By Jeff Smaltz
Contributing Writer

Governors State University may be 40 years young this year, but a lot has happened in those four decades. The university is celebrating the milestone this week with a variety of events including a panel discussion, a history wall unveiling and Motown music.

"As we mark each decade, we reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and plan for future. Celebrating four decades of accomplishment is important for GSU. Our fortieth anniversary is also the launching point for planning our half-century mark in 2019," said GSU President Elaine Maimon.

The celebration kicks off with a panel discussion about the birth, growth and future of GSU at 3 p.m. Friday in the Sherman Recital Hall. Former GSU faculty member Dr. Paul Green, who is now the Director of the Institute for Politics at Roosevelt University will be the moderator and will participate as a panelist too. Other panelists will include President Maimon, Prairie State College's Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Adeunmi Atewologun, former GSU President Dr. Leo Goodman-Malumuth, and Superintendent Dr. Blodnane Davis of Matteson School District 162.

"Dr. Green is a lively personality who appears often on TV. This panel will definitely not be a series of speeches. You will not want to miss it," said President Maimon.

GSU's new History Wall will be unveiled after the panel discussion. This will be the installation of a permanent, commemorative history wall. This will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the D Main Entrance and Lobby.

The school was founded in 1969 as a "university without walls." Not literally, but students were given competencies rather than grades and all faculty held the same rank. Over the years many practices have changed including the institution of traditional grades. The school now has 54 degree programs and one of the most diverse faculties and student bodies in the country.

President Maimon said she is pleased with GSU's growth over 40 years. "Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society," she said. "GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship."

Maimon said she has some wonderful memories in her two and half years as president. They including seeing students fulfilling their dreams, observing large increases in community college transfer students completing four-year degrees and beyond, and seeing adults coming back to school to get a second chance. She is also proud of GSU's internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park and the progress toward making GSU safer, healthier, and more beautiful.

But she also has several goals in mind for the near future including lobbying for funds from the Governor's Office to begin the renovation of the E & F Science wings during this academic year, according to the President. They also have plans to lobby for a multi-purpose classroom building. Other plans include Strategy 2015 and the Self-Study, prepared for the Higher Learning Commission.

The celebration continues at 6 p.m. Saturday with a reception and gala event featuring Motown music at the Center for Performing Arts followed by dancing in the Hall of Governors.

The performance of A Tribute to Motown Greats will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. This performance will take audience members "a trip back in time when Motown was king," as talented Chicagoland vocalists perform classic hits, according to the 40th anniversary website.

The event will cap off the night with the After Concert Celebration in the Hall of Governors from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. This event will be to celebrate and have fun in 60's style.

President Maimon noted that the Student Senate bought a limited number of tickets for this event, so interested students should contact Student Services at 708.554.4552 for more information.

Mary Rothenberg, administrative coordinator for the Center for Performing Arts added that interested patrons can find ticket prices on their website, www.centerickets.net. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Box Office at 708.229.2222. Tickets are priced at $50 each. Additionally, more information about GSU's 40th Anniversary can be found at www.govst.edu/40years.

---

**GSU Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

**By Jeff Smaltz**

By Jeff Smaltz
Contributing Writer

Governors State University may be 40 years young this year, but a lot has happened in those four decades. The university is celebrating the milestone this week with a variety of events including a panel discussion, a history wall unveiling and Motown music.

"As we mark each decade, we reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and plan for future. Celebrating four decades of accomplishment is important for GSU. Our fortieth anniversary is also the launching point for planning our half-century mark in 2019," said GSU President Elaine Maimon.

The celebration kicks off with a panel discussion about the birth, growth and future of GSU at 3 p.m. Friday in the Sherman Recital Hall. Former GSU faculty member Dr. Paul Green, who is now the Director of the Institute for Politics at Roosevelt University will be the moderator and will participate as a panelist too. Other panelists will include President Maimon, Prairie State College's Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Adeunmi Atewologun, former GSU President Dr. Leo Goodman-Malumuth, and Superintendent Dr. Blodnane Davis of Matteson School District 162.

"Dr. Green is a lively personality who appears often on TV. This panel will definitely not be a series of speeches. You will not want to miss it," said President Maimon.

GSU's new History Wall will be unveiled after the panel discussion. This will be the installation of a permanent, commemorative history wall. This will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the D Main Entrance and Lobby.

The school was founded in 1969 as a "university without walls." Not literally, but students were given competencies rather than grades and all faculty held the same rank. Over the years many practices have changed including the institution of traditional grades. The school now has 54 degree programs and one of the most diverse faculties and student bodies in the country.

President Maimon said she is pleased with GSU's growth over 40 years. "Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society," she said. "GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship."

Maimon said she has some wonderful memories in her two and half years as president. They including seeing students fulfilling their dreams, observing large increases in community college transfer students completing four-year degrees and beyond, and seeing adults coming back to school to get a second chance. She is also proud of GSU's internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park and the progress toward making GSU safer, healthier, and more beautiful.

