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Student Life

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GSU Celebrates First 40 Years; Looks Ahead to Many More

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

Visitors to GSU's now have an easy way to discover the history of the campus, with the new History Wall that has been placed in the main entrance. The History Wall was first unveiled to the public on the afternoon of November 6th as part of the university's 40th anniversary celebration.

The History Wall features a touch screen interface where people can watch videos like University President Elaine Maimon's 2009 Convocation Speech, Edgar Casillas' 2009 Graduation speech, a selection of photos from GSU's past, and a 1985 performance by the GSU String Quartet.

More videos may be added in the future. A touchpad is located beneath the screen for people who are more comfortable with that than the touch screen. The speakers project the sound downward so people can still read or study in the Main Entrance and not worry about being distracted by someone viewing a video. The wall also features a timeline of milestones of the campus and historical events.

Prior to the unveiling, a panel that included current and former faculty and administrators and educators from the area focused on GSU's history and its future. The panel was moderated by Dr. Paul Green, a former GSU faculty member, who is from the Institute for Politics at Roosevelt University.

The panelists included Maimon, Dr. Blondean Davis, the Superintendent of Matteson School District 162, Dr. Leo Goodman-Malamuth, the president of GSU from 1976-1993, and Dr. Adenuga Atevoglou, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Roosevelt University.

When asked what attracted him to come to GSU, Malamuth said that "It was an institution on the move." When founded in 1969, GSU was a university "without walls" and an open philosophy that did not include traditional grades or rankings for faculty. Much has changed in four decades and the university remains on the move today.

"We aspire to be a model 21st century university," Maimon said when discussing the challenge all universities face in regards to helping students who start at a community college and want to go for a bachelor's degree or higher.

Maimon and Malamuth agreed that that one thing has not changed in the years between their administrations. Students at GSU today have the same dedication as those who attended during Malamuth's time.

The discussion was filmed for archival purposes and for broadcast on GSU's cable channel at a future date.

The celebration took an upbeat swing Saturday, Nov. 7 as a crowd enjoyed a concert of Motown favorites and then danced the night away. Some in the crowd really got into the spirit of the 40th anniversary by sporting fashions from the late 60s.

Congratulations to Governors State University on completing the accreditation process and maintaining its status as a quality Illinois university for another 10 years! Look for details and more information in our January 2010 issue!
I WANT YOU!
TO WRITE FOR THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COURSE!

If you have an interest in writing, journalism, or design, the Phoenix has a place for you!

The Phoenix Student Newspaper is looking for student contributors to help in making the Phoenix a success.

If you are interested, please contact the Phoenix office at 708-534-4517 or phoenix@govst.edu.

Happy Holidays and Thanks to All!

By Sarah Koehler
Editor

It’s hard to believe that 2009 is almost over, but in just a few weeks, we’ll be watching the ball drop on 2010 and be ready to begin a new year here at GSU! As the holidays draw closer and closer, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank a few people for their continued support with The Phoenix.

To our faculty advisor, Victoria Pierce, for her never ending support and ideas for the paper. I certainly couldn’t do this job without her willingness to garner stories from students, conduct interviews, work with our printer and help get the paper onto newsstands!

To my layout editor, John Conrad, for always being willing to put in the time and effort needed to make the paper look so great! While I’ve got the writing and editing skills, the paper would never happen if it weren’t for John’s ability to see the pages as works of art and his ability to design a publication of which I’m continually proud. Not only that, he has to put up with me as the editor and I certainly appreciate that!

To my staff writer, Michelle Hulett, for her willingness to read novel after novel in order to get a good review. In addition to her help with the paper, Michelle has become a very good friend, offering advice and a shoulder to lean on when Phoenix issues — or just life issues — come up. Thanks for everything you do, Michelle!

To Eric Matanyi and Lindsay Gladstone in the GSU Public Relations Department: thanks for keeping me in the loop about GSU events and announcements! I couldn’t keep the paper going without your stories, photos and willingness to keep the GSU community informed!

To President Maimon for her continued support of the newspaper and for her willingness to offer advice and input to our stories. I sincerely appreciate her support and realize that I’m extremely fortunate to have a school president who legitimately cares about the student newspaper and what it has to offer the school community.

Finally, to YOU the GSU students and faculty, who continue to offer stories, photos and tidbits for publication that make the paper what it is — a real testament to the community we have here at GSU. Please continue to keep me informed of what you have going on at GSU in 2010!

To each and every one of you, the staff and I (along with my husband, Tony, and our families) wish you ALL a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! See you in January!
Don’t give germs a free ride.

