene Wright and Ezell. The event incorporated the Psychology Club, the Psychology Department, the Counseling Center and was staffed by volunteers from the Stress Research Lab.

The event itself has been about the overall development of financial literacy at any age since its inception. The reasoning behind this is that GSU does not have a set age or type of student.

“We realized that there wasn’t a typical GSU student, and that’s why we had it be a lifespan, so that it would work for everybody”, said Ezell. The variety of topics covered itself to the large diversity of attendees. Not only were younger students present for the workshops, but a sizable number of adult students and parents attended as well. In addition to financial savvy, students were also given the opportunity to learn more about how financial stress can have damaging effects on one’s mental state.

Emily Petkus, with the Counseling Center, advised students about how to deal with financial stress. Petkus explained that finances are one of the leading causes of stress for individuals, no matter their age. The Span to Financial Literacy Fair presented a well rounded look at how finances have a large impact on one’s life.

“We hope to continue to do things like this in the future”, said Critisha Ashley, a Psychology Club member and volunteer. “We’re really happy with the turnout, it’s definitely exceeding our expectations,” Ashley added.

By Bob Meyer
Staff Writer

To promote his new book After The Bridge Was Crossed: A Journey Through Time as well as encourage criminal justice students, Darryl Cooke gave a talk at Governors State University on October 16 at 5 pm.

Cooke was introduced by Denzel Johnson of the non-profit organization I Grow Chicago. Johnson said he wanted to “encourage you [criminal justice students] to do the right thing. There are a lot of people in this field that don’t know how to do their job. Being introduced to Darryl Cooke showed me how to get the better things out of life. Us as a people lack the ability to lend a helping hand. I’d like to thank Mr. Cooke for seeing something in me that I didn’t see in myself.”

Cooke began his talk by delving into his childhood when his mother was sent to prison to serve a 60-year prison sentence when he was 6 years old... Cooke’s grandfather gave him the news that his mother was going to prison for a long time. Cooke began thinking, “How long is a long time?” and was taught by his uncles as well as the neighborhood surrounding him that he needed to grow up fast.

Cooke talked about not being allowed to cry as a child and wondered, “What happens if you go outside and get into an argument?” His sister looked up to him growing up. As a result, Cooke had to think about her when in a gang. His mother was “the only one in my head to tell me ‘don’t do that.’”

Cooke even confessed that he “thought so highly of the gang that I almost brought my sister into it.” Cooke elaborated, “I didn’t know how to deal with a young lady because I never saw my mother get treated fairly by a man. My neighborhood raised me.” Cooke then talked about his relationship and said, “When a relationship ends, it’s usually because one person found out you can’t control another hDaDumAn being.” Cooke then talked about turning his life around after serving a 10-year prison sentence.

Cooke defines a leader as “a man who walks footsteps, leaving them clearly for another man to follow behind him.” Cooke said, “If I should fall in battle, I need to know that there’s a man who’s going to continue the battle.” Cooke urged the audience to “look in your community and tell me what you see.” We went around the room asking people.

They came up with the following: A liquor store, a gas station, currency exchange, and some type of fast food. Cooke deduced that we “don’t own any of that because of the toxins in liquor, a currency exchange is not healthy for you financially, fast food is unhealthy for your body, and gas prices are expensive.”

Cooke then talked about the lack of trust in the world and wondered how we get trust back.

Cooke said that, with every situation, there is an event that leads to an automatic thought, leading to an action which conjures emotions that lead to a reaction. Cooke encouraged the future of the criminal justice field to “see the diamonds in the rough.” Cooke proclaimed, “the difference between success and failure is most successful people stand on their trash and others lay underneath it.”

Cooke wrapped up the night by saying, “It means so much for me to be inside here because we need to all have faith. We want all us to be able to look at each other and know that we are connected as one. We have to fix race relations. We have to fix economics. The reason I work so hard to prevent my brothers from going into prison is because I know there is a system set up to put them in prison.”

Darryl Cooke has a Bachelor’s degree in social work from GSU, is currently working on his Master’s degree, he set up a scholarship known as the Second Chance Scholarship to help other former prisoners pay for college, and he is part of the social work department’s Generation Hope here at GSU as well.
By Dorian Daily
Contributing Writer

Governors State University will host a special pre-screening of the film “Hogtown,” on November 3 in the Art Gallery. GSU’s own Professor Daniel Nearing directed, wrote and co-produced the upcoming film, which is set during the 1919 Chicago Race Riots that had the city in the throes of racial tension, and includes characters based on individuals that were involved in the riots, including Eugene Williams, the first victim, and Dan Callahan, the first police officer to sustain injuries.