But she also has several goals in mind for the near future including lobbying for funds from the Governor's Office to begin the renovation of the E & F Science wings during this academic year, according to the President. They also have plans to lobby for a multi-purpose classroom building. Other plans include Strategy 2015 and the Self-Study, prepared for the Higher Learning Commission.

The celebration continues at 6 p.m. Saturday with a reception and gala event featuring Motown music at the Center for Performing Arts followed by dancing in the Hall of Governors.

The performance of A Tribute to Motown Greats will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. This performance will take audience members "a trip back in time when Motown was king," as talented Chicagoland vocalists perform classic hits, according to the 40th anniversary website.

The event will cap off the night with the After Concert Celebration in the Hall of Governors from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. This event will be to celebrate and have fun in 60's style.

President Maimon noted that the Student Senate bought a limited number of tickets for this event, so interested students should contact Student Services at 708.554.4552 for more information.

Mary Rothenberg, administrative coordinator for the Center for Performing Arts added that interested patrons can find ticket prices on their website, www.centerickets.net. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Box Office at 708.229.2222. Tickets are priced at $50 each. Additionally, more information about GSU's 40th Anniversary can be found at www.govst.edu/40years.

---

**GSU Plans for Possibility of Swine Flu Outbreak**

By Jeff Smaltz
Contributing Writer

With flu season, and especially swine flu, hitting college campuses hard this year, Governors State University administrators have been planning and encouraging taking precautions to prevent an outbreak on campus.

GSU's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been working the past several months to prepare for the event that there is an H1N1 virus (also known as the "swine flu") outbreak on campus.

Some of the precautions include placing hand sanitizer dispensers in hallways, posting signs and handing out fliers informing students and faculty with details of the virus, and setting up a hotline for students and faculty to use to report suspected or confirmed cases of the virus, according to Dean of Students Sherilyn Poole.

As of late October, there have been no reports on the hotline of swine flu by any faculty, students or staff, she said.

"The primary goal of the ERT's plan is to provide information and data to help members of the campus community make good decisions about their personal health," Poole said.

Interim Provost David Curtis has also been encouraging faculty to develop a plan for teaching courses using technology in the event of a serious outbreak. In addition, faculty are advised to develop plans for working with students who miss an extended period of classes due to illness.

Students and faculty are strongly advised to wash their hands and stay home if they are sick. And students should check their university e-mail accounts because the school will use that service to send notices regarding the virus.

GSU's ERT team has also been working with the Will County Health Department and the Will County Emergency Management Agency in preparation of the possibility of the H1N1 virus outbreak on campus.

Swine flu vaccines are now available in Illinois and Indiana. The GSU campus in not a vaccination site, but students, faculty and staff can contact their physicians or county health departments for information on where to obtain the vaccine, Poole said.

Information about vaccines is available on all of the local county health department web sites including, Cook County, www.cookcountypubhealth.org, for Will County www.willcountyhealth.org, for Kankakee County www.kankakeehot.com and for Lake County, IN, www.lakecountyin.org.

More information about the H1N1 virus can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu/protection/keyfacts.htm.

Tips for Staying Flu Free on Page 2

---

**Interview with poet, Louis Valadez**

**Spirituality and Surveillance:**

**Art by Gabriel Villa**

**Intl. Film Fest Synopsis & Movie Review**

Page 4 & 5

Page 7

Page 11
November Construction Prompts Quality Time

By Sarah Koehler
Editor

Things in the Koehler house have been hectic lately. Following my husband and my August 15 wedding, we decided to remodel our house - and not just by slapping up a few new photos or buying some new throw pillows.

Tony and I decided to rip up all the carpeting, refinish our hardwood floors, repair the cracked plaster in our living and dining rooms, paint, buy new furniture and completely overhaul our first-floor living spaces.

While construction moves along nicely, the projects have tossed our regular routine completely upside down! With no access to television on our first floor (gap!), we have been forced to spend more quality time together (double gap!) and find other ways to entertain ourselves.

What we didn’t realize was just how positive an experience this could be.

As I enter my 11th week of student teaching and Tony continues to work three jobs to help put us both through school while we pay our mortgage and other bills, we had gotten used to our daily routine of working our noses off from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. and then just collapsing on the couch until bedtime around 10:30 p.m. or so.

But with the construction came a fantastic opportunity. The combination of our lack of television (or the couch for that matter) and the drive to finish our house has caused us to have spent most of our free time ripping up carpeting, pulling staples from the floor, spackling the walls, sweeping up dust and tripping over tools.

It sounds like a major task - and trust me, it is. But it’s also been one of the most rewarding experiences for us as newlyweds. We’ve had great conversations during our construction time and have managed to laugh at our mistakes (like assembling the new bookcase backwards) as we learn to manage our own home improvement projects on a budget.

True, we still have to go to work and take care of the everyday responsibilities that life has always included, but the construction project has ironically been a breath of fresh air among the paint fumes and sawdust.

