By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

In 1968, the state of Illinois hired a president for a university that did not exist. Bill Engbretson's job description called for him to supervise yet-to-be-hired faculty to educate students who were not yet enrolled. A year later, the charter was signed to build Governors State University.

Before there was a main campus, President Engbretson, for whom Engbretson Hall is named, set up shop behind an auto-repair store where administrative offices served as the first heart of GSU.

In 1970, Engbretson rented a factory building in Park Forest South, hired faculty and staff and began teaching 730 students. It was a facility of higher education for students who originally attended community college for their first two years. In the early ’70s, the main campus was completed on land donated by Lou Manilow, the son of Nathan Manilow for whom GSU’s sculpture park is named.

When Governors State was established it gave no grades. Students chose their own learning objectives and, after completing a seven-and-a-half-week learning “module,” were given a certificate of competency that signified their understanding of the material. Students were not constrained to studying within an elected major, such as a major in fine arts, but designed their degree from their chosen modules.

An example of such a degree, taken from GSU’s 40th anniversary program narrated by Tony Labriola.... Continued on p. 3

By Gregg Greer
Contributing writer

After issuing several limited rulings on same sex marriage, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear four cases on the matter this term, with arguments likely occurring during the last week in April. The issue reappeared on the nation’s front pages last week, when the nation’s top court refused to uphold a temporary ban on same sex marriages in Alabama. A federal district judge had ruled in January that the state’s ban on same sex marriages was unconstitutional.

Alabama’s state chief justice, Roy Moore, ordered the state’s probate judges not to issue licenses for gay and lesbian weddings. According to a New York Times report, Justice Moore asserted that the order did not apply to the probate judges.

The Times reported that Judge Callie Granade, who issued the original order, reiterated her order saying that it applied to all judges in the state.

Judge Moore said on Fox News Sunday that because the Supreme Court ruled only on the validity of the injunction, Alabama state law still remained in effect in the case. He said that if the Supreme Court does rule that there is a constitutional right to same sex marriage, then states would be bound by that ruling.

In January, the country’s highest court announced that it would hear the four cases and said it expected to rule on the power of states to ban same sex marriages and to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states. Specifically, the court will review a decision by the U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals that upheld bans on same sex marriage and recognition of it in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. Same sex marriage is legal in more than 30 states, including Illinois.

Tyler Mueller, President of the LBGT rights group at GSU thinks it’s very important to have the Supreme Court ruling in favor of gay rights. It’s a very large step in civil rights for America and not only to have the court judgment rule in favor of same sex couples but also to be recognized would help same sex couples throughout America once the judgment is finalized and accepted.
My thoughts on the Brian Williams situation

By Sheila Perry
Business Manager

Ten years ago, Brian Williams made a bad judgment call and it came back to bite him. I think we all have made bad decisions that we have regretted. I look at the word believe, and it has lie in it, so people tell little white lies to make their story more interesting.

One of the biggest lies that people have told for centuries is the Santa Claus myth, and when children grow up they find out that there is no Santa. Do they crucify their parents?

What Brian Williams has done is to break the code of ethics in which news was established. Tell the true and report the news so that people have a reliable source, in which they can count on. Brian Williams’ has lost the confidence of many and has damaged his career, that took him many years to achieve, but only one mistake to destroy.

The news as we know it is based on adhering to moral and ethical principles, and most importantly honesty. This incident should serve as an example to us all to be very careful of what we do or say, and state only the facts. Don’t get caught up in the crossfire of fabricating the truth in order to gain popularity or status. Make sure of the facts before your state it and live life with integrity.
Tony Labriola
By Brenda Torres
Online Editor

The professor profile for this Issue is Professor Tony Labriola, from the Digital Learning Division of the Department of Arts and Sciences.

Phoenix: How long have you been teaching at the University?
Labriola: Well I have been at the university just over 33 years. But I have not been teaching all that time. My actual title is coordinator and television producer and director for educational programs at the university. I got that job because I did some teaching here as an adjunct professor for a couple of years.

Labriola: You probably inferred that I “bounced around” a bit, early in my career. You’re correct! I was always looking for the new opportunity. Curiously—GSU—provided that new opportunity fairly regularly. I began with my colleague, David Ainsworth, producing “teleclasses”, a new form of media education invented here. Later, we produced a national telecourse in the health care field which won many awards. Again, a few years later, Professor Mel Muchnik and I created and delivered several national videoconferences on issues like Race on College Campuses and Corporate America and the Environment. It wasn’t long after that, we took the lead in counseling education with Professor Jon Carlson and our work now represents nearly 300 titles in the American Counseling Association’s library. We also created mediated instruction for foster and adoptive parents. All this while still supporting all the teaching work here at GSU… I was one of the leaders in our early efforts to promote, encourage and celebrate faculty scholarship and teaching here at GSU.

Labriola: You have quite a few titles at the university. Can you elaborate on them?
Labriola: Coordinator of instructional development means that I work with professors, and contact experts and help design media products; used by students in some learning situations. Senior producer director means that I produced and directed television shows, educational documentary shows, public affairs shows for the university. Some direct instruction in public affairs and documentary which are all instruction but not direct instruction. Professor, right now I’m teaching courses in advanced public speaking. I teach courses in communication. I’ve taught courses in writing, (and), of course, things unusual architectural role. Instead of a foundation, steel and concrete support columns were driven into the ground and the buildings were hung from them.