Prof. Nearing is a native of Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada who has lived in Chicago since 2001. Since teaching at GSU, he has won three faculty excellence awards. He is also an Alumnus of the University of Toronto, and currently oversees the MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging program. His breakthrough film, 2010’s “Chicago Heights”, a.k.a. “The Last Soul on a Summer Night” received rave reviews and was placed in late film critic Roger Ebert’s list of the Top Art Films of 2010.

Phoenix: Tell us about you latest film, Hogtown.

Professor Nearing: Hogtown wrestles with a century’s worth of inter-racial struggle and the birth of a new multicultural America, but more than anything it’s a study of isolation, longing, and loneliness in the individual experience.

The film is set circa 1919, but includes many contemporary elements. They say that historical pieces may say more about the time in which they are written than the time in which they are set, and that is certainly true here. We’re trying to define Chicago through time in a “period-less” piece. We’ve centered it in Chicago because I believe that it is, as Rahm Emanuel and others have said, “the most American of American cities.” More than any other US city, it is - to me - the representative American metropolis.

The film’s mystery plot - the investigation into the disappearance of a wealthy theatre owner - is very much an illusion. The film’s primary aim from sequence to sequence is to arrive at individualized epiphanies, or still points in the characters’ turning worlds. There is a larger mystery here, though, in the hero’s search for “the missing man.” The truth is, the missing man he seeks is himself, not “the missing man.” The truth is, the experience of isolation remains undiminished even as the boundaries of humanity seemingly cease to exist. The experience of isolation remains a prism for observing the emergence of humanity seemingly cease to exist. The experience of isolation remains a prism for observing the emergence of humanity seemingly cease to exist. The experience of isolation remains a prism for observing the emergence of humanity seemingly cease to exist.

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GSU to host pre-screening of professor Daniel Nearings’ “Hogtown” on November 3

P: To my understanding, Hogtown is part of an unnamed trilogy. Can you tell us about the overall meaning of the trilogy? How do the current two films fit together?

N: Hogtown is part of the Petit Monde trilogy. It is the second film in series of period art films that are shot in black and white with the occasional appearance of “ecstatic” or “epiphinal” color. The first film, Chicago Heights, is a microscope through which we view the experience of isolation and longing in exurban or small town America. The second film, Hogtown, uses Chicago as a lens through which we view the hard emergence of a multicultural urban America through similarly isolated souls. In the third film, Petit Monde (or “Small World” – in development), Paris is our prism for observing the emergence of a new vision of the world, where the experience of isolation remains undiminished even as the boundaries of humanity seemingly cease to exist. I have also developed a Chicago-based possibility for the third panel of the “triptych” in the event we can’t engineer the Paris film.

P: What is next on your film making agenda?

N: Before shooting Petit Monde in 2016 or 2017, I hope to shoot a much smaller feature film called Emerald Lake. It is a late bloomers’ coming of age story about two troubled brothers in their twenties who discover that they have a First Nations sister.
GSU student includes original art piece in soon to be released video game

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

GSU student and IT major Alan Cook took Professor Mike Hart’s Art-3309 Stained Glass class in Spring of 2013. While in the class, Cook learned how to make stained glass, and was so inspired that he helped fund the medieval video game Shroud of the Avatar as a spiritual successor to Ultima Series via kickstarter.com, in addition to contributing an original, physical art work for animated representation within the game.

Cook previously met game creator Richard Garriott in the 1990s and got back in touch with Garriott when Garriott’s other game series, Ultima, saw resurgence. It was then that Cook decided to make a mosaic piece for the game during one of their contests.

That mosaic is now being used in Shroud of the Avatar. Cook asked game’s Lead Concept Artist Stephen Daniele to help “fill in the blank spots”, when he added a mountain, hedge and castle keep where Lord British (voiced by Garriott) resides. Cook, along with other contributors to the Shroud of the Avatar, used Kickstarter funds to bring about the game’s production in some way either by making music, 3D models, or items included in the game. Some of the ideas pitched were boats, horse carts, and tree houses and game. Some of the ideas pitched were boats, horse carts, and tree houses and

Cook’s stained glass dragon mosaic piece was digitized for purchase in the game. The June 4th 2013 Pen of the Avatar video shows Hart presenting his mosaic piece to the game company.