As we finish up with painting this weekend, sanding the floors this week; and the furniture delivery in mid-November, I’m looking forward to the continued time Tony and I get to spend together - even though it causes backaches, headaches and pulled muscles that we never knew we had. In retrospect, I actually wish we had started a project like this years ago!

Now as we gently ease into the holiday season, a time to spend quality moments with family and friends, I wish each of you the same kind of quality construction time we’re experiencing in our home.

My advice is this: don’t wait until you’re ripping up floors or trying to decide on a paint color to spend some quality time with those you love. Turn off the television and play a board game (especially when it’s cold and rainy out!) or just have a cup of hot chocolate and a good conversation.

Focus on what’s really important - each other - and by Thanksgiving, you’ll truly have something for which to be thankful.
To avoid catching or spreading infections such as swine flu, the CDC advises:

1. Avoid close contact with sick people.
2. Stay home when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
4. Clean your hands frequently.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
6. Practice good health habits.

www.cdc.gov/swineflu
Valadez's debut collection, *what i'm on*, goes deep into the circumstances of growing up Latino in the suburb of Chicago Heights, Illinois, and emerges with a rich examination of personal history that is both evocative and experimental.

Th e Latin American Review of Books

Th is is what I thought on Easter Sunday: Valadez brings the reader right into the poet's dilemma and moving forward with that life:

"You're originally from Chicago Heights. Have you always lived in this area? (If not, when did you move?)"

I lived in Chicago Heights my entire life until I moved to Boulder, Colorado in 2004 for graduate school at Naropa University. I lived on Green Street as an infant, near 21st and Chicago Road until I was about 8 or 9, on Aberdeen Street (across from Washington-Mckinley) until I was 12, off Division and Lincoln Highway (near where Klein's Dept. Store used to be), and then near the PACE Bus Station. It's not a large city by any stretch of the imagination, but each of those areas had unique characteristics that made them feel like different places completely.

What is life like growing up in Chicago Heights?

"That's a really difficult question to answer with any sort of equity to the myriad of people and events that transpired in the space that is my place for me. My mother spoke to me a lot about the old Downtown Chicago Heights (the movie theater, the stores at which you could shop on credit only, the White Elephant actually having a discernable use) - though that backdrop shone a wider array of diversity in background, opinion, and upbringing than anyone could expect from a place with less than 35,000 residents. The city raised me in often painful ways, but also taught me about possibilities in the raw form of existence. It beat me down more in a few occasions but also fueled me to propel myself into the larger world. Before I left, I fluctuated between wanting to live there forever and wanting to never see it again. I can say now that I have a healthier attitude towards my hometown and visit regularly with a desire to work there in the future."

I read that your family lived in the African American section of town because your mother wanted to keep you away from gangs. Can you elaborate on that?

"My mother is a much more clever person than she would ever give herself credit for. She knew that if we lived up around our extended family (who lived in other largely Latino parts of the Heights) it would only be a matter of time before we were indoctrinated into gang life. She just had to be sure we didn't get with the amount of entities we had involved in that racket, to expect her children to not succumb, in one way or another, to that way of being."

Knowing the long history of segregation in the Chicagoland area (and how that extended even to criminal enterprises like gangs), she moved us into largely African-American neighborhoods where she knew it was far less likely (though not entirely impossible) for us to be recruited into the gangs then.

As a Mexican American, did you feel out of place in your neighborhood? What kind of obstacles did you face on a day-to-day basis?

"Certainly living in a neighborhood where you don't resemble anyone else resulted in a few obstacles and a little bit of conflict, but, having lived in those environments for as long as I could remember, those areas became my own and I didn't see too much of a problem with that. I started attending a Catholic school that wasn't too close to home as I became older, however, was a growing connection between myself and other Latinos that I grew up with. We would just be lucky to identify with each other and our leaning adolescence put the nail in the coffin of most of our childhood friendships. It didn't help that I took to Alternative Rock and Punk and Hardcore in those years, as well. None of my childhood friends understood that. One of place is one way to put it."

"By Michelle Hulett
Stiff Writer"

This month's book review centers on the work of Luis Valadez. Originally from Chicago Heights. After reading his work, I had the fantastic opportunity to sit down with Luis for an interview. Below is the transcript from my interview with Luis Valadez.

Valadez Interview Continued on the Following Page
After high school, you went to Columbia, correct (and then Naropa)? What was your focus? What did you want to do with your life?

Yes, I went to Columbia then Naropa. Originally I wanted to do some kind of Sound Recording in the Audio Arts and Acoustics Program. While I was convinced by the aforementioned teachers to take school seriously and I did, I had the feeling that music was a greater passion. I could learn Audio Engineering, record bands for a living, and engage in all around musical existence. Having the proclivities I did towards writing, I tested out of English. Comp. I and took Comp. II my first semester. I got an A in Comp. II. If my instructor had the grade qualified me to work in the writing center at Columbia. I went down to the center and filled out the paperwork and I did have the self-confidence of being around so many writers compelled me to take a semester off of Audio and take a few Poetry classes. That semester saw me leave the Audio program and change my major to Poetry. I wanted to write and teach poetry on the collegiate level. What it came down to for me was the realization that both Audio Engineering and Poetry.

