Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/phoenix

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Phoenix by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.
“Know Your Rights” examines effects of police brutality

By Gregg Greer
Contribution Writer

One specialist amongst the several featured panel guests included National Bar Association President and St. Louis Attorney, Pamela Meanes. Meanes gave her perspectives on the law, the courts and the relationship between the community. She also touched on how Americans can protect themselves by knowing the law and their Constitutional rights when dealing with community violence.

Tio Hardiman, former Illinois gubernatorial candidate. Executive Director for CeaseFire Violence Interrupters, Inc. A long term community rights advocate was also in attendance.

Also present was, human rights advocate Mark Clements, who was 16-years-old when he was coerced into confessing to crimes. Mark spent 28 years in prison for arson and murder, and was released after the true circumstances surrounding his confession came to light.

During the conference, the group laid out their national plan for solutions to police brutality. This year’s event closely marked the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was hosted by The Criminal Justice Student Society at Governors State University (CJSS), and it was their first CJSS event of the semester. Anyone who is interested in future Criminal Justice Student Society events may contact CJSS Advisor: Caron Jacobson, cjacobson@govst.edu or for more information, assistance, at 708.534.4570.
The Phoenix needs YOU!

The Phoenix Newspaper is currently looking for WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS to showcase their talents and help bring our university the best in higher education news coverage and entertainment!

For more information contact phoenix@govst.edu
By Brenda Torres

The Phoenix is launching a series of Professor Profiles. Professor Thomas Bierdz, from the College of Education, is the inaugural subject.

**Phoenix:** How long have you been in the field of Education?

**Bierdz:** Well, in ’92 the state of Illinois gave me a certificate to plow the field, and since that time, it looks like the field has developed into factories. But I was teaching before that point and my mother had my.autism and that makes social situations difficult for me: what do I do, what do I say? So I learned to turn some social situations into teaching or counseling situations. That gave them a structure and a role and gave me structure to deal with these situations. I thought was reasonable for the masters level. The reason for teaching I would say that it was about 10 years ago I began to focus on teaching as a skill that can be developed and sought to improve it each term. I am not the teacher I was 10 years ago.

**Phoenix:** Was education your first choice as a major? If not, what was it?

**Bierdz:** No. I had many first choices. All of them were science based. In high school, I was discouraged from science because of my eyesight. I couldn’t figure out what I could do to work and survive. Most all jobs come with a visual component, so I looked for something that used my ears, and decided on music, but I had no background or training. Well, I could look at a piano and turn on the radio, but that was it. My parents were sensible and against this idea, but I taught myself guitar and piano and in a year I applied to Saint Xavier for music and got in and started earning scholarships and taught myself to compose music. I made some money writing music for weddings. But mostly I abused that innate ability and never seriously practiced or developed it. I was a bad student and rather irrelevant towards music as an art, but not as a science. How my teachers tolerated me is still beyond me. They deserve an award. But back to science, in high school, it was bad advice when my teachers advised me not to enter science because of my vision. At that time they didn’t say “look all the things you want to do in science, you can do them because there’s adapted technology that will allow you to cover those visual components.” No one told me that the truth is just said “you can’t do this because you’re blind”. The fact is I couldn’t do it because of ignorance. The are highly-qualified scientists who are totally blind in many science fields including chemistry and medicine. And those are two fields that one might think that sight is a must, but it isn’t.

**Phoenix:** What made you become a teacher?

**Bierdz:** My parents and luck. As I said, I was in music and while I was in school my parents said: “you can’t just do music, why don’t you get a minor in education? That way, if the music doesn’t work you have education as a back-up-plan.” So I did. But when I graduated in 1992 with teaching certificates in music, the state cut all of the teaching positions in Illinois. So I had many different jobs and kept returning to school to earn degrees and certifications. In one class here at GSU, I delivered a presentation I thought was reasonable for the masters level. The coordinator of the special education program—Dr. Kasik—was the program coordinator at the time and offered me an adjunct teaching position on the spot. I am very grateful to her for this. I would not be here at GSU unless it was for her actions. When I thanked her she said that it was lucky that I was in her class, but assured me that it was my hard work and dedication to the field that landed me the job. For this I am grateful.

**Phoenix:** What classes do you teach?

**Bierdz:** The only class that I’m teaching right now, and I asked to do this, is the introductory special education survey course. I want to restrict myself to that course because I think this course is the most important course taught here at the university in terms of special education. It’s the one class that everybody has to take who is going into an education related field: teachers, speech language therapists, counselors, social workers and so on. This is the class where I can correct a lot of missed information about individuals who have neuro-physical variations and introduce the students to a way of thinking that is not found in the text books. I make sure they are equipped with the skills necessary to work with competence and confidence. Students have described the classes as challenging and reawakening and are excited about how much they have learned.