As it evolved to a more traditional school, the campus went through some other major changes. One of the biggest was the introduction of stars. Originally, GSU was an open campus with walls only in the media department to enclose darkrooms and studios. Evidence of this is visible at every supporting column where, if viewed straight on, one can see a slight gap between the drywall and the concrete column since the walls were not built at the same time as the original supports.

Those columns also play an important role in supporting the university just over 33 years. But I have not been teaching all that time. My actual title is coordinator and television producer and director for educational programs at the university. I got that job because I did some teaching here as an adjunct professor for a couple of years.

Labriola: Absolutely, the students. I studied to be a Catholic priest for a number of years. That entailed language classes including Latin. I love the derivation of words. Education is from the Greek and later Latin “e-duco” meaning to “lead out” or “to raise up”. I really believe all students have insight and interesting perspectives. One of the things that I treasure about teaching is the opportunity to discover and elicit from students all of the things that they value and appreciate. It’s inspirational to see and experience their excitement and enthusiasm—another Greek derivation meaning “god within”. So, I consider myself a leader and a mediator of student knowledge, not just a giver of student information. I hope it comes from the students. Their excitement, energy and enthusiasm will drive the learning and teaching process. So I love teaching! I love being in discussions with students. I love being challenged in the classroom. I love students to come prepared with hard questions that they’re grappling with. I love to try to make things – as much as I possibly can – germane and something that is centered and focused on their lives.

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GSU student looks forward to U.S. restored relations with Cuba

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

President Obama announced on December 17, 2014, that he plans to restore relations with Cuba. Former president of Cuba Fidel Castro wrote in Havana’s Communist newspaper Granma on January 27, expressing his views.

“I don’t trust the policy of the United States, nor have I exchanged a word with them, but this does not mean I reject a pacific solution to the conflicts. We will always defend cooperation and friendship with all the people of the world, including with our political adversaries. Cuba’s president has taken the pertinent steps in accordance with his prerogatives and the powers given to him by the National Assembly the Communist Party of Cuba,” said Castro.

GSU student Damian Alvarez, who is Cuban, discusses the potential of the United States restoring relations with Cuba.

“My father was deported when I was about 5-years-old and I haven’t been able to see him for the last 15 years. It’s reassuring because, now, the fact that it’s getting a lot better, the whole U.S.-Cuban relations is actually, like, going somewhere and changing, I’ll be able to—hopefully travel freely to go visit my father back in Cuba. I can be part of the U.S. as well so I can eventually, that Puerto Rico and Cuba could see the better the relations even more. I hope, willing to work with U.S. and work to improve it for the best and it’ll be someone who is willing to work with U.S. and work to improve the relations even more. I hope, eventually, that Puerto Rico and Cuba can be part of the U.S. as well so I can travel freely to go visit my father back and forth.”

When asked what kind of leadership Cuba could see once the Castro era ends in 2018, Alvarez said it depends. "I wouldn’t be sure if there’s another Castro in the midst that we don’t know about or it can go for the better and it’ll be someone who is willing to work with U.S. and work to improve the relations even more. I hope, eventually, that Puerto Rico and Cuba can be part of the U.S. as well so I can travel freely to go visit my father back and forth.”

Alvarez says that the benefits of the United States restoring relations with Cuba could see the better the relations even more. I hope, willing to work with U.S. and work to improve it for the best and it’ll be someone who is willing to work with U.S. and work to improve the relations even more. I hope, eventually, that Puerto Rico and Cuba can be part of the U.S. as well so I can travel freely to go visit my father back and forth.”

Staff Writer

By Bob Meyers

Drivers are paying a higher price at the pump as gas production slows during winter months. Though gas prices had been declining for much of January, they are steadily climbing.

According to gas price monitoring website GasBuddy.com, gas prices are currently up 1.84¢ from last month. Illinois current average is $2.39 per gallon, the lowest United States average is held by Idaho at $1.99 per gallon. The current average prices are over a dollar less than prices of February of last year.

The fluctuating gas prices are rooted in both seasonal gas production and the rising price of crude oil. “Nationally, almost 9 in 10 stations is selling over $2/gal, while a month ago, less than half of stations were selling over that price—clearly we’re seeing the typical seasonal rebound in prices, being led higher by oil’s rebound, and soon to be enhanced further by refinery maintenance season—hasn’t yet gotten well underway,” said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com.

Gas prices are expected to climb during the refinery maintenance period. According to the International Business Times, gas prices might ease up around early May. Memorial Day is primarily the time when refineries gear up their production.

Obama interrupts Grammy Award ceremony

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

President Obama delivered an important Public Service Announcement during this year’s Grammys, that won the respect of viewers everywhere when he put the plight of rape and abuse victims on the national agenda. During the announcement President Obama called on musicians and entertainers to use their power to bring awareness to rape and domestic violence against women.

He started by stating that almost 1 in 5 women in the U.S. have experienced rape or attempted rape, and that at least 1 in 4 have experienced domestic violence. “Artists have a unique power to change minds and attitudes, and get us thinking and talking about what matters,” Obama said. “And all of us, in our own lives, have the power to set an example. Join our campaign to stop this violence.”
**President Obama pushes for paid sick leave**

By Will Wright
Contributing Writer

In the days preceding this year’s state of the union address, the White House announced that the president will be making efforts in his final two years in office to “improve the lives of middle-class Americans.” First on the agenda seems to be paid sick and parental leave.