Writing/Teaching were going to be difficult avenues with which to earn a living, I was going to pursue such a difficult trajectory, then be better one that I was passionate about. Poetry won out. My senior year at Columbia, I made the decision to apply to graduate schools with the caveat that if I didn’t get in anywhere I would stay at Columbia and finish my Poetry B.A. I applied to 7 programs, got into 4 outright and wait listed at 1, so I decided to graduate without a major from Columbia and pursue an MFA in Writing and Poetics from Naropa University. All the while, I wanted to pursue a faculty position teaching poetry at a university, but now my desire to teach was on both the collegiate level and as well as poetry teaching with elementary-high school aged students as a means of self expression, exploration, and academic support.

what I'm on has just been published. What do the look mean to you and what message do you hope to get across to your readers? Who is the intended audience?

The book is comprised of work I wrote from 2004-2007. It is, in essence, the result of my coming to terms with my own background and upbringing with the desire to deconstruct and deform not only those elements of my past that became the building blocks of my identity, but that identity as well. “what I’m on” as a title works to prepare the reader for that investigation. My audience, perhaps in my most illuminating and vague terms, is anyone who can extrapolate anything from the text can be rendered palpable upon introspection. The book is my attempt to get behind my own initial sentiments to discover what is beyond even seemingly candid thoughts. On a more grounded level, in terms of audience, I tend to think of the poems in the book as “hooks in the water.” When I was kid, there were artists and art that spoke to me and I could grab onto what I found in them and let them help me to my next plateau. I think of my writing in the same sense. As a young presenting, I’ve heard no convincing argument as to why I should continue to live or look forward to what seemed like a doomed existence, but finding someone in a piece of art elicited the hope that resided dormant within me and encouraged me to keep moving and in time I became aware of the possibilities inherent in living. I don’t know what it is that will ultimately make anyone want to live their life, but I do hope that the work I create can help someone make the discovery what it is that’s going to be for them.

If you were able to come back to local high schools to speak to some students, what advice would you give? As a teacher...would you how would you teach the students who are currently mad at the world, don’t want to be there, and refuse to do any work?

To the students, I would tell them that there is a life beyond the school they go to and that neighborhoods they inhabit, that the life out there is worthwhile for them to take in order to get there they have to be willing to work their way through their current circumstances. All that is being done and not doing anything is going to accomplish in them staying there. They need to explore what they already have available to them in order to discover what are truly passionate about and part that into something that makes their lives worth living.

For you the teacher, I would encourage you to remain persistent. Most of the time, you are not going to see the fruits of your labor with your students, but that doesn’t mean you’re not sowing a seed within them. It is important to understand what they are dealing with on a day to day basis and be sensitive to that, but it is also important for you to not treat your students any differently than you would treat anyone else. The children we work with are more and more like adults everyday and they need to be treated as such. They need to know that they are making their own progress and if they feel helpless, they need to know that the anger they’re feeling can be channeled into positive means, but it can also eat them up and destroy any hope for their future. For as angry as they are now and for as much as they feel justified in that anger (and I am sure they are justified), they need to know that the anger they feel is a means with which the people who’ve hurt them are able to continue to hurt them. As a working as that anger feels, if they let in consume them it will only shut them away from the possibilities of living a better life, while the very people who hurt them don’t think twice about it. It certainly helps to see them some good examples of channeling anger into positive works (and I don’t necessarily mean to call myself an example, but I think you understand what I mean). Their perspective is only as wide as what they’ve seen and many of children have not seen what negativity.

Are You Making Something Better?

By Bob Roth

The “College & Career Success” Coach

You and every other college student have the opportunity and obligation to make something better for those around you. All you have to do is think about your passions, your strengths and the needs of others. Those three areas will all offer a variety of opportunities for you to easily make some valuable contributions, things that will make something better.

Your contribution doesn’t have to be very big. In fact, you can purposely start small. However, what the contribution may be and how big it should be is entirely up to you. You don’t have to invent anything or build anything. You simply have to try to make a positive difference in someone else’s life.

For some students, making something better may mean volunteering to help other people, supporting an organization or campaign for a cause. Your contribution can be as simple as being a shopping for supplies, making phone calls, running errands, offering encouragement, planting a tree, visiting someone in the hospital, working at a food pantry, giving blood, picking up trash, writing a letter to the editor or teaching a child how to play a game. The fact is, you can improve things wherever you are: at home, on campus, at work, in the local community and beyond.

Doing good and making something better is the silent calling of every contributing member of society. Knowing that not everyone will be successful, we are still obligated to try. For only those who have frequently come up short can truly appreciate the importance of a small success.

Your contribution doesn’t have to be very big; in fact, you can purposely start small. However, what the contribution may be and how big it should be is entirely up to you. You don’t have to invent anything or build anything. You simply have to try to make a positive difference in someone else’s life.