**Phoenix:** What types of experiences have you had that you bring to the table as a teacher?

**Bierdz:** Apart from my education and personal studies concerning psychology, anthropology, religion and neurology, which fit beautifully into the field of special education, I have classified as having several conditions, and I let my students know up front that I am labeled as legally blind, hearing impaired, with an auditory processing disorder, ADHD, autism, anxiety, and depression. So when teaching about these neuro-physical variations I approach them as a native, which is very different from simply having foreign book knowledge. It also allows students to see how these neuro-physical variations manifest in a person as strengths, and also how what I need to do in a classroom, or in life is sometimes blocked by its human design, and then how to fix the situation to move forward. Secondly, I’ve been through the special education system since it began in 1975. I was born in 1966, so I lived its inception and early development all the way through high school. I was there before the ADA in 1990 and its revisions which still need a great deal of work. In addition I worked in several schools as a general education and special education teacher, so I understand the field as a service recipient and later as a service provider. Thirdly, I understand discrimination first hand—the willfully planted discrimination and its sister crop of ignorance. I have been denied jobs, being told flat out ‘we won’t hire you because you are blind.’ or being told ‘Oh, we wanted someone who speaks Spanish, can you do that?’ I spent years of unemployment, underemployment, being on food stamps and public aid. Twice I was homeless. So I understand discrimination and poverty, and some of the students at GSU face these conditions. So I know the challenges of living such a life, where I should be flexible in my lesson planning and where I must insist that students remain responsible. Finally, I am plowing out a new direction in the field of special education, and also in working with the students I serve as an instructor here at GSU. Otherwise, many people believe that special education has failed. Public special education laws started in 1975 and about 25-years later NCLB was in part, necessary because students with neuro-physical variations were still not receiving a quality education. This is the problem. Overall, many people believe that special education has failed and hence against this idea, but I taught myself guitar and piano and in a year I applied to Saint Xavier for music and got in and started earning scholarships and taught myself to compose music. I made some money writing music for weddings. But mostly I abused that innate ability and never seriously practiced or developed it. I was a bad student and rather irrelevant towards music as an art, but not as a science. How my teachers tolerated me is still beyond me. They deserve an award. But back to science, in high school, it was bad advice when my teachers advised me not to enter science because of my vision. At that time they didn’t say “look all the things you want to do in science, you can do them because there’s adapted technology that will allow you to cover those visual components.” No one told me that the truth is just said “you can’t do this because you’re blind”. The fact is I couldn’t do it because of ignorance. The are highly-qualified scientists who are totally blind in many science fields including chemistry and medicine. And those are two fields that one might think that sight is a must, but it isn’t.

**Phoenix:** Can you elaborate on the new model?

**Bierdz:** With my many conditions I have the same needs as all others, the problem is that those who are neuro-physical typically receive accommodations to fulfill their needs, but what works for them does not always work for me. I need education, transportation, employment, food, health and so on. There is nothing special about these. For my job I need to access information embedded in papers, emails, PDF files and, to equally participate in events. What is special about equal access? To this day I am invited to events and meetings and I am given materials that I cannot access, and hence excluded from full participation. When I was labeled as special needs, the message is that I am the problem, and focus it taken away from the situation, which can always be changed. The discriminatory term is ubiquitous and permeating and so is the message it surreptitiously carries. Our society was created by humans for humans; but the design does not yet provide equal access for all of its members. Dropping the term special needs will help us focus on the flaws in the situations by not placing them on the individuals with neuro-physical variations. Make sure that whatever you do, you’re happy in doing it. Those happy in their work perform work exquisitely and provide excellent service to others. So one sure way to make the world a better place is to ensure you are happy in what you do. Equally important is to believe that what you do has value. If you believe that what you do has value, you will study it from the point of value, invest yourself in that value, and project the value of what you do. Teaching is not a job, it will be if that is all you make it, and that is exactly the view one will take if they don’t first establish the value of what they do. I do not teach for money, I do not teach for prestige. I don’t care if my students forget me, and I rather wish they would. I teach to change student’s perceptions of the world and how they act in the world in a way that promotes equality for all. Because I believe in the value of what I do, I say that whom I teach, and what I teach, is important, I am not.
By Bob Meyers