Prevent infection -
Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer.

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
GSU Profs return from Pusan Film Festival

By Jeff Smolts
Contributing Writer

Governors State University professors Daniel Nearing and Sanghoon Lee’s film “Chicago Heights” was chosen to be screened at the prestigious Pusan International Film Festival which lasted from 10/8 to 10/16.

They did not come home with any awards; however they both came home with a sense of accomplishment. The winning film’s director, of “Last Cowboy Standing,” Zaida Bergroth, had nothing but praise for Nearing and Lee’s work. “After seeing our film, she said ‘I’d forgotten that black and white could be so beautiful.’ That’s one of the nicest compliments we’ve had, especially coming from someone who had made a great film,” said Nearing. Lee added that she was stunned when she learned that “Chicago Heights” did not cost any money to make, except time and hard work.

It was Lee’s second time attending the Pusan International Film Festival, and the first for Nearing. Nearing had no idea how huge it was. He compared it to the Cannes Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival. Lee and Nearing already have another film in the works. Nearing described it as a mainstream “road movie” for the audience. Lee is currently working on a production schedule, with both professors already having a screenplay in place.

Nearing had met some great people at the festival. For Lee, the most inspirational person was a limo driver.

“The most influential person at Pusan was not a filmmaker, but was a limo driver. When I arrived at Pusan International Airport, the PIFF hospitality team arranged me a limo,” Lee said. “While moving to the hotel, I thanked him and asked how he volunteered this job. Although he was not a filmmaker, he just loved the city and the festival. He truly loved what he was doing. He was very proud of himself being a driver for the festival, because the competitive rate was 9:1 when he applied for the limo driver.”

Nearing plans to keep in touch with the people he met via Facebook.

“Chicago Heights” will be released on DVD in the future.

Illinois Wesleyan Professor Discovers New Species of Frogs

Bryophryne hansaaseri, one of three new frog species discovered in Peru.

BLOOMINGTON, IL — Edgar Lehr, assistant professor of biology at Illinois Wesleyan University, is part of a duo that recently discovered three new species of frogs living in the forests of southern Peru.

Lehr and his partner, Swiss-Peruvian ecologist Alessandro Catenazzi from the University of California at Berkeley, have worked together to uncover more than 10 new species of amphibians. “We should know what else is living on our planet,” said Lehr, who noted scientists estimate there are between 5 million to 100 million organisms on Earth, with only about 2 million classified.

“So we are far from a true understanding of the complete planet.”

The three recently discovered species are excellent examples of the diversity of amphibians, according to Lehr. All three new species—Bryophryne hansaaseri, Bryophryne gymnota, and Bryophryne zonalis—are actually do not have a tadpole phase.

“Every school child learns that frog eggs turn into tadpoles, but across the globe, there are frogs who carry eggs on their back, or in pouches on their back. There was even a frog in Australia that swallowed eggs to let them develop inside her stomach,” he pauses and smiles. “Can you tell I love frogs?” With their discovery, there are now six known Bryophryne species.

Over the past several years, Lehr has made nearly two dozen trips to the Peruvian forests. His first journey there dates back to 1997, when he was working on his doctorate from the University of Frankfurt am Main in Germany. After earning his degree, he worked at the State Natural History Collections in Dresden, Germany, where he was the curator of herpetology. He joined the Illinois Wesleyan biology faculty this fall.

Along with advancing the field of biology with their discoveries, Lehr said he and Catenazzi are also assisting conservation efforts in Peru, reinforcing the necessity of the protection of the national forests where the frogs were discovered. “Will tourists be able to see each type of frog discovered? Probably not,” said Lehr. “But when we report the discoveries to the Peruvian ministries, it strengthens their arguments that national forests are needed for these species we never knew existed.”

The co-author of Terrestrial-Breeding Frogs (Stabomantidae) in Peru (Natur- und Tier-Verlag, 2009) Lehr has built an impressive career studying amphibian species. First published at the age of 17, he discovered a new species of turtle at age 23 when he was studying in South Vietnam, and so far has described 70 new species. He is the recipient of several grants, including those from the German Research Foundation, the BIOPAT initiative, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Field Museum of Natural History and the American Museum of Natural History. He is associate editor of the Journal of Herpetology.

Lehr plans to return to Peru to continue his research and classification of amphibian species. “I enjoy the vastly diverse biodiversity,” he said. “I will travel there until I cannot travel anymore.”