For some students, making something better may mean volunteering to help other people, supporting an organization or campaign for a cause. Your contribution can be as simple as being a contributing member of society. Knowing that not everyone will be successful, we are still obligated to try. For only those who have frequently come up short can truly appreciate the importance of a small success.

While you are in college, look for opportunities where you can improve things wherever you are: at home, on campus, at work, in the local community and beyond. Doing good and making something better is the silent calling of every contributing member of society. Knowing that not everyone will be successful, we are still obligated to try. For only those who have frequently come up short can truly appreciate the importance of a small success.
The College of Arts and Sciences and Student Life Unit presented Governors State University's 3rd Annual Artsfest on Oct. 14. The fest was a celebration of the arts at GSU and included events such as open studio workshops, portfolio reviews, round table discussions, a student and community art fair and tours of GSU's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Take a look at some of the moments caught on film during the fest!

Icelandic Sculptor Visits Campus During ArtsFest

By Jeff Smaltz
Contributing Writer

Steinunn Thorarinsdottir visited Governors State University during ArtsFest to speak about her newest addition to Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Horizons, which made its debut during the first week of July on the north side of the campus lake.

During the hour-long lecture by Thorarinsdottir in a nearly full Engbrethton Hall she talked about her past work, her inspiration for Horizons, and plans for the future. She also took questions from students and faculty at the end of the lecture. Thorarinsdottir, who is from Iceland and has exhibited work around the world, said she is inspired by the human form. Many of her large sculptures, often made of cast iron, stainless steel, concrete and glass, are displayed outdoors. When working on a piece, Thorarinsdottir said she doesn’t have a plan but goes with the flow. When a piece is finished that’s when she gives it a title.

“The great thing about art is that you start with a blank piece of paper and don’t know what will happen,” Thorarinsdottir said during her lecture. Horizons is an exhibition of 12 life-sized figures cast in iron that features an insert of polished glass. The glass is the last thing to be added to the figures and represents hope in the midst of loneliness and isolation.

Thorarinsdottir felt that GSU is the best location thus far for these figures, due to the open prairie, more land, more vulnerable, and more connected with the sky because other places had more shade.

The work was featured in the January 2009 issue of Sculpture Magazine and is the subject of the documentary film Horizons by independent filmmaker Frank Cantor, which won the CINE Special Jury Award in Washington as the best short documentary of 2008, according to GSU's Manilow Sculpture Park website. Horizons will remain at GSU until September 2010.

Nature Photographer Presents Perfect Pictures at GSU

Noted nature photographer, Mel Katz of Chicago discussed how to visualize a picture and take a better photograph at a discussion last month in the University Library at Governors State University.

“The Nature of Photography” presentation centered on what makes a good picture using examples from photographs Katz has taken on three continents and drawing on the concepts of art design. His discussion will help developing photographers to better visualize pictures before talking the shot.

Mel Katz has been a student of photography for 45 years. He specializes in wildlife and landscape imagery, depicting only limited human interaction. He exhibits and markets his work at Chicago area juried art fairs and directly to private collectors. His work has been displayed at the Prairie Center in Schaumburg. Dearborn Park Station in Chicago, and Governors State University several times. In addition, Katz has lectured on travel photography at Borders Bookstore.

The presentation was sponsored by the Library Intellectual Life Committee.
Spirtuality and Surveillance: Art by Gabriel Villa

By Barbara Hoag
Contributing Writer

...The Visual Arts Gallery of GSU recently exhibited the work of Gabriel Villa, an artist known for his extremely powerful images. In a recent interview, the author admitted that his art often raises questions. "My work operates between figuration and abstraction, leaving more questions unanswered than answered, but my increasingly powerful combination of signs and symbols with my figures and abstraction opens many avenues to interpretation, positive or negative," he said.

Villa says "the composition of Stripper from Juarez, is consciously composed, artificial, even theatrical...the colors are not true to the original scene. I want viewers to know it's a painting." In the painting Más vida que muerte, the colors are not true to the original scene. I want viewers to know it's a painting.villa explained. The headless figure symbolizes Christ on the cross placed in a diamond shape of radiating dots from his groin and roses to replace his head with the words vida ("life") and muerte ("death") vertically paralleled in the background.

The dominating colors of red and blue vibrates in the radiation as well as the yellow-orange. Surely my work operates between figuration and abstraction, leaving more questions unanswered than answered, but my increasingly powerful combination of signs and symbols with my figures and abstraction opens many avenues to interpretation, positive or negative, simply, ideas," Villa explained.

Three powerful works on paper, which are mixed media, were also included in the exhibit. They are Portrait: Anonymous, Portrait of Lee Roy, and Black Hope: Poverty and Capitalism. Each addresses Villa's concepts of the "human conditions" of existence.