Bruce Rauner inaugurated as 42nd Governor of Illinois

Illinois’ newly elected Governor, Bruce Rauner, was sworn into office on Jan. 12, and has already begun his shake-up of the state government. Rauner is the state’s first Republican governor in twelve years, and he reiterated the key points of his campaign in his inaugural speech. He wants to turn around the economically struggling state, make it more attractive to businesses and investors, and to reverse Illinois’ image of corruption. The state is currently operating on a deficit of around $4 billion, and it has the worst credit rating of any state. Rauner promised to resolve these issues, and stated that Illinois can be steered toward long-term prosperity through shared sacrifice. However, Rauner has not revealed any specific plans. Since his inauguration, the governor has made clear the direction his methods for turning around Illinois’ economy will take. After freezing all “non-essential” spending within the state, Rauner said, However, Rauner has already come under criticism for increasing some members of his staff’s pay by 35% compared to the amount Quinn paid his staff. Defending his decision, Rauner said his staff were hired from the private sector, and were actually taking a pay cut to work for the Government.

With his vow not to raise taxes, Rauner faces a tough task in reducing the state’s deficit. Although he has proposed several ideas to do this, including putting Illinois on the road toward becoming a right-to-work state. He is encouraging local governmental units to decide whether workers will be required to join unions to get work, as is currently the case statewide in Illinois. The idea is to attract businesses to the state with the more relaxed labor laws.

Right-to-work plans have come under fire from pro-union critics, as they reduce union bargaining power, and their ability to fight for workers who may be being treated poorly. Other pro-business ideas Rauner has floated include making cuts to employee unemployment insurance and compensation costs.

The freshmen governor has also proposed expanding state sales tax to include the service industry as is the case in other states, claiming the state isn’t competitive in this respect. Being a flat-tax, sales tax increases often face criticism because of its disproportionate negative effect on those of lower socioeconomic status, taking a larger chunk of their income than it does the wealthy.

“President’s thoughts on proposed right-to-work legislation

By Bob Meyers

Right-to-work legislative proposals often are met with strong opposition from Democrats.

“We still need laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give American workers a voice,” President Obama has said during his State of the Union address. “But things like child care and sick leave and equal pay; things like lower mortgage premiums and a higher minimum wage -- these ideas will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of families. That is a fact. And that’s what all of us -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- were sent here to do.”

According to Labornotes.org, Right-to-work laws are currently in place in 25 of the 50 U.S. states. Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act says that “no person should be compelled, as a condition of employment, to join or not to join” unions.

This means that union dues would not be necessary. Both union members and non-members would benefit from union contracts without all employees paying dues. The union dues are used to support all union activity.

Some states have been pushing for a change to have all workers, unionized or not, pay dues to unions because all workers benefit from the unions’ collective bargaining power legislation.

By William Wright

Contribution Writer

Katy Perry makes audience see fireworks

Katy Perry’s entrance during Super Bowl XLIX atop a giant mechanical lion

The 2015 Super Bowl Halftime Show began with Katy Perry riding in on a metal lion while singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

Perry singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

Perry riding in on a metal lion while singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

President’s thoughts on proposed right-to-work legislation

By Bob Meyers

Right-to-work legislative proposals often are met with strong opposition from Democrats.

“We still need laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give American workers a voice,” President Obama has said during his State of the Union address. “But things like child care and sick leave and equal pay; things like lower mortgage premiums and a higher minimum wage -- these ideas will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of families. That is a fact. And that’s what all of us -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- were sent here to do.”

According to Labornotes.org, Right-to-work laws are currently in place in 25 of the 50 U.S. states. Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act says that “no person should be compelled, as a condition of employment, to join or not to join” unions.

This means that union dues would not be necessary. Both union members and non-members would benefit from union contracts without all employees paying dues. The union dues are used to support all union activity.

Some states have been pushing for a change to have all workers, unionized or not, pay dues to unions because all workers benefit from the unions’ collective bargaining power.

By Bob Meyers

Staff Writer

Katy Perry makes audience see fireworks

Katy Perry’s entrance during Super Bowl XLIX atop a giant mechanical lion

The 2015 Super Bowl Halftime Show began with Katy Perry riding in on a metal lion while singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

Perry singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

Perry riding in on a metal lion while singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry’s already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”
The dos and dont's of social media for graduate students

By Matthew Gentry

In the last decade, social media has become an inescapable and integral part of the way we communicate with each other. With nearly every millennial owning social media accounts with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and more, it is important to understand how those accounts affect our digital image. Although social media has only exploded in use in the last decade, a 2014 survey by Jobvite found that 93% of recruiters check social media when interviewing candidates! And not only are hiring managers looking at social media, they are using that information to make a decision. A different study discovered that 10% of young people were not offered a job due to content from their social media. With this information and remembering that nothing is truly private online, here are a few things to think about when using social media:

- Do make comments, tag photos, and build content that is true to your character and personality.
- Do be positive.
- Don’t be an egomaniac. By all means use an appropriate profile picture.
- Don’t allow photos of content showing you using drugs or excessive alcohol.
- Don’t make vulgar, profane, sexist, racist, or ageist posts/comments.