“Continuing the research is important for humans to have a deeper understanding of our home,” he added. “When we understand more about the species that live on this planet, we can understand how we are interconnected, and how each species contributes to our lives.”

Continuing to Live on Facebook, After You Die

What happens to your Facebook account after you die?

1. Your account is sealed from any future log-in attempts.
2. You are taken off public search results.
3. Your wall is left open for friends and family to post on.
4. Status updates won’t show up in news feed.

How many Facebook users have a will at all?

In the past week, Facebook security has published exactly what happens to the deceased person’s profile, so they are protected and the family has final say on what happens to their online identity.

If someone passes away, family or friends have to fill out this form, proving that you’ve indeed passed away.

According to Facebook, four things happen to your Facebook profile when you die:

1. Your account is sealed from any future log-in attempts.
2. You are taken off public search results.
3. Your wall is left open for friends and family to post on.
4. Status updates won’t show up in news feed.

When Facebook launched a recent update, users were upset that they had friends who were deceased suggested for them to reconnect with.

“We understand how difficult it can be for people to be reminded of those who are no longer with them, which is why it’s important when someone passes away that their friends or family contact Facebook to request that a profile be memorialized,” Max Kelly, Facebook’s head of security said in an October 26th blog post.

The official word on what happens to a memorialized account:

“When an account is memorialized, we also set privacy so that only confirmed friends can see the profile or locate it in search. We try to protect the deceased’s privacy by removing sensitive information such as contact information and status updates. Memorializing an account also prevents anyone from logging into it in the future, while still enabling friends and family to leave posts on the profile Wall in remembrance.”

If relatives prefer not to have the profile stand as an online memorial, Facebook says it will remove the account altogether.
GSU’s Dr. Maimon Joins Presidents’ Trust

Dr. Elaine Maimon, President of Governors State University, joined the Presidents’ Trust formed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). President Maimon and an esteemed national group of 81 other college and university leaders from around the country formed the Trust to strongly and collectively make the case for liberal education and its value in today’s world. The Presidents’ Trust is a leadership group within the AAC&U’s national initiative is to promote Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College.

“At Governors State University, we believe that students benefit from strong preparation in writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving — the liberal learning clearly articulated by the Presidents’ Trust. It is essential that we combine liberal education with career education,” said Maimon.

Members of the LEAP Presidents’ Trust are leaders from all sectors of higher education and are committed to advocating for the vision, values, and practices that connect liberal education with the individual and societal needs of the twenty-first-century.

Through regional and national meetings and their own advocacy efforts, Trust members will engage with campus members and those outside of higher education about the core purposes and practices of liberal education. They are also providing leadership for advancing reforms in the practice of liberal education both on campus and with other groups and organizations with which they are affiliated.

For a complete list of Presidents’ Trust members, visit www.aacu.org/leap.

GSU Lincoln Laureate Honored

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. This year’s Lincoln Laureate from Governors State University is Adam Taylor of Matteson.

According to those who nominated him, Taylor exemplifies the characteristics of Lincoln Laureates who are chosen for their commitment to the principles of democracy and humanity as embodied by Abraham Lincoln.

Taylor has been an active and contributing member of the GSU community through his work as president of the Student Senate, participant in the Brother 2 Brother program, and member of the Black Student Union. As a student at GSU, he has worked as a Student Life assistant helping plan and implement student activities on campus.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois established the award in 1965. Each recipient receives the Student Laureate Medalion and a certificate of achievement. Taylor and other award recipients recently participated in a ceremony in Springfield, in the Old State Capitol. A luncheon honoring the recipients was held in the Executive Mansion following the ceremony.

“I was not expecting to be nominated for this award. To have people nominate me is pretty amazing. I am thankful to be able to help others and be involved at GSU the way I have been,” said Taylor. Taylor will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics with teacher certification and will student teach at Collin Powell Middle School in Matteson next year: “I have always been good at math and enjoyed helping people,” said Taylor. “Math is a subject people love to hate so I can combine the two and make it easier for students to understand and like math.”
Mario and his pals may be the official mascots for Nintendo, but few traditional Super Mario titles have managed to capture the sort of social multiplayer encouraged by the Nintendo Wii. Aside from the occasional multiplayer mini-games, saving Princess Peach as the Italian plumber has been predominately a solo adventure.

However, New Super Mario Bros. Wii changes all that. It takes the old-school, side-scrolling gameplay of classic Mario titles and turns it on its head by adding three more players and a variety of new power ups to the mix. Just like every other Mario game, Princess Peach is kidnapped by Bowser Jr. and it's up to Mario, Luigi and Blue and Yellow Toad to rescue her. You'll travel across a number of different worlds, completing stages that lead to dungeons ruled by Bowser's children, the Koopalings.