Portrait: Anonymous is a double portrait that seems to symbolize the mental and physical turmoil of the subject. In the Portrait of Lee Roy, the figure is direct and confronts the viewer with a powerful glance of confidence but with a feeling of uncertainty. In Black Hope: Poverty and Capitalism, three separate drawings make-up the composition to depict the portrait of the same man with praying hands in front of the left and right of his face and then in the third praying hands are behind to the right of his head. The praying hands are a symbol for hope and divine intervention that alters psychological and physical oppression. These drawings are large, ranging from 3x4 feet, to 4x7 feet in size. These larger sizes help to enhance their power to convey Villa's messages in which his goal is to "dignify and mystify his subjects." His desire is "to refocus the human form and introduce an idiosyncratic, psychological element that positions portraiture beyond its traditional representation. Villa is a Chicago-based professional artist recently nominated for the prestigious 3Arts.

Award in the category of Visual Arts. Villa's most recent project, The Art of Gabriel Villa, is a 100-page book that depicts Villa's body of work. Villa received his MFA from the University of Delaware and a BFA from Corpus Christi State University, Texas. M. Gabriel Villa was born and raised in the El Paso, Texas/ Ciudad Juarez border region and currently resides in Chicago, where he is an active member of the arts community and provides leadership to the Yollocalli Arts Reach program at the National Museum of Mexican Arts. For further information, visit www.gabrielfvilla.net.
Listening Often the Best Suicide Prevention Tool

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

With the holidays, finals and blustery winter weather just around the corner, you or a loved one might be facing some of the most emotionally challenging days of the year.

Tamekia Scott, Outreach Counselor at Governors State University, hosted a suicide prevention open forum earlier this trimester on World Suicide Prevention Day. The main focus of the forum was to help people understand some of the facts about suicide and how to help someone who might be thinking about suicide.

According to Scott, one of the most important things you can do is be a listening ear for someone. If someone you know or love has been looking very upset or sad, you should ask them how they are doing, because they may just need someone to talk to. One of the biggest myths about suicide is that talking about suicide will plant the idea in someone’s head and they will go through with it, she said.

She also says that not only younger people commit suicide, but senior citizens commit suicide as well. Tamekia explained that it is not only because of terminal illnesses, but the fact that many of their loved ones may be gone.

If you suspect that someone you know may be considering suicide you should first talk to them about it and listen when they talk, tell them you care, and if absolutely necessary seek out professional help. If you have any questions about suicide prevention or need other help, the counseling office here at GSU is located in the Academic Resource Center, B1215, and for those who are not current students they can call the University Counseling Lab at (708) 534-4545.

Keep Yourself Informed

Useful and important information is sent to you via your GSU email. Don’t miss it.

To transfer your GSU email to your personal email, follow these easy instructions -

Log in to iMail at mail.govst.edu using your GSU iMail username and password. Click Preferences.

In the "User Preferences" window, under "General User Settings," in the box labeled "Forward to:" type the e-mail address to which you would like to have your iMail messages forwarded. Click "Save."

For more information, visit www.govst.edu/its/t_its.aspx?id=2081#iMail.Forward

Some tips to help reduce stress and anxiety:
1. Get active! Try walking or bike riding.
2. Volunteer within your community or with a favorite organization.
3. Get plenty of sleep.
4. Eat regularly and choose healthy food options.
5. Connect with something you find meaningful like art, nature, or religion.

Places to find more information:
• National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK
  www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
• American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 888-333-AFSP
  www.afsp.org
• Information on World Suicide Prevention Day with videos, PDF files, and a list of ways you can help support World Suicide Prevention Day www.afsp.info/wsp/index.php
• International Association for Suicide Prevention Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/International-Association-for-Suicide-Prevention/115204064521
PhD Cartoonist Detained

By John Conrad
Associate Editor

Jorge Cham, cartoonist of the comic series "Piled Higher and Deeper" (PhD), which is regularly featured in the Phoenix, was recently detained and almost deported from the United Kingdom.

Cham, a native of the United States, traveled to the UK to give a series of lectures at seven various English universities in late October and early November. While traveling through Heathrow Airport on Oct. 26, Cham was detained overnight by members of the UK Border Agency.

Initially border agents had planned to deport Cham the following day, when he pleaded his case again and was eventually granted entry into the country after furnishing the border agents with several letters from colleagues in the field of academia.

"Guys, this all happened this week! But fear not, the lectures will go on as scheduled. Keep calm and carry on," Cham commented on the incident on his website, www.phdcomics.com.

Cham received his PhD from Stanford University in Mechanical Engineering. He later went on to teach full time at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) between 2003 and 2005. Cham began the comic strip, "PhD," when he was a graduate student at Stanford, in 1997.

Currently Cham has quit his teaching position to focus solely on his comic series, and travels to give lectures to college students around the world.

The three-comic series, titled "Detained," that follows this article outlines Cham's experience with the overzealous UK border agents. If something like this can happen to a noteworthy academic like Cham, it begs the question: Could it happen to you?
MEDICAL EMERGENCY, FIRE, and NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Attention Individuals with Disabilities:

Governors State University is dedicated to providing you with a safe learning and working environment. The university’s plans for medical, fire, and disaster emergencies include an emphasis on individuals with disabilities.