Suggested Action Items for Graduate Students:
1. Google your name and see what pops up with a combination of search phrases (e.g. add “governors state university” to your name). If there is any content that does not cast you in a positive light, work to remove it.
2. Consider changing your Facebook name to your first and middle name instead of your last name to make you less searchable. Many professionals working with clients/patients prefer to keep a barrier between their personal and professional life.
3. Review your Facebook settings to see what privacy restrictions you have in place and choose a level that restricts content. Even severely restricted settings may not be bullet-proof. Facebook has “Graph Search” which allows unfriended people to see your pictures/comments/posts. Your best bet? Delete or un-tag those party pictures of you double-fisting tequila shots.
4. Remember that Twitter and Instagram are public forums so anything that you post will be public. Do not let 140 characters ruin your image so update your profile and that can enhance your professional chances at getting your dream job.
5. LinkedIn is a great social media tool that can enhance your professional image so update your profile and use an appropriate profile picture. Furthermore, as many as 94% of recruiters use LinkedIn to seek out potential candidates making it one of the best ways to market yourself.

The dos and dont's of social media for graduate students

By Gregg Greer

Contributing Writer

In the last decade, social media has become an inescapable and integral part of the way we communicate with each other. With nearly every millennial owning social media accounts with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and more, it is important to understand how those accounts affect our digital image. Although social media has only exploded in use in the last decade, a 2014 survey by Jobvite found that 93% of recruiters check social media when interviewing candidates! And not only are hiring managers looking at social media, they are using that information to make a decision. A different study discovered that 10% of young people were not offered a job due to content from their social media. With this information and remembering that nothing is truly private online, here are a few things to think about when using social media:

- Don’t complain or whine in posts/comments, especially about a boss or workplace.
- Don’t share “TMI”. Do not share with the world what most people consider personal or private.

Suggested Action Items for Graduate Students:
1. Google your name and see what pops up with a combination of search phrases (e.g. add “governors state university” to your name). If there is any content that does not cast you in a positive light, work to remove it.
2. Consider changing your Facebook name to your first and middle name instead of your last name to make you less searchable. Many professionals working with clients/patients prefer to keep a barrier between their personal and professional life.
3. Review your Facebook settings to see what privacy restrictions you have in place and choose a level that restricts content. Even severely restricted settings may not be bullet-proof. Facebook has “Graph Search” which allows unfriended people to see your pictures/comments/posts. Your best bet? Delete or un-tag those party pictures of you double-fisting tequila shots.
4. Remember that Twitter and Instagram are public forums so anything that you post will be public. Do not let 140 characters ruin your image so update your profile and that can enhance your professional chances at getting your dream job.
5. LinkedIn is a great social media tool that can enhance your professional image so update your profile and use an appropriate profile picture. Furthermore, as many as 94% of recruiters use LinkedIn to seek out potential candidates making it one of the best ways to market yourself.

Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma volunteer outing a success

By Gregg Greer

Contributing Writer

The Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma’s Adopt-A-Road Program has had its first community service outing this fall and owns its success to its many dedicated volunteers.

This ongoing program is open to assistance from all, civic organizations and schools groups. It is an easy program to implement, not overly time-consuming, and there are no fees or costs involved. The group’s only obligation is to remove litter from their adopted section of roadway four times a year. The Club provides the necessary safety equipment and identifying signs are installed to recognize the group’s community contribution.

Anyone who is interested in future Criminal Justice Student Society events may contact Lrichmond@govst.edu or for more information or assistance, at 708.534.4570.

Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma volunteer outing a success

By Gregg Greer

Contributing Writer

The Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma’s Adopt-A-Road Program has had its first community service outing this fall and owns its success to its many dedicated volunteers.

This ongoing program is open to assistance from all, civic organizations and schools groups. It is an easy program to implement, not overly time-consuming, and there are no fees or costs involved. The group’s only obligation is to remove litter from their adopted section of roadway four times a year. The Club provides the necessary safety equipment and identifying signs are installed to recognize the group’s community contribution.

Anyone who is interested in future Criminal Justice Student Society events may contact Lrichmond@govst.edu or for more information or assistance, at 708.534.4570.