When it comes to the workplace, the U.S. lags behind much of the developed world in accommodations that employers are required to provide for workers. One major area in which the U.S. trails other nations is in paid leave.

The U.S. is the only developed nation not to offer mandated, paid maternity leave. Although employers are already required to offer 12 weeks time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act, they are not required to pay workers during their time off.

In a study of 22 developed nations including much of Europe, Scandinavia, Australia and Japan, the United States was the only country not to offer paid sick leave or social insurance for either 5-day flu, and 50-day cancer treatment, the two illnesses used to assess leave policy.

Although many workers across the U.S. are offered paid leave by their employers, such leave is not required by law, nor is there social insurance. If employers do not voluntarily provide paid leave, American workers must survive without a paycheck until they have recovered from an illness, or while they are on maternity leave.

The president is moving to change this. Beginning with maternity leave, he will sign a mandate ordering federal agencies to offer paid parental leave to new mothers and fathers, and he will urge states to create programs offering the same thing for all workers in their state.

Obama’s plan is to add $2.2 billion to his 2015 Budget as an incentive to states and local governments who create paid leave programs for their workers. The administration believes that a happy and healthy workforce with a stable home and family life is essential to good productivity, and Obama intends to make the federal government a model employer.

Although it is likely to be tough legislation to get through Congress, the administration’s confidence has been boosted by Massachusetts voters, who elected a Republican governor in the midterm, but who also endorsed a recommendation to offer workers paid sick leave.

The White House claims this demonstrates that paid leave is not a partisan issue. Bev Stevenson of Obama’s Council of Economic Advisors said: “This is a family issue, and it’s an economic issue.”

Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee disputed that view. He said another mandate will only reduce Americans’ workplace freedoms, make it harder for them to find jobs, and make it more difficult for individuals to create and run new businesses.

The administration countered that offering paid leave will reduce worker turnover, encourage increased productivity, and boost investors’ opinions of the company. The White House cited an analysis of 700 firms, which found companies that offered reasonable hours, paid holiday, family, and sick leave showed much higher productivity.

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**12 confirmed cases of measles in Cook County**

By Brian Bock
Associate Editor

According to a media release by the Cook County Department of Public Health, as of February 17, 2015 there are a total of twelve confirmed cases of measles in Cook County. Among these cases are two adults and ten infants. All twelve cases were unvaccinated. Eleven of these cases originated at the KinderCare Learning Center in Palatine.

Measles is highly contagious, and infects ninety percent of unvaccinated individuals exposed to it. Symptoms of measles include a low-grade fever, cough and runny nose. Advanced measles includes a rash that spreads four days after initial sickness.

The CDC is calling the recent rise in the United States a “measles outbreak”. The most confirmed cases are in California, where the original patient visited Disney Land. According to The Cook County Department of Public Health’s website, it is not clear if the Cook County cases are linked to the multi-state outbreak associated with Disney Land.

The Cook County Department of Public Health encourages all unvaccinated individuals and children to be vaccinated with the MMR vaccine.

The transmission is not widespread, and The Department of Public Health believes the overall risk of exposure is low.

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**Suspect of copenhagen shooting, courtesy of the BBC**

**Charlie Hebdo-like shooting in Copenhagen**

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

A gunman opened fire on a Copenhagen café on February 14, five weeks after the attacks on French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris, France. The gunman was reportedly trying to assassinate Swedish artist Lars Vilks over another drawing of the Prophet Muhammad. 40 shots were fired at a café where a meeting was being held concerning freedom of expression.

One person was killed and three police officers were wounded while firing back, according to ABC News.

Helle Merete Brix, one of the organizers of the café meeting titled “Art, Blasphemy and Freedom of Expression”, told ABC News, “They [Swedish state security guards] were in the lobby and if they hadn’t shot back, he could have shot his way through and something like Charlie Hebdo could have happened.”

Merete Brix continued, “I was conducting the meeting,” she said. “I was talking about freedom of speech. We heard all this noise. The next thing that happened the security guys told everybody to run out as fast as you can.”

“I had this surreal experience, what was going on, when the security guard started shouting I thought my god this is an attack,” she said.

*Continued on p. 6*
Campus

Jackie Robinson West stripped of champion title

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

It was reported on February 11, 2015, that Jackie Robinson West, the United States Little League Champions who captured the hearts of Chicago and the rest of the world, and five of whose teammates attended Chicago Live! last year here at Governors State University, would be stripped of their titles. These include the United States Little League Championship as well as the 2014 Little League Baseball International Tournament -- including its Great Lakes Regional. This occurred after an investigation by Little League Baseball into accusations that the team had violated a rule prohibiting players from outside the Jackie Robinson West school district from playing on the little league team.

According to ESPN.com, Jackie Robinson West Coach Darrell Butler has been suspended from educating Little League activity, and Illinois District 4 administrator Michael Kelly has been fired.

Also according to ESPN.com, Little League Baseball discovered that Jackie Robinson West's coach essentially built a super team by meeting with neighboring districts with Little League teams in Illinois and creating a false boundary map to recruit players outside of the Jackie Robinson West Washington Heights school district and geographical area.