While the order in which you complete stages branch off periodically, the levels are linear and require you and your fellow gamers to reach a flag at the end before the time expires. Accomplishing this, however, isn't quite as simple as it sounds. Each stage is creatively designed and offers a unique challenge that demand quick thinking and even a ticker reflexes to beat. Levels are teeming with enemies ranging from Piranha Plants to Goombas, and on top of that, you'll have to contend with moving platforms, falling blocks, pits of lava, bottomless chasms, etc.

Also, some levels have environmental hazards. Desert levels, for instance, are full of quicksand traps, temporary geysers of sand that serve as pedestals and ferocious winds that can knock you off cliffs. A different stage has players climbing through mechanical clogs, while another has you leaping from one floating manta ray to the next. While some of the earlier levels are fairly easy, the difficulty ramps up in later worlds. The platforming becomes trickier, the levels more unpredictable and the traps more plentiful. The bosses themselves usually aren't all that difficult, but actually fighting your way through their castle to reach them definitely is.

Fortunately, levels are littered with a variety of power ups that will assist you in defeating Bowser's minions. Signature Mario items like the Mushroom, Super Star and Fire Flower return, but there's also new power ups like the Propeller Suit (which allows your character to soar into the air) and the Penguin Suit (which lets players slide across icy surfaces easier). Also, Mario's faithful steed, Yoshi, will pop up every now and then to lend a helping hand.

Items you find in stages are used automatically, but there's a number of nuts scattered throughout the world that reward you with items that can be activated prior to entering a particularly difficult level.

The most interesting new innovation made in New Super Mario Bros. Wii is the ability to play through levels with four players simultaneously. It may sound like a simple, almost trivial addition, but the inclusion of more players transforms the experience radically. You still have to worry about timing jumps, avoiding bad guys and collecting coins, but at the same time, the presence of three other characters adds a brand new dynamic to the gameplay. Each player has a certain amount of lives, and as long as at least one player is still alive, the others will respawn in floating bubbles when they die, but in theory, gamers are suppose to cooperate to clear levels. Whether that means properly rationing items or becoming a makeshift springboard for your buddy to leap on, New Super Mario Bros. Wii has gameplay elements that promote working together. However, at the same time, the added traffic of other players is an obstacle itself.

All too often one player will accidentally (or intentionally) chuck a shell at a team mate or nudge them off a cliff. In fact, though the game doesn't necessarily reward you in Story Mode for betraying your comrades, the urge to steal items and kill your friends is difficult to resist. Even if you're trying to cooperate with your fellow gamers, friendly fire incidents are usually unavoidable.

New Super Mario Bros. Wii also comes with a generous amount of learning aids to help newcomers ease into gameplay. At any time, a team member can encase themselves in a bubble that will float behind the other players. Until someone breaks them out of the bubble, they can't be harmed, effectively allowing less skilled players to travel through more difficult parts of a level without dying.

Dying isn't really an issue, though, because you're issued with unlimited continues. However, if you do end up dying too many times, the game has an optional 'Super Guide' feature. When 'Super Guide' is activated at the beginning of a level, the computer will take control of your character until a player decides to jump back into the action.

Regardless of how you choose to play through New Super Mario Bros. Wii, the gameplay is an absolute blast. You can run through Mario's latest adventure alone and still have fun, but it's highly recommended that you find at least two other gamers to play with.

The only real flaw in New Super Mario Bros. Wii is the lack of additional modes. There's Free-For-All mode and Coin Battle, but they're just derivatives of Story Mode except players are ranked according to how many coins and items they collected at the end of a level. Also, the absence of online multiplayer is baffling. New Super Mario Bros. Wii seems like a title that would be ideal for online gaming. Its a feature that's sorely missed.

Final Verdict

New Super Mario Bros. Wii is an excellent, cooperative multiplayer game that successfully takes the Mario series into seldom explored territories. The new multiplayer feature is an absolute riot, and even if you decide to play through the game alone, the level design and tense, platforming gameplay justify the price of admission.

The exclusion online gameplay is still a pretty huge disappointment, but as long as you have a few friends to regularly play with, New Super Mario Bros. Wii is definitely a game you'll want to pick up. It's old school Mario gaming with an awesome, exciting twist.
Push, the debut novel written by the poet, Sapphire, is a story of self-discovery, hope, and the power of education. Sapphire’s novel centers around an illiterate African-American girl who triumphs in the face of trauma.