Gunmen attack Charlie Hebdo leaving 12 dead, 11 wounded

By Bob Meyers

Staff Writer

On January 7, 2015, two gunmen ambushed the headquarters of the French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo. According to BBC News, Twelve people were killed, including five staff cartoonists, and economist Bernard Maris. Eleven people were wounded. The next day, the surviving Charlie Hebdo staff announced that publication would continue as planned. The French Government donated €1 million in support of Charlie Hebdo. The Guardian Media Group donated €100,000 and the Digital Innovation Press Fund, as well as the French Press and Pluralism Fund, both gave €250,000 each.

A manhunt ensued for the gunmen, later identified as Said and Chérif Kouachi. The two brothers were killed in a raid at a Paris printing plant by police on January 9th. The brothers were in the midst of a hostage situation. A friend of the brothers was also killed that same day after he conducted a separate hostage situation at a Paris Kosher deli supermarket, near the printing plant.

Since the Charlie Hebdo attack, the phrase “Je suis Charlie”, which translates to, “I am Charlie", has been used on social media, and the public in general, to show support to the fallen members of the Charlie Hebdo staff, in addition to embracing self-expression and freedom of speech.

Gunmen attack Charlie Hebdo leaving 12 dead, 11 wounded

By Bob Meyers

Staff Writer

On January 7, 2015, two gunmen ambushed the headquarters of the French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo. According to BBC News, Twelve people were killed, including five staff cartoonists, and economist Bernard Maris. Eleven people were wounded. The next day, the surviving Charlie Hebdo staff announced that publication would continue as planned. The French Government donated €1 million in support of Charlie Hebdo. The Guardian Media Group donated €100,000 and the Digital Innovation Press Fund, as well as the French Press and Pluralism Fund, both gave €250,000 each.

A manhunt ensued for the gunmen, later identified as Said and Chérif Kouachi. The two brothers were killed in a raid at a Paris printing plant by police on January 9th. The brothers were in the midst of a hostage situation. A friend of the brothers was also killed that same day after he conducted a separate hostage situation at a Paris Kosher deli supermarket, near the printing plant.

Since the Charlie Hebdo attack, the phrase “Je suis Charlie", which translates to, “I am Charlie", has been used on social media, and the public in general, to show support to the fallen members of the Charlie Hebdo staff, in addition to embracing self-expression and freedom of speech.
"A Snowy Day in January" by Eric Tucker. Steel and Glass.

"Stellated Dodecahedron" by Brian Hofmeister. Oil and ink on birch plywood.

"Swept Away" by Lisa Goesling. Black scratchboard and metal pointed stylus.

"Babel (Self-Portrait)" by Charles Rowling. Oil on Canvas.

Artist Linda Emmerman’s collected “Ink Drawing” series utilizes nontraditional mediums, such as paperclips.

Palm Spathe painting from men’s house from the Iatmul people of Papua New Guinea. From the S. Rodolitz collection loan.

Library Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Art Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson and Dr. Arthur Bourgeois mingle among the Skylight Gallery’s indigenous art.
Are criminal justice careers influenced by criminal justice television dramas?

By Brenda Torres

The Phoenix conducted research with faculty and students to see if criminal justice majors were influenced by criminal justice television dramas. On January 30, Professor Caron Jacobson, a professor in the Criminal Justice department at GSU and Criminal Justice Student Society Advisor was asked this question.

“Perhaps not so much the choice to get into the criminal justice field, but how the professions work. Too many times, I have had students tell me that, ‘It did not happen that way on CSI,’ to which I have responded that television shows are for entertainment and are under no obligation to be factually correct. In fact, too often the shows are far from the reality of the job. It makes my job harder as we have to push past all the myths and legends fueled by criminal justice TV dramas,” said Jacobson.

A scholarly article, Perceptions Of The Criminal Justice System: Television Imagery and Public Knowledge in the United States, by Connie McNeely, was also utilized. According to the article:

“Research has suggested that a majority of people in the United States receive much of their impressions and knowledge of the criminal justice system through the media, especially through entertainment television viewing.”

Furthermore, statistics from the study conducted by Barthe, Leone, and Latanob, in Commercializing Success: The Impact of Popular Media on the Career Decisions and Perceptual Accuracy of Criminal Justice Students states that 32% of federal law enforcement oriented people were influenced by police shows. As well as 26% forensic oriented people were influenced by forensics shows.

Now the question becomes, why are criminal careers influenced by criminal justice television dramas? One would probably think because it looks exciting. Yes, according to Jacobson.

“Television shows make criminal justice professions seem a lot more exciting on a daily basis than they are in real life. Of course, you would not see all the paperwork a police officer has to fill out, or the fact that the majority of cases are settled.”

The biggest object of waste on campus: the plastic bottle.