“The honestly, we had to do this. We had no choice. We had to maintain the integrity of the Little League program. ... As painful as this is, it's a necessary outcome from what we finally have been able to confirm,” said Little League International president CEO Stephen D. Keener in a statement.

GSU’s stance on sexual assault and support for victims

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

Sexual assault is a serious and pressing matter, so much so that President Obama took time out of the Grammy award ceremony to talk about the importance of cracking down on domestic violence and sexual assault. Furthermore, according to the Huffington Post, schools like Duke University are accepting more stringent sexual assault policies. It is important to know how Governors State University, recently transforming into a four-year school, stacks up against its larger counterparts.

“At GSU, we believe that one sexual assault is too many. Governors State University is taking action to strengthen an environment in which sexual assault and harassment are not tolerated. Every reported instance of sexual misconduct is investigated and support is provided to every survivor. We are committed to the safety and well-being of every member of our community,” said Lt. James McGee, chief of campus security.

Currently, faculty and staff, including student workers, are required to undergo an online training course outlining the definitions of sexual assault, what to do in the instance it occurs and how to handle student disclosure. Over the next few months another online course will be initiated aimed at educating staff on how to prevent and avoid sexual assault.

The university has resources in place such as sexual assault victim hotline, rape counseling and an investigative process in the event that an assault occurs to ensure that the proper actions are taken to maintain the safe and secure environment on campus.

For more information, visit GSU’s website under human resources and Title IX. There, you will find answers to frequently asked questions and leads to useful resources. To contact the Title IX officer, Joyce Coleman email jcoleman7@govst.edu or call HR at 708.534.4100.

Copenhagen Shooting cont. from p. 5

“Even though we knew there was a risk, we didn’t expect anything like this to happen -- then this horror and death,” she said.

“We’re fighting a battle, but freedom of speech is the core value of western society,” she said. “Without freedom of speech, other values aren’t worth much. You can discuss and disagree in a civilized matter.”

“I don’t feel responsible, but I feel a lot of sorrow that this happened,” she said. “There’s only one person to blame and that’s the guy who fired the shots.”

Hours after that attack, a second shooting at a synagogue, also in Copenhagen, Denmark, killed one man and wounded two more police officers.

Police shot and killed the suspect—believed to have been behind both attacks—after he opened fire on police once more at a train station in the Nørrebro district of Copenhagen.
The library’s gone under major renovations, and that means that there are new areas to explore and study. These new spaces are suited for a variety of different students’ learning styles and needs.

1). The Skylight Gallery

The Skylight Gallery, located just past the information desk, is a study space for the visual learner. With changing art exhibitions and abundant natural light, it’s a space best suited for the type of learner who needs to be stimulated to get work done.

2). The Balcony

Suited for students who like to lounge and learn, the improved balcony area includes a comfortable seating area, the perpetual book sale and a view of the Hall of Governors. The balcony lends itself to informal group meetings, a relaxing space to decompress or the occasional head on desk power nap.

3). The Deep Stacks Desks

For students that need to work with limited distraction, the place to be is the desks located along the West side windows of the library. Quiet enough to hear a pen drop, the desks along the windows are made for focused studying with little distraction.

4). The Group Study Rooms

One of the most collaborative places on campus, the group study rooms are filled with space and connective technology. These study rooms have everything a group needs to crank out a project, including media equipment and charging stations.

5). Microfiche Area

A small cluster of desks located right before the balcony is a mix of tranquility and focus. Quiet, and a little secluded, these desks allow for maximum focus, and accessibility to an adjacent bathroom for convenience. The added plus of being near the microfilm and academic journals helps with in-depth research.

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RECONSTRUCTED
JOURNAL OF ARTS AND LITERATURE

WRITERS AND ARTISTS!

RECONSTRUCTED is currently accepting submissions for our Spring issue.

SUBMIT your fiction, poetry, personal essays, photography or other visual art to: Reconstructed@govst.edu no later than March 31.

Visit our new home at reconstructedjournal.com to read the Fall ‘14 issue or contact us for a print issue.

Join us for a coffee-shop hour on Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. in B2202. Writers and artists welcome to discuss visual and literary projects!
By Kyle H. Horn
Kingsman, featuring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Samuel L. Jackson, a movie that pays homage to the gentlemen spy films of old, came out on Feb. 13. The film balanced humor and action in a fantastic display of clever, classy and violent theatrical fun.

Eggsy, played by Taron Egerton, learns of his father’s involvement with a secret spy organization, and of the nature of his father’s death. When his father’s mentor appears and insists that Eggsy join a group of candidates testing to become Kingsman. Eggsy’s inherent curiosity and desire to be great, pushes him to join. Ultimately, he proves himself a valid candidate and is key in thwarting the main villain.

Kingsman received an 8.3/10 on IMDB and a score of 71% on RottenTomatoes.com, though audience reviews scored the film at 89% on the same site. The movie is a must see and is well worth the ticket price.

By Kyle H. Horn
The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water, the next installment of the SpongeBob franchise, hit theaters on Feb. 6. Despite both the idea that the second move is always worse and the studio is really milking this for all it’s worth the film did not disappoint. It held true to the same style and humor present in the T.V. show with a surprisingly well-layered plot to make it fit the silver screen.