Living in Harlem, Precious Jones is a battered child, sexually abused by her father and verbally, mentally, physically, and sexually abused by her mother. She bears her father’s babies at 12 and 16, contracting AIDS, and finally being kicked out of school as a result.

Eventually, Precious enters an alternative school where she meets other troubled girls and, encouraged by a remarkable teacher, gains control of her life through writing. Drawing on her new heroes, Langston Hughes and Alice Walker, for strength, Precious describes writing as “the boat that carry you to the other side.”

Though written in the broken vernacular of its protagonist, Push has a stirring poetic tone that reveals both the beauty and horror of truth. In fact, it is the beauty of the fractured narration that is so incredibly effective.

A short read, it is in no way easy. Vulgar, graphic, and unapologetically raw, it takes some effort to push through the first chapter. The book made me so angry that there were countless times I wanted to throw the book far away and never look at it again.

It is not likely that I will read this book again but the story will definitely stay with me for years to come. In the meantime, it’s certainly worth the read.
Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

ACROSS
1. Accumulate
6. Easy gait
10. Not front
14. Donnybrook
15. Winged
16. Wings
17. Villa
18. Prefix meaning "After" or "Beyond"
19. A title of address
20. Promising
22. A ship's beam
23. "I knew it!"
24. Things that happen
26. Ring of color around the nipple
30. Excellence
33. Journey
35. Hemorrhagic Fever
37. Not fat
38. Vipers
40. Visual
41. Muhammad
42. Merchandise
43. An anagram of "Salt"
44. Between the head and shoulders
47. Mixed-blood
49. Stockings
51. Admission
54. Behold
55. Gosh!
56. A type of cooking utensil
63. Adjoin
64. Tropical root
65. Cloth from flax
66. Entreaty
67. Is
68. Choose
69. Inform
70. Ultimatum ender
71. Noxious plants

DOWN
1. Dogfish
2. List of choices
3. Anagram of "Salt"
4. Leak slowly
5. Consecutive
6. Female demon
7. Margarine
8. Maci club
9. Found at the end of a pencil
10. What they play in the NBA
11. Unearthly
12. Mark of insertion
13. Beams on ships
14. Talk
15. Scene
16. Basilica area
17. Regrets
18. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology)
20. Decorative
30. Units of distance
31. Very imposing or impressive
34. Hindu princess
36. Chocolate cookie
37. Not fat
38. Vipers
40. Visual organs
45. Leg joint
46. Spreads sleeping sickness
47. The color of the sun
48. Wood fastener
52. Not a satellite TV
53. Vicious
54. Fumias
57. Wood fastener
58. Circle fragments
59. Squeezes
60. Initial wage
61. Marsh plant
62. Concludes

Happenings
What's Going on at GSU?

Compiled by Sarah Koehler

EVENTS:

Healthcare Career Fair
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m.
The Center for Performing Arts Lobby
The Office of Career Services is sponsoring a career fair for healthcare workers. Current students, alumni, and community members interested in finding employment in the field of healthcare are invited to attend. More than 35 potential employers will be present. Fields represented will include OT/PT, nursing, healthcare administration, and non-profit agencies. The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the career fair, call (708) 235-3974.

World AIDS Day Activities
Panel Discussion: Tuesday, Dec. 8, noon, Cafeteria Annex Panel Discussion: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m., Cafeteria Annex Information Fair: Tuesday, Dec. 8, noon to 5 p.m., Hall of Governors
Worlds AIDS Day will be marked at Governors State University with an opportunity to learn about the current statistics, facts, and answers about HIV/AIDS. A variety of service providers will offer information on the spread, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Both the information fair and panel discussion are free and open to the public. For more information, call (708) 235-2226.

GSU Holiday Reception
Friday, Dec. 11, 3:30-5 p.m., Hall of Governors RSVP to p-perdue@govst.edu if you'd like to attend. The event is free.

Holiday Break at GSU
University Closed Dec. 24 - Jan 3 Block 1 and 2 classes begin Jan. 11, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Nominate the Student Commencement Speaker
The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the winter commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010. Please complete both the Commencement Faculty-Staff Recommendation Nomination form and the Commencement Student Nomination form and submit them to Vanessa Newby, (room A2104) no later than Wednesday, Dec. 16. Please note that student nominees must be available to meet for an interview on Friday, Jan. 8, between noon and 5 p.m. Forms are available at www.govst.edu under the "News & Events" tab.