“When custodians empty the trash in classes, one half of it is plastic bottles”, said Kevin Barto, Director of Campus Services.

Students bringing reusable bottles to campus, instead of plastic water bottles, can help remedy this problem. Reusing water bottles not only is efficient, but is also cost friendly.

“There’s so many people that can not only help save the environment, but save money by using a reusable mug,” said Barto.

The GSU community is encouraged to recycle during these 8 weeks, and to document their efforts as well. Recycle Mania is encouraging competition schools to use social media to help spread awareness. Participants are encouraged to take a recycling selfie and tweet it to @ recyclemonyas.

Students are encouraged to be more mindful of their own waste, properly dispose of trash and recyclables in their proper bins and use reusable materials and objects as much as possible. For more information on Recycle Mania, visit Recyclemonyas.org.

The winners of Recycle Mania will be announced in April. Until then, the Sustainability Club and the campus at large is doing their best to make sure that it has a lasting impact.

“I am hopeful this event will continue to be a campus wide initiative throughout the upcoming years,” said Penny.
The artistic voice

By Ashieka Daniels
Art Columnist

Are you curious about the many pieces of art work that exist on the campus of GSU? Are you a Fine Art, Communications, or Graphic Design major? Maybe you appreciate the beauty and history that artwork has. If so, great! If not, don’t jump ship just yet.

My name is Ashieka Daniels, and I am a contributing writer, and newest member for The GSU Phoenix. The Phoenix has just created a “new” position that is dedicated solely to the arts! I will cover topics that include, but are not limited to, The Visual Arts Gallery, The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Visiting Artists, and local art exhibitions. My hope is to bring awareness of the arts to the student body and faculty of GSU. I hope to enrich the academic experience through the exposure to art. As you walk throughout our campus, I encourage you to take a moment and notice a piece of artwork, whether it be a painting, photograph, sculpture or pottery.

While you’re at it, find one which you appreciate, and take a selfie with it. Upload your picture to our Facebook Fan page. I would love to see what interests you. By the way, did I mention there will be a giveaway for the best and most creative selfie? (Selfie must contain artwork on the grounds of GSU). Your options are almost limitless.

Our campus sits on 105 acres of prairie. One place to start is the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park that holds 29 sculptures. Another great place to try is the Visual Arts Gallery in the E Lounge, which currently is exhibiting “Ways of Making Line”. Lastly, you have the option of viewing “Art of the Yaka” which can be found in the GSU Library Skylight Gallery. Whatever the choice, you can’t go wrong!

GSU hosts some amazing artists. One of which is Ted Sitting Crow Garner who created a sculpture in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Entitled “Throne,” the wood and painted steel tubing work is located on the grounds of the Manilow Sculpture Park. It is on loan courtesy of the artist and can be viewed 365 days a year from dawn till dusk. I hope the journey of visiting artwork on our campus causes conversations among your peers and awakens your interest in art. I am honored to have this position, and look forward to bringing you the most interesting and engaging topics. Until your eyes hit the next issue of The Phoenix “may your life be immersed in art and your mind filled with creativity.”

American Sniper

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

American Sniper featuring Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle, portrays the life, trials, and tribulations of an American Sniper in Iraq. From an entertainment standpoint, there is little controversy over the quality of the movie. American Sniper was gripping and immersive with action of every kind from beginning to end. As it covered Kyle’s life and story as returning from war. Focusing on Kyle’s struggles to cope with what he had seen and done over his four tours. American Sniper will have you gripping the armrests, wiping away tears, and with your jaw on the floor from opening credits to close. The film received a rating of 7.7/10 on IMDB and a score of 73% on rotten tomatoes, and is certainly worth the ticket price.

The Interview

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

The Interview featuring James Franco and Seth Rogen received the scorn of a nation as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened the U.S. with attack were the film to be made public. It is the belief of The United States that an act of cybervandalism was committed by North Korea in a hack of Sony’s data network.

In response to the to the hack and subsequent threats, Sony, to the dismay of many Americans including President Barack Obama, chose to postpone the release of the film in theaters. Sony’s decision was not well received and was viewed as giving in to hostile nations demands. Ultimately, The Interview was released online with prices around six dollars to rent and all North Korea had managed to accomplish was provide film with, possibly, the best free advertisement it could have gotten.

According to Money.cnn.com, in the few theaters across the U.S. that chose to screen The Interview initial earnings were around 10% less than a full release would have been, which is not including earning from the online release.

The Interview received a 7/10 rating on IMDB and a score of 54% on Rotten Tomatoes. Despite the low to mediocre critic reviews, general consensus online is that the movie is worth the six-dollar rental. For those with Netflix, the film is free, as it has been put up for screening there as well.