Shroud of the Avatar has many playing options: Player Offline, Player Online, Single, Friends Only, and MMO, which includes player vs. player.

The game even entails player-owned towns that other players can destroy. “The choices that we make,” said Cooke, “…everybody will see the effects. There is a lot of stuff that [the game designers] never thought about that fans want in the game.”

GSU Student and IT major Alan Cook's original stained glass mosaic, an original art work that was produced for representation in the soon-to-be-released interactive video game, “Shroud of the Avatar.” Cook was inspired to create the piece after taking GSU professor Mike Hart’s Art-3309 Stained Glass class in the Spring of 2013. Cook’s work was accepted by the game creators and an image of it has been included in the graphics of the video game.

“The choices that we make... everybody will see the effects,” said Cook.

“There are Google hangouts for all contributors to give their ideas,” said Cook, “and for game designers to show the different stage developments of the game. Different team member’s Skype throughout the hangouts.”

The server for Shroud of the Avatar is Up in the Cloud. “Once the game is downloaded,” said Cooke, “your computer acts as its own server. If someone down the street wants to play, your computer will see that and seed the files to the computer.”

Shroud of the Avatar will be released for PC, Linux and Mac systems in mid-2015. For more information on the game, and to read and see videos on the stages of the game’s development, Unity Engine tutorials on how to make video games, or watch Pen of the Avatar videos of game designer Stephen Danielle creating the game art, go to www.shroudoftheavatar.com.
Considerations when accepting the job
By Katrina Koltz, Columnist

So you submitted your stellar resume and application, captivated the interviewer, and finally received those anxiously awaited calls or letters with job offers. The next step will be to compare and contrast job offers in an intelligent and strategic manner. Looking at your long term future, you should be able to see yourself in the position with the company for a number of years. If not, then this job or company is most likely not the best fit for you. Once you have narrowed down your options, you are ready to move on. Prioritize what is most important to you with five important factors: financial compensation, collegiality of group, location, work/life balance, and setting. These five components can strongly influence whether you enjoy waking up and going to work or dread the very thought of the sun rising for another day.

Financial compensation: first and foremost- if money is the only thing that matters to you, then go with the highest offer. Do not forget the phase “money can’t buy happiness”. Usually, finances are not the only important factor, so be careful to look into the following factors as well. Do not forget to look at compensation, which includes benefits such as insurance, paid time off, 401k or retirement plans, and sign on bonuses or loan repayment plans.

Collegiality of group. Consider how well you will get along with these people, so it is important that you share some common values or interests.

Location: this may be distance from home and commuting time or family constraints that keep you from relocating for a position. If relocating is necessary, calculate the cost of relocation and find out if the employer will cover full or partial cost. This may strongly influence whether or not you can accept the position based on your current financial situation.

Work/life balance: this is often the determining factor that decides where one will work. Family responsibilities are a major component to consider and a stressful or chaotic work life balance is often not worth the financial compensation. Contemplate factors like whether you have kids in school or need weekends off. During the first interview, it is always a good idea to ask about what your typical schedule would look like. If the employer does not want to answer, it may be a red flag. On the other hand, you, as a potential employee, do not want to come off as inflexible either.

Setting. This can vary greatly whether it is a position with a large corporation or a position with a private or independently owned company. Reflect on where you will flourish the most, in a competitive, fast paced environment or in a flexible, supportive environment.

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Vitae

The CIA has paid student internship, scholarship and co-op opportunities in several fields of study. No matter what you do here, your contributions have great impact — and there is plenty to do. From accounting and finance, to economics, engineering, IT, psychology, the CIA needs dedicated and intelligent professionals to continue the work that keeps our nation safe.

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Prairie Place, the first on campus student residence at Governors State University, hosted a special “Dinner with the President” on October 14 in the Great Hall. The event was a continuation of the “Chat with the President” event that was held on October 1, where both residential and commuter students brought their questions, thoughts, concerns and suggestions to the discussion with President Maimon and other GSU administrators.

In the meeting, several issues were discussed that were related specifically to Prairie Place. Because of this, the event came to form to address the needs and concerns of the residents of GSU’s new residential community.

President Maimon gave introductory statements, and Dr. Aurelio Valente, Vice President of Student Affairs, hosted the special event. Also in attendance were Sheree Sanderson, Assistant Dean Of Students, and Interim Director Of Public Safety and Chief of Police James McGee served as gatekeeper for the event.