When a greed ridden pirate, played by Antonio Banderas, uses creative physics to steel the Krabby Patty secret formula SpongeBob must team up with his arch rival Plankton to get it back. While Bikini Bottom fell into chaos over the loss of their beloved burgers, SpongeBob and plankton devise a way to find and recover the secret formula, which ultimately results in their transition to the 3D world.

The movie offers humor for all ages and a storyline sane enough for adults but absurd enough for kids. The Spongebob movie received a rating of 7/10 on IMDB and a score of 73% on RottenTomatoes.com.

By Kyle H. Horn

The Artistic Voice

By Ashieka Daniels

Richard Hunt & ICCJ Exhibition

Looking for something to do on these chilly winter days? Well, there are some great exhibitions going on around the city of Chicago. Two that I would like to recommend, feature artist Richard Hunt who is a resident of Chicago. Hunt has two of his sculptures displayed in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. “MCADNA: Richard Hunt”, will be exhibiting from December 18, 2014 – May 17, 2015. To see this exhibition please visit the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. This exhibit celebrates his accomplishments and dedication as an artist over his 60 year career. The second exhibit, “Richard Hunt: Sixty Years of Sculpture”, can be viewed at the Chicago Cultural Center from December 6, 2014 – May 29, 2015. If you are looking for art exhibits closer to home and would like an opportunity to see upcoming artists be sure to check out the Illinois Community College Juried Exhibition that is taking place in the Visual Arts Gallery on the campus of Governors State University.

SWSC

On Saturday, February 6, 2015, Governors State University and the Art Program hosted their third Southwest Suburban Conference High School Visual Arts Festival. There were 160 students and a host of teachers in attendance for this event. They were each selected from sixteen high schools throughout the south suburban area. Students received the opportunity to exhibit their work in the Visual Arts Gallery and vote for the Student Choice Award. The students in attendance received a wealth of information and inspiration about careers in art from keynote speaker, Jessica Segal. Segal is a professional artist, curator and current director of Union Street Gallery in Chicago Heights, IL. Following her presentation, GSU faculty presented break-out sessions on a variety of subjects. Among these sessions were sculpture, glass, printmaking, pottery, drawing, painting, and film. One break out session, “ART RISING: Response to Violence” was lead by Artist and Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson. The “Living in Art” initiative set forth by GSU president, Dr. Elaine Maimon, pursued and received an NEA grant for the ART RISING project. The grant is important because it enables GSU to underscore its mission through civic engagement. The NEA funds were used to bring a stage performance of “The Cotton Mouth Club” on March 27, 2015 in the Center for Performing Arts, as well as, to supply canvases, paints and brushes to 18 SWSC students to create art on the topic. The director of the Visual Arts Gallery, Jeffery Stevenson, was very excited about the outcome of the event and stated that it was a huge success. If you have any questions about SWSC stated that it was a huge success. If you have any questions about SWSC contact Jeff Stevenson at jstevenson@govst.edu. Until your eyes hit the next issue of The Phoenix "May your life be immersed in art and your mind filled with creativity." Ashieka Daniels.
By Matt Gentry  

Columnist

Graduate Student have received numerous emails from the Graduate Professional Network (VPN). They may be wondering why and how they received those emails. The VPN is a student organization that represents and supports all graduate students across GSU’s campus. At any one time there are approximately 2000 graduate students at GSU enrolled in one of 30 Masters Degrees or 5 Doctoral Degrees. Although these programs and degrees cover a diverse set of disciplines, graduate students share similar needs and concerns at some level. Thus, one of the many roles the VPN serves is as a liaison to university administration to represent those needs and concerns. If you have anything you think should be brought to the university’s attention, the VPN is a great avenue to communicate those ideas.

Another major role of the VPN is to provide programming designed for graduate students and this is where we spend most of our time, money, and effort. Program to help support graduate students have included “Negotiating the Job Offer for Health Care Professionals” and a “Graduate Assistantship Information Session”.

Our next event is coming up Monday, March 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM titled “How to Land a Job with Government, Communications and Criminal Justice, and undergraduate students and students from other majors are invited to attend. Mr. Michie will be bringing a Human Resources Manager with one of the grad programs to assist in his presentation. Among others, topics covered will include how to prepare for a job search, how to make the best impression at the career fair on April 16th, important considerations for a job with local government, most important qualities of a good candidate, and common mistakes applicants make. This is a great opportunity to meet real hiring managers and can help you navigate the hiring process in order to land a great job with local government!

Come join us on Monday March 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM in the E-Lounge. We hope to see you there.

Every graduate student is automatically enrolled in a Blackboard course titled “Graduate Student Information Center”. This course is the newsletter for the VPN and helps disseminate information to graduate students. Besides containing organization information about the VPN, such as our formal statement of privileges and obligations, the monthly meeting minutes, there is a variety of information worth checking out. “Upcoming Events” is a tab with more information about upcoming programs. Especially popular for graduate students is information about Graduate Assistantships which provides a tuition waiver and stipend in exchange for part-time work.

The VPN is also taking suggestions from students. One way to help the VPN is to complete the online survey coming out later this semester. It should take approximately 5-10 minutes of your time and there will be a surprise gift drawing. Another way to contribute is to attend one of our monthly meetings, which are held on Wednesdays towards the end of each month from 3:30-4:30 PM in the Career Services Office in A1120. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 28th from 3:30-4:30 PM. Email VPN Chair Matt Gentry at mgentry@student.govest.edu and share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special

By Bob Meyers  

Staff Writer

To commemorate its 40th year on NBC, Saturday Night Live held a 40th anniversary special titled SNL 40 on February 15 that was broadcast on NBC.

Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake introduced the show by performing a rap of various sketches over the years. Rachel Dratch joined the two as Debbie Downer pointing out the downside of opening the show with a musical number. The duo continued to sing in the collaborative way that makes Fallon and Timberlake a joy to watch whenever they come together. The opening monologue consisted of a series of regular hosts debating on why creator Lorne Michaels chose them to host.

Hosts included Tom Hanks, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, Miley Cyrus, host and former cast member Chris Rock, Peyton Manning, and Melissa McCarthy.

The opening monologue closed with Sir Paul McCartney and Paul Simon performing “The Long and Winding Road.”

Seth Meyers also came, appearing outraged, continuing the Steinem-Seth marriage story line yelling, “We have children now!” Melissa McCarthy paid tribute to Chris Farley by suiting up and playing his old Matt Foley character prior to another montage of Weekend Update clips closing out the sketch. Norm Macdonald, Kevin Nealon, Seth Meyers, and Colin Quinn appeared reminiscing about Update, too.

Additionally, Chevy Chase entered the stage to talk about the privilege of being on SNL, with Garrett Morris loudly echoing every line Chase said.

Martin Short was next to grace the stage to talk about the irony of hosting the show only one single time.

Short introduced Beyoncé, played by Maya Rudolph, who danced while Short sang an SNL-inspired song before Rudolph as Beyoncé sang an SNL parody of Beyoncé’s “Drunk in Love.”

Joe Piscopo as Frank Sinatra sang New York, New York. This began a musical montage with Dana Carvey as Derek Jeter, Adam Sandler as Wayne’s World following the “Chopping Broccoli” on the piano before Adam Sandler came out as Opera Man singing an anniversary song to commemorate 40 years. Adam Sandler, singing What’s Up With That?, came prior to featuring Steve Martin’s King Tut, Bill Murray as Nick Ocean singing the Jaws theme song, Dan Akyroyd and Jim Belushi as Opera Man singing The Liberty Bell, and The Blues Brothers singing I Need You.

Chris Rock followed by introducing Eddie Murphy after talking about his impact on SNL, but had passed on. He then performed “Still Crazy After All These Years,” it was a fitting way to close the show.

I loved the special. Lorne Michaels deserves praise and I have no doubt that he proud. What would Saturday nights be without SNL? Much less funny. That’s for sure. I’m sure I’m not the only one looking forward to more.

Wayne’s World followed the commercial break with Mike Meyers as Wayne and Dana Carvey as Garth giving a top 10 list about SNL. This was fantastic. An unexpected surprise filled with hilarity.

The finale of SNL 40 saw Paul Simon paying homage to the SNL band. He then performed “Still Crazy After All These Years.” It was a fitting way to close the show.

Our next event is coming up Monday, March 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM in the Career Services Office in A1120. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 28th from 3:30-4:30 PM. Email VPN Chair Matt Gentry at mgentry@student.govest.edu and share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

Vitae

What is the Graduate Professional Network?

Our next event is coming up Monday, March 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM titled “How to Land a Job with Government, Communications and Criminal Justice, and undergraduate students and students from other majors are invited to attend. Mr. Michie will be bringing a Human Resources Manager with one of the grad programs to assist in his presentation. Among others, topics covered will include how to prepare for a job search, how to make the best impression at the career fair on April 16th, important considerations for a job with local government, most important qualities of a good candidate, and common mistakes applicants make. This is a great opportunity to meet real hiring managers and can help you navigate the hiring process in order to land a great job with local government!

Come join us on Monday March 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM in the E-Lounge. We hope to see you there.

Every graduate student is automatically enrolled in a Blackboard course titled “Graduate Student Information Center”. This course is the newsletter for the VPN and helps disseminate information to graduate students. Besides containing organization information about the VPN, such as our formal statement of privileges and obligations, the monthly meeting minutes, there is a variety of information worth checking out. “Upcoming Events” is a tab with more information about upcoming programs. Especially popular for graduate students is information about Graduate Assistantships which provides a tuition waiver and stipend in exchange for part-time work.

The VPN is also taking suggestions from students. One way to help the VPN is to complete the online survey coming out later this semester. It should take approximately 5-10 minutes of your time and there will be a surprise gift drawing. Another way to contribute is to attend one of our monthly meetings, which are held on Wednesdays towards the end of each month from 3:30-4:30 PM in the Career Services Office in A1120. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 28th from 3:30-4:30 PM. Email VPN Chair Matt Gentry at mgentry@student.govest.edu and share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special

By Bob Meyers  

Staff Writer

To commemorate its 40th year on NBC, Saturday Night Live held a 40th anniversary special titled SNL 40 on February 15 that was broadcast on NBC.

Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake introduced the show by performing a rap of various sketches over the years. Rachel Dratch joined the two as Debbie Downer pointing out the downside of opening the show with a musical number. The duo continued to sing in the collaborative way that makes Fallon and Timberlake a joy to watch whenever they come together. The opening monologue consisted of a series of regular hosts debating on why creator Lorne Michaels chose them to host.

Hosts included Tom Hanks, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, Miley Cyrus, host and former cast member Chris Rock, Peyton Manning, and Melissa McCarthy.