Visit the GSU art Gallery and E lounge for an open house on Feb. 7th starting at 10a.m. till 2p.m. and explore the art and culture of a community and people.
By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

President Obama focused his final State of the Union Address on the economic progress the nation has made — pointing out that the United States economy is growing and unemployment is lower than before the 2008 recession.

According to whitehouse.gov, transcript of the address, President’s address included statements related to economic prosperity.

“The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong. At this moment -- with a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production -- we have risen from recession freer to write our own future on this new frontier on Earth. It’s now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come,” Obama said.

Obama turned to the story of Rebekah and Ben Erler. Ben worked long hours at any job Ben could find, and they sacrificed college for Rebekah. She died of cancer just after the birth of her son, Rebekah got a better job than what she had before, and Ben was able to go back into construction as well as maintain fair hours to be home for his family.

“They represent the millions who have worked hard, and scrimped, and sacrificed, and retooled. You are the reason I ran for this office,” he told them. “You’re the people I was thinking of six years ago today, in the darkest months of the crisis, when I stood on the steps of this Capitol and promised we would rebuild our economy on a new foundation. And it’s been your effort and resilience that has made it possible for our country to emerge stronger.”

Turning to business, Obama cited the 11 million jobs created in the U.S. by not outsourcing them. He hailed it as progress. Obama then pointed out that more Americans are finishing college than ever before. The President stressed the importance of having more opportunities as a result of hard work when thinking about the need for higher wages.

President Obama went on to say that his budget will lower taxes and help submit the FAFSA. This is not true! If you have not yet filed your Federal Tax Return, you should still get the FAFSA done as soon as possible. You may estimate your most recent income and taxes. Just remember that if you do estimate, you must file a correction to update the information.

Upon completion of the FAFSA the Federal Government will notify you that your FAFSA has been processed and an electronic confirmation will be sent to Governors State. In addition to federal funds, the State of Illinois also uses the FAFSA to determine your eligibility for state aid programs like the Monetary Award Program (MAP Grant).

The FAFSA is free and has no processing fees. The easiest way to complete and submit your FAFSA is to go online at www.fafsa.gov. If you have trouble with the forms, help is readily available.

You can also make an appointment with the Financial Aid Office and we will answer any questions students have concerning this crucial piece of financial aid documentation. Our Financial Aid staff is available to help you and answer your questions at 708.554.4480 or by email at faid@govst.edu,” he said.

If you filled out the FAFSA last year, remember you must apply yearly! You can fill out a renewal form, but you still must apply.

GSU financial Aid Director, John Perry offers some practical advice for students: “You want your financial aid in place. Don’t complicate things for yourself. Get the FAFSA done now so you can concentrate on your classes and not on paying bills.” Additional FAFSA information and resources are available in the Financial Aid section of the GSU website.
NCTTA winter upper mid-west table tennis tournament

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

On Saturday February 7, 2015 GSU will host the winter upper mid-west NCTTA table tennis tournament. The GSU Jaguars are the defending mid-west college table tennis champions. The tournament will take place in the Athletic and Recreation Center gymnasium from 9 a.m. -5 p.m..

Purdue University, DePaul University and Northwestern University are just three of the schools that are anticipated to compete. This event is free to spectators, so come out and cheer the Jaguars on to another title.

With a proud heart we at GSU would like to congratulate all members of the GSU Women’s and Men’s Basketball Teams for their participation in the 2014-2015 Basketball Season.

“All the players set the very best standard, they played well and on court in addition while off the court gave a high level of commitment and quality service to the university,” said Coach Anthony Bates, Stats proved Coach Bates was correct. The Men’s team finished with an 23 wins and 1 loss. The Women’s team finished 13 wins and 7 losses.

The games were played this past season marked the activation of the GSU Basketball Program and to determine the future of the GSU Basketball acceptance of its application to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) conference.

Ticket Attendance for the season events averaged 150 to 300 people in attendance per game on the high side.

Super Bowl XLIX

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

By the time you read this article on February 1, 2015 Super Bowl XLIX will have been decided. The “Clash of Titans” at this year’s game is between the American Football Conference (AFC) champions The New England Patriots and National Football Conference (NFC) champions The Seattle Seahawks. The game will decide the National Football League (NFL) champion for the 2014 season. The game is to be played at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:30pm MST. The game will be broadcast in the United States by NBC.