Students also met the faculty-in-residence and listened to and addressed solutions that would meet their needs. Some of the issues addressed included students not meeting and speaking with the university President in person as compared to students at larger universities. Other students, however, stated how they couldn’t find any activities at Prairie Place to participate in. An ominous message spoke personally to those students with this issue: the way to not be bored is to be involved. With that being said, Prairie Place residents can look forward to more enriching changes and improvements in the near future.

A couple improvements made for students was the implementation of a study hall, which now operates from 7-11pm, Monday through Thursday, and the Save our Semester campaign that was designed specifically for freshman. Another issue that was brought up was the cost of products at the C Store, which have been remedied with lower priced items being offered as of late.

“[an] issue that was brought up was the cost of products at the C Store, which have been remedied, with lower priced items being offered as of late.”

Some students expressed satisfaction with how they actually got to meet and speak with the university President in person as compared to students at larger universities. Other students, however, stated how they couldn’t find any activities at Prairie Place to participate in. An ominous message spoke personally to those students with this issue: the way to not be bored is to be involved. With that being said, Prairie Place residents can look forward to more enriching changes and improvements in the near future.

By Dorian Daily
Contributing Writer

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Horoscopes: eclipse brings changes for signs

By Brian Bock
Staff Astrologer

The recent celestial events have had a big impact on all signs. A partial solar eclipse and the ongoing Orionid meteor shower means big changes to certain signs of the zodiac. These changes, for better or worse, depend on the sign. An upcoming new moon also brings revivifying energy to all the signs.

**Aries:** March 21-April 19—Mars, your ruling planet has been brewing up some opposition to you. Maintain your composure, headstrong ram, you will win this upcoming battle using your tactical mind.

**Taurus:** April 20-May 20—Things in your home life have been a bit askew. Your need to keep organized may be at odds with some one close to you. Use your abilities to prioritize correctly, or reap the consequences.

**Geminis:** May 21-June 20—The recent solar eclipse has you out of sorts. The stars may have an obstruction planned for you. Be careful not to overestimate your abilities.

**Cancer:** June 21-July 21—The recent eclipse brings changes for you, moonchild. Where you once felt slighted and overlooked, you are now taking center stage. Careful not to let the limelight get to your head.

**Leo:** July 22-August 21—Noble lion of the zodiac, be careful not to let your guard down. The stars have you in a state of flux, whatever choices you make now must be mulled over with certainty.

**Virgo:** August 22-September 21—Your delicate nature may soon be tested by someone you are close to. Speak from the heart and you will be fine.

**Libra:** September 22-October 21—Changes in your home life are imminent, though these changes may irk you, they are for the best. Even though your sense of justice is slighted, keep composure.

**Scorpio:** October 22-November 21—You may have been feeling aloof lately. Something has been a miss, and you can’t quite figure it out. This may take some introspection to get to the bottom of.

**Sagittarius:** November 22-December 20—Things are changing in your home life, for the better. A recent major change on the homefront will revitalize your energy and help you throughout the upcoming new year.

**Capricorn:** December 21-Jan 19—Your tendency for emotional complexity may be seeing a lull. Lately you feel as though you have lost touch with your strong emotional core. This may have been caused by a recent loss. Don’t internalize the loss, be vocal and vent.

**Aquarius:** January 20-February 19—An old friend will come back into your life, though not for the reasons you suspect. Don’t overthink this interaction, keep it as professional as possible.

**Pisces:** February 20-March 19—Your naturally warm disposition has been doing you well lately. Continue to trust diligently in your intuition, it will guide you in the right direction.

**Quotations of Choice**

“Just write every day of your life. Read intensely. Then see what happens. Most of my friends who are put on that diet have very pleasant careers.” - Ray Bradbury

“If you steal from one author, it’s plagiarism; if you steal from many, it’s research.” - Wilson Mizner

“And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.” - John Lennon and Paul McCartney (the Beatles)

“The eyes are not forms, they are transparent. What one really sees is the light of the soul within them.” - Walter Russell

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more you grow as a couple, the more you should communicate about the individual changes in your life.” - Malcolm X

Relationship advice? Critisha is here to help

A relationship that is good and wholesome makes life a little easier and worthwhile. It gives us someone to share our hopes and dreams of the present and of the future with. Relationships help us to make sense of the world we live in, and how we should conduct ourselves socially. Having friends, family, and colleague relationships is what help shape us into the person of our future. A person whom you spend time with affects your knowledge and way of thinking whether we accept it or not. Humans thrive off of being with and around each other.