The opening monologue closed with Sir Paul McCartney and Paul Simon performing “The Long and Winding Road.”

Seth Meyers also came, appearing outraged, continuing the Steinem-Seth marriage story line yelling, “We have children now!” Melissa McCarthy paid tribute to Chris Farley by suiting up and playing his old Matt Foley character prior to another montage of Weekend Update clips closing out the sketch. Norm Macdonald, Kevin Nealon, Seth Meyers, and Colin Quinn appeared reminiscing about Update, too.

Additionally, Chevy Chase entered the stage to talk about the privilege of being on SNL, with Garrett Morris loudly echoing every line Chase said.

Martin Short was next to grace the stage to talk about the irony of hosting the show only one single time.

Short introduced Beyoncé, played by Maya Rudolph, who danced while Short sang an SNL-inspired song before Rudolph as Beyoncé sang an SNL parody of Beyoncé’s “Drunk in Love.”

Joe Piscopo as Frank Sinatra sang New York, New York. This began a musical montage with Dana Carvey as Derek Jeter, Adam Sandler as Wayne’s World following the “Chopping Broccoli” on the piano before Adam Sandler came out as Opera Man singing an anniversary song to commemorate 40 years. Adam Sandler, singing What’s Up With That?, came prior to featuring Steve Martin’s King Tut, Bill Murray as Nick Ocean singing the Jaws theme song, Dan Akyroyd and Jim Belushi as Opera Man singing The Liberty Bell, and The Blues Brothers singing I Need You.

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What is the reason for a relationship? Do we all just want to be in a relationship or are we afraid of being alone. I remember a time in my life where I started feeling alone because of the things going on with my family. In my eyes, these were disastrous times that left me devastated and left me feeling alone.

I think we all go through times where we just need something or someone to comfort us. I had to learn to comfort myself and help myself through the hardships of life. We should never get too dependent on a person being around, until it ruins the good experiences of being alone. Enjoying yourself first helps others enjoy being with you! Alone time is meant to rejuvenate your mind and body. In addition, thinking about the important things in life and helping you the clarity on the hard decisions you may face from time to time. This is a time to let your thoughts run wild exploring every thinking possibility. Instead of dreading the thought of being alone embrace your alone time, be mindful that we learn so much about ourselves from solitude.

Believe me when I say being single works in your favor because it allows you explore and see what you really want, instead of just jumping into a relationship without knowing what you want, and ending up hurting yourself or your partner.

For instance, say you got out of a 3-year relationship that was full of nothing but arguments because you were not getting what you needed or desired. Then you jump into another relationship because you do not want to be alone and you end up leaving this relationship and breaking that persons heart because you had not figured out what you want or need.

So it is best to take some time off from the dating scene and relax your mind and figure out things, and while you are at it, pamper yourself, because you deserve it. If you can’t be happy being alone then how can you be happy being with someone? You do not want to look back on a lot of relationships that you regret and have not taken away anything positive.

That is why we have to be self-aware and choose wisely who we enter into a relationship with because that is less heartaches for you to deal with.

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Sports and Entertainment

Women’s volleyball head coach Ashley Ottmann

GSU gears up for women’s volleyball season

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

As the GSU community spectators await the opportunity to see how the Women’s Volleyball Team will fare in its efforts — organizers were anticipating a response from the team due to the skill level of our players.

During a brief interview with GSU Student Life, GSU Volleyball Coach Ashley Ottmann lays out her experience, which includes coaching positions at Prairie State College and two local club teams.

“My personal goal is to be instrumental in growing our program and enhancing the lives of young women students at GSU. We have an equal focus on scholastics and a strong commitment to being the best we can be on the volleyball court,” said Ottmann.

“I’m extremely excited and thankful for the chance to build the women’s volleyball program here at Governors State University. I feel that we in the Athletic Department working, with Coach Bates, have a unique opportunity to build the GSU Jaguar brand from the ground up,” said Ottmann.

Keep watching for games details and expect daily games updates.

On and off the court with college athletes at GSU

By Lance Butler
Contributing Writer

With the first basketball seasons in the books at Governors State University they have face many obstacles during this season. The boys finishing 23 and 1 and while the girls finishing 20 and 4. They both had great season. But besides competing on the floor they competed in the classroom. 10 of the players receive high honors in the class room. With their first semester down they seem to adjust well. The girls’ basketball player Raven Phillips led the athletes with a 4.0 grade average. She led the team in rebounds and lead in the class room by example. I asked her how did you she feels about how semester ended. She quoted “I did my best because my team needs me to achieve in the classroom so I can help them on the court. So a big factor is I want to be the best player I can be on the court and off the court”. With her leading by example for the sports program she would being viewers to understand they are more than just an athlete they are student athletes.

Comic book club coming soon to GSU

By Brenda Torres
Online Editor

A new club is being formed at GSU, the Comic book club. Nasser Rabadi and Jordan Walters sprouted the idea. One can usually find them in the cafeteria with other friends enjoying the topic of comics and other related subjects.

Rabadi stated what the comic book club would be, “Just a club to read/discuss comics/comic related shows or movies, also plan on maybe going to a convention or a movie showing”.

The idea to create a comic club came to Rabadi as he stated, “I’m a comic nerd, decided why not”. Rabadi and Walters have such a passion for comics that they came up with the idea of opening up a comic book store eventually in their future. In the future, Rabadi would like to be writer for Image Comics, but that is not his main goal; his major is Business.