The Patriots are lead by veteran quarterback Tom Brady, and quarterback Russell Wilson will have control of the Seattle offense. Adding to the suspense, is The NFL’s investigation into the case known as Deflategate, which is ongoing. Deflategate is the referring to the fact that it has been suggested someone on the Patriots’ side cheated in a prior game, and broke NFL policy by deflating the game footballs to ensure easier handling.

This will also be the first time in a decade that an NFL team will play in consecutive Super Bowl games. The last such instance occurred was in 2004 and 2005, when the Patriots played in Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX.
New year, new you
By Critisha Ashley
Romance Columnist

Every year we are make New Year’s resolutions. How many of us make realistic resolutions that can be achieved through hard work and dedication? How many set realistic goals that we know are achievable through having the capability and know-how to accomplish these goals? As part of my New Year’s resolution, I want to thank all of the people who have made it possible for me to graduate this year, and working hard in my classes is how I show my gratitude. The last part of my resolution for this year is to make the honor roll as a graduate student and to remove the things in my life that are hindering me from prospering. Having prosperity and self-help with a dash of love being the focal point of our New Year’s resolution will help us heal old wounds and open up doors to a prosperous year and successful relationships. As a part of our resolution, let us do the hard things people do not want to do that is take out the trash in their life. The trash in our lives might be heavy and the walk might be long going to the dumpster, but think of all the trouble this junk has caused in your life, and this will help you throw it away never to return. Once you throw away the trash in your life, all those negative things that once burden you down will no longer have the control over your prosperity. This trash metaphor can be a symbol in different areas of your life that breeds negativity. Like negative friends that crush your dreams of doing something respectable with your life, negative family members who are unsupportive, and a negative work environments. We have to find a way to make these situations positive or take out the trash. Make your resolution mean something, and not just words being said out loud!

“Make your resolution mean something, and not just words being said out loud!”

We have to speak our destiny with power and manifest it with actions. I say, out with the old and in with the new! I always tell people, if something is hindering you from achieving your purpose on Earth, then it is not meant to be in your life. We have to surround ourselves with people and things that are going to move us in the direction that we are aiming for, or else we will never grow as individuals. If you are trying to be successful in life then surround yourself with resources that will help you reach success in all areas of your life. No more using “I can’t”; because someone once told me excuses is a way of telling people you are inadequate! Remember that resolutions are for keeping, so if you have made a resolution or going to make one. Think hard, speak with power and manifest with actions.

Horoscopes
By: Brian Bock
Staff Astrologer

Aries
Just in time for Valentine’s Day, you are feeling a bit of an early boost in your love life. Your new feelings may come as a shock to you, but embrace them.

Taurus
Time for home improvement and hosting friends and family. This will make you very happy and leave you fulfilled.

Gemini
Now is a great time to build new partnerships and maintain the ones you already have. Try to focus on one-to-one interaction.

Cancer
Your ship is finally coming in! You’re hard work is paying off, perhaps faster than you excepted. Be sure to keep your eyes open for open opportunities.

Leo
You might be feeling a bit antsy lately. Now is the best time to travel or experience a new setting. It’s the perfect way to get out of that slump.

Virgo
It’s time to say goodbye to something that has been difficult in your life. You need to strategize on how you will leave this particular situation

Libra
You may be seeing your ego stifled as of lately. This may be a good thing. It’s time to get back to center, as your usually used to.

Scorpio
Your career is making major headway. Put forth efforts in your professional life and it will pay off handsomely. This week opportunities will manifest themselves.

Sagittarius
You’ve been bottling up a lot of feelings lately. That is not good for you, it’s time to let them go. Try to be direct, and also true to yourself.

Capricorn
A sultry attraction may catch your eye, right in time for Valentine’s Day. This new admiration has the potential to develop into something real.

Aquarius
Buried issues may become unearthed. The best ways to deal with these situations is to face the music head on, and try to work through your issues.

Pisces
Your efficiency is at an all time high, and that’s a good thing. Use this burst of new motivation to help you achieve a project you’ve been working on.
Upcoming events for Black History Month 2015

Thursday, Feb. 5th
Impact of the Prison System on the Black Community
5p.m. in Engbretson Hall

Monday, Feb. 9th
Developing Cultural Competence
3:45p.m. in The Cube

Tuesday, Feb. 10th
The “N” Word
6p.m. in Sherman Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 11th
Reflections of the Civil Rights Movement
3:30p.m. in Room A2150

Tuesday, Feb. 17th
Teaching Black History Through Primary Sources
7:30p.m. in room D34011

Wednesday, Feb. 18th
Black Inventions
All day in the Hall of Governors

Vendor Expo
Friday, February 20, 2015
10am-4pm
Hall of Governors

Awards Show
Saturday, February 21, 2015
6:30pm
Center for Performing Arts