Authors Duck and McMahan stated that “they influence the messages you send or attend to, the information you believe, the type of critical thinking you do and how you evaluate the outcomes” in their “The Basics of Communication: A Relational Perspective. I believe relationships give good support in a lot of areas of our life.” Robert Weiss (1974) identified six specific areas where relationships provide us with something special, needed, or valued” as identified in Duck and McMahan, opportunity to talk about oneself, opportunity to help others, provision of physical support, and reassurance of worth and value.

Therefore, when I hear someone say “I do not need anyone,” I say, “think again,” because it would be difficult to live life without these aspects to maintain who we are.

This type of open communication alleviates a lot of problems couples are having today. I think everyone needs to be in some type of relationship to survive in our society.

I always push people to understand their needs in a relationship and not necessarily their expectation because when you start expecting too many things it creates problems within the relationship and eventually tears them apart. Remember that relationships are not perfect but with two willing parties, your relationship can be the best thing that ever happened to you.

“A partial solar eclipse and the ongoing Orionid meteor shower means big changes”
Stadium

Womens’ Jaguars trounce Fire Club Team

By Gregg Greer
Contributing writer

This year is an exciting time to be a Jaguar. The Womens’ Jaguars proved that they are a force to be reckoned with by topping the Fire Club Team with a final score of 78-66 at the women’s regular-season opener. Kimberly Young, leads the team with 19 total points. Young was seconded by Babaye Oja, and Ebony Green, both having 15 points each. The ladies held an early 16-point lead in the game against the Fire Club, only to find their point gap closing in at 76-64 in the final seconds. Babaye Oja pulled out two more points before the buzzer sounded, a thrilling finish to an exciting game.

Looks like the Womens’ Jaguars are doing tremendous things at Governor’s State University. “We’ll win a lot of games in this league,” said an anonymous fan, “and we can be one of the best teams in this league because it means you’re one of the best teams in the country.” While it’s good to have dedicated fans, in any case we know one things for sure-the team shouldn’t be counted out so far this year. Go Jaguars!

Next Three Games
10/25 1:00p-Triton Community College
10/28 4:00p-Chicago Steam Club
10/30 5:00p-Trinity Christian College

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The Phoenix is seeking a dedicated Sports Photographer. This non-staff position is a compensated, paid per article position.

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Please help us set a news precedent in providing consistent sports coverage at GSU. You could be GSU’s first exclusive Sports Photographer. Please contact us for info. phoenix@govst.edu

November Basketball Schedule
11/1 Saturday W 1:00pm Kishwaukee Community College (Men) 3:00pm Frankfort All Star Club Team
11/3 Monday W 5:00pm Joliet Community College (Men) 7:00pm Trinity International University
11/8 Saturday W 1:00pm Olive-Harvey College (Men) 3:00pm Silver Lake
11/11 Tuesday (Men) 6:00pm Olive-Harvey College (Scrimmage)
11/12 Wednesday W 6:00pm Kennedy-King College
11/13 Thursday (Men) 6:00pm Midwest Elite Prep Club
11/14 Friday (Men) 6:00pm Iowa Fire Athletic Club
11/15 Saturday (Men) 1:00pm Iowa Fire Athletic Club (Women) 3:00pm Fire Club Team
11/17 Monday (Men) 6:00pm Olivet Nazarene University
11/20 Thursday (Women) W 5:00pm (Men) 7:00pm Judson University
11/22 Saturday (Women) 1:00pm Loyola University Ramblers-Club Team
11/25 Tuesday (Women) 4:00pm (Men) M 6:00pm Morton College

Athlete Profile:
Someone we should all know:
GSU Guard #3 Shaneka Boyd

Shaneka Boyd is undergrad student and a native from the East Side of Chicago. Boyd came to Governor’s State University with a Bachelor’s of Arts with a concentration in Business Studies with a minor in Marketing.

Boyd is very active in sports and plays Guard #3 for the GSU Jaguars Women’s Basketball Team. Boyd gets her basketball playing inspiration from NBA stars LeBron James, and states, “James is the greatest player of all time.”

In her personal time Boyd is a self described “Fashion Diva,” and always rocks a fresh pair of Air Jordan’s. Shaneka has exciting plans in the business world in her future.

Boyd believes in “Drive and Determination,” characteristics she learned from her father’s success in the construction field. Surprisingly, Boyd is a little on the shy side, but, it is believed that that will not stop Shaneka Boyd who is definitely “Someone we all should know.”

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

The 2014 Womens’ Jaguars basketball team recently celebrated their third win.