The club is in the process of becoming official, but they would like to meet at least once a week.

Competition for Design Proposal

Grand Prize: $250

Design the cover art for the program for Governors State University’s Fifth Annual Gender Matters: All in the Family? Conference

Requirements:
Design needs to reproduce well and work well in an approximately 6½” by 9½” space.
Use your imagination!

The design may be:
- representational or abstract
- black-and-white or color
- photography-based collage
- mosaic
- anything in between

Eligibility:
Open to all members of the Governors State University community.
Visit www.govst.edu/gendermatters website to download submission form.

Deadline:
March 10, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
Email the artwork in electronic form (as an attachment) to gendermatters@govst.edu.
Also attach the submission form.

Questions?
Email Ellie Walsh
gendermatters@govst.edu
EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS
ART OF THE YAKA: RITUAL OBJECTS FROM THE CONGO
Now through March 27th
GSU Library
Dr. Arthur Bourgeois will display his work in his book entitled, "YAKA: VISIONS OF AFRICA" in an overview of the exhibition that will also be available through the GSU bookstore.

BLACK HISTORY LITERARY WORKS & RESOURCES
Are you seeking historical information regarding Black History makers? GSU Library has a collection of books, DVDs, and reference materials dedicated to Black History. Visit www.gouv.state.edu/library and select the Library Catalog located under Library Resources. Type in Black History Month for your keyword and you will find a listing of items that are currently available in the GSU Library. Visit the library or contact us at library@govst.edu.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Tuesday, February 3rd
NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
11am - 4pm
National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBAHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at African Americans in the United States and the diaspora.

BLACK HISTORY IN THE BIBLE
5pm, A2150
Come learn about the African presence in the bible with Lambda Phi Eta Honor Society.

Wednesday, February 4th
MUSIC INTERSECTING THE CULTURAL DIVIDE
5pm, Sherman Hall
Music has always been such a pivotal role in the progression of African culture. This program will focus on the role that music has provided for inclusion.

Thursday, February 5th
IMPACT OF THE PRISON SYSTEM ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY
5pm, Engleston Hall
This panel discussion will address the long term consequences of the mass incarceration of blacks. Panelists will include faculty and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Monday, February 9th
DEVELOPING CULTURAL COMPETENCE
3:30pm, The Cohen Center
Participants will receive a brief overview of Culturally Responsive Teaching Pedagogy, and will consider the connections to social justice, multicultural education, and diversity.

Tuesday, February 10th
THE ART OF THE WORD
6pm, Sherman Hall
Sponsored by University Program Council. A panel discussion on the art of the word that will cover the history, usage, and impact of the art of the word.

Wednesday, February 11th
REFLECTIONS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
with Mr. Leon Anderson
3:30pm, A2150
Learn about the civil rights movement through the lens of history in the community through first-hand accounts.

Tuesday, February 17th
TEACHING BLACK HISTORY THROUGH PRIMARY SOURCES
7:30pm, D5401
Participants will join us for the celebration of Black History Month through the eyes of the Library of Congress Primary Sources.

Wednesday, February 18th
BLACK INVENTIONS
All day, Hall of Governors
This exhibition displays inventions by African Americans as well as a highlight of how African American have used their ingenuity to create career paths and opportunities for themselves through their inventions in the fields of science, technology, business, and other arenas.

MOVIE: DEAR WHITE PEOPLE
4:30pm, F1622
With tongue planted firmly in cheek, Dear White People explores racial identity in post-racial America while weaving a universal story of forging one's unique path in the world. An educational discussion will follow the viewing of the movie.

Thursday, February 19th
THE AFRO-LATINO EXPERIENCE
7:30pm, Location TBD
Over the last two decades, Afro-Latinos have begun to be written back into the history of the Americas. Our panel will explore some of the key roles that Afro-Latinos played in the region and the lasting impact that they have made.

Friday, February 20th
VENDOR & RESOURCE FAIR
10am - 4pm, Hall of Governors
The Resource and Vendor Fair will provide an opportunity for local businesses to sell products and showcase their services as a precursor to Black Women Rock.

Saturday, February 21st
BLACK WOMEN ROCK
6:30pm, Center For Performing Arts
"Black Women Rock" (BWR) celebrates the outstanding achievements of Black female students, faculty & staff at Governors State University and community members in the surrounding areas.

Wednesday, February 25th
ARE BLACK FRATERNAL & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT?
6pm, Engleston Hall
Do you believe Black Fraternal and Civic organizations are still relevant today? What issues should these organizations champion to help our communities advance? Come participate in a discussion about the history and relevancy of these organizations in the 21st century.

Thursday, February 26th
DEBT STRESS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY
12pm - 2pm, Location TBD
Participants will engage in dialogue about coping with debt as well as potential solutions tailored to the Black community.

OPEN MIC
featuring PRIME HIPSTERS DYNASTY
5pm, Café Annex
Come join us as we share Black history through spoken word, song, and other performing arts.

Co-sponsored by
Black Student Union
Career Services
Civic Engagement
Communications Department
Criminal Justice Department
Education Department
Fine Arts Department
Humanities Department
Intercultural Student Affairs
Lambda Phi Eta Honor Society
Psychology Department
Student Life
University Program Council

For more information email diversity@govst.edu