While GSU has posted guidelines for responding to fires, tornadoes, and other natural disasters, we understand that students with disabilities or medical conditions may require special accommodations during emergency situations. It is important that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Emergency Response Team (ERT) are aware of any special needs in case of an emergency situation.

We have developed a form for you to identify special needs you might have for assistance during an emergency. The form will document your personal contact information, emergency contacts, and information on any physical, communication, or evacuation limitations that need to be provided to emergency responders. This information will be filed with the Department of Public Safety and released to any responding agencies in the event of an emergency.

Please send an email to the Emergency Response Team (ert@govst.edu) or call 708.235.7595 to request a copy of the form to complete and file with DPS.

Thank you.

The GSU Emergency Response Team

Sherilyn W. Poole, Chair
Debra Boyd
Pete Mizera
Susan Rakstang
Gary Lyon
Eric Matanyi
International Film Festival Comes to Chicago

By Jason Knade

Contributing Writer

The Chicago International Film Festival, the nation’s oldest competitive international film festival, has been bringing Chicagoans some of the best films and filmmakers for the past 45 years. This year was no different.

From Lars Von Trier’s Antichrist, arguably the most controversial film of the year, to Lone Scherfig’s An Education, a moving story that starred the brilliant Carey Mulligan, there was something for all breeds of Chicago cinephiles to enjoy.

Every year, Chicago’s festival is attended by prominent figures in the film industry. Uma Thurman and Willem Dafoe, both of whom received the festival’s Career Achievement Award, attended this year’s event. Other notable attendees included the wonderful actor Martin Landau, who received the festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the legendary director John Woo.

The film showcased the work of many prominent filmmakers and stars, including Peter Sarsgaard, Emily Blunt, and the numerous artists listed above, but the festival also stayed true to its mission of screening films made by unknown and rising talents.

As Chicago critic Roger Ebert said, “The Chicago International Film Festival has spent its lifetime being a lifeline for new directors, films, and national cinemas.”

One new artist brought into the Chicago spotlight was Gabourey Sidibe, the brilliant lead actress of Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire. Her riveting portrayal of a young African American girl who is pregnant for the second time, Claireece has to deal with all sorts of problems: an absent father, a controlling and abusive mother, and everything else one had to endure while living in impoverished Harlem in the late eighties. Despite all the hardships, the protagonist and film is filled with a hopeful and life-affirming optimism that is both refreshing and heartening. Dan Pa, a Chicago film professor who attends the festival annually, called Precious “the best film of the year so far” and “a major Oscar contender.”

Antichrist

Antichrist, the newest brainchild of the ever-disturbing – but always brilliant – Lars Von Trier, has shocked and awed audiences across the world, and it produced no different effect here in Chicago. Tom Ohman, a Chicago film enthusiast who attended the Antichrist showing, called it “disturbing, seriously disturbing.” After a slight pause, he added, “But I loved it.” The film follows a troubled married couple, perfectly played by Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg (who won the Best Actress award at Cannes), as they struggle with the loss of their son. They try to overcome their grief and fears using exposure therapy, and the result is a haunting journey into the depths of madness, filled with supernatural and wildly violent events. Trier, a self-admitted provocateur, certainly did not hold back in the film. If one is able to stomach the grotesque imagery and explicit sexuality, i.e. a chloridectomy with rusty scissors, there is a much deeper side to the film; it illuminates the frailty of the human psyche and explores complex themes of guilt, anger, sexuality, and madness.

Highlights of the Festival:

Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire

A film loved by critics and audiences alike, Precious has been wildly popular at every festival it’s been screened at. It won three awards at Sundance, one at Toronto, and it recently received the Audience Choice Award here in Chicago. Michael Kuitz, festival founder and artistic director, said, “Like everyone else who’s seen it, I was left absolutely shattered by Precious.” The film follows Claireece “Precious” Jones, a 16-year-old African American girl who is pregnant for the second time. Claireece has to deal with all sorts of problems: an absent father, a controlling and abusive mother, and everything else one had to endure while living in impoverished Harlem in the late eighties. Despite all the hardships, the protagonist and film is filled with a hopeful and life-affirming optimism that is both refreshing and heartening. Dan Pa, a Chicago film professor who attends the festival annually, called Precious “the best film of the year so far” and “a major Oscar contender.”

Antichrist

Antichrist, the newest brainchild of the ever-disturbing – but always brilliant – Lars Von Trier, has shocked and awed audiences across the world, and it produced no different effect here in Chicago. Tom Ohman, a Chicago film enthusiast who attended the Antichrist showing, called it “disturbing, seriously disturbing.” After a slight pause, he added, “But I loved it.” The film follows a troubled married couple, perfectly played by Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg (who won the Best Actress award at Cannes), as they struggle with the loss of their son. They try to overcome their grief and fears using exposure therapy, and the result is a haunting journey into the depths of madness, filled with supernatural and wildly violent events. Trier, a self-admitted provocateur, certainly did not hold back in the film. If one is able to stomach the grotesque imagery and explicit sexuality, i.e. a chloridectomy with rusty scissors, there is a much deeper side to the film; it illuminates the frailty of the human psyche and explores complex themes of guilt, anger, sexuality, and madness.

Zombieland a Must-See

By Brooke Lang

Contributing Writer

Zombies are the most versatile of legendary monsters. In movies, they can evoke feelings of pure horror (28 Days Later) or they can be ridiculously hilarious (as seen in Shaun of the Dead). In Zombieland, the monsters provide a great balance of horror and hilarity and will satisfy almost any zombie enthusiast.

Other than a few survivors, the Earth’s population has been decimated by a virus that turns everyone into blood-thirsty, drooling, ravenous zombies. No one is immune to the zombie virus; the opening credits hilariously depict zombie strippers, businessmen, and even a bride on her wedding day. Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg), only known by the name of his hometown in Ohio, narrates Zombieland. Our hero, a loner and IBS sufferer, punctuates the movie with his list of rules for survival in what he calls Zombieland (formerly the United States of America). Columbus is a neurotic, yet lovable college student trying to get home to his family. He’s not really into killing zombies; he just wants to find a nice girl to introduce to his parents (if they aren’t zombies yet).

Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson), another drifter Columbus likens to Yosemite Sam, is hell-bent on killing zombies and stocking up on post apocalyptic Twinkies. Tallahassee’s pursuit for Twinkies is not only because he has a craving for the little cakes, but the Twinkies represent for Tallahassee the last bit of normalcy in a dying world.

Although the movie is intended to be funny and gory, there are moments that are truly touching and lead the audience sympathetic for the movie’s characters. Colombus and Tallahassee, two unlikely travel companions, encounter feisty Wichita (Emma Stone) and her kid sister Little Rock (Abigail Breslin). The quartet takes a road trip to Los Angeles because, supposedly, it’s zombie-free. Besides, gun-toting Little Rock wants to visit a particular amusement park she visited as a child. Regardless of the ever-present zombies, the gang finds normalcy by sightseeing in LA and encounters the funniest celebrity cameo I have ever seen on film. If there is any one reason to see Zombieland, it’s for these 10 minutes.

Zombieland may look like a horror film, but it’s more of a comedy than anything else actually. It’s got some heart, too (when it’s not being eaten). The dialogue is fast-paced, witty, and thoroughly entertaining.

The gore and carnage are brief, so even the squeamish can enjoy the film. In one of my favorite moments, Little Rock argues with Tallahassee about the intricacies of Hannah Montana. While there are many pop-culture references and the writing seems to have been directed toward the indie/hipster crowd, I think anyone can enjoy this movie. Also, for those burned out on the recent vampire mania (like me), Zombieland is a must see.

Crossword & Sudoku found on page 8.
Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

ACROSS
1. Open-mouthed
6. "Wise birds"
10. Epic
14. Grows weary
15. Writer of vers
16. Frigid
17. For all to see
18. Bit
19. Chocolate cookie
20. Quiet
22. A salt used especially in baking powder
24. Steering mechanism
25. Family name
26. Burning
27. Typeface
30. Metal
31. Regard
32. A condition
34. Dwarf
35. A unit of pressure
36. Visual organs
37. Make into
39. Beer
40. Contour
41. Flax
42. Casting
45. Stake
46. Skate
47. Omits
48. Without much difficulty
49. Cooktop
51. Songs for two
52. Body
53. Cousin of
54. Cousin
55. Body
56. What you're
58. Dog biter
60. Female deer
62. Donor
63. Typeface
64. Lacquer

DOWN
1. At the peak of
2. Donate
3. Territory
4. Mayhap
5. High regard
6. An addictive narcotic
7. It comes from sheep
8. Allow
9. An act passed by a legislative body
10. Diedain
11. Heart artery
12. Twinkle
13. Love
14. Intensely
15. Just one symbol
16. Teller of untruths
17. Break open
18. A condition marked by uncontrollable tremor
19. Incapable of reproducing
20. Dwarf buffalo
21. Unit of pressure
22. Visual organs
23. Animal with a snout
24. Casting
25. Beteal palm
26. Femme fatale
27. Typeface
28. Teller of untruths
29. Break open
30. A condition marked by uncontrollable tremor
31. Incapable of reproducing
32. Dwarf buffalo
33. Unit of pressure
34. Dwarf buffalo
35. Unit of pressure
36. Visual organs
37. Make into
38. Animal with a snout
39. Beer
40. Contour
41. Flax
42. Casting
43. Jacob's brother
44. Without much difficulty
45. Stake
46. Skate
47. Omits
48. Cooktop
49. Cooktop
50. Ancient Assyrian city
51. Songs for two
52. Body
53. Cousin of
54. Cousin
55. Body
56. What you're called
57. Smile
58. Dog biter
59. Female deer
60. Female deer
61. A stringed instrument of India
62. Oversupply
63. Standard
64. Lacquer ingredient
65. Cobs of corn
66. Heredity carrier
67. Spermal fluid

Sudoku:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call 708-534-3068, or e-mail phoenixad@govst.edu