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Steve's Reviews

Class of 2011 clears the path for future GSU students

By Evan Dozier
Contributing Writer

Governors State University's 2011 graduating class has decided to contribute to the financial support of future students by donating funds through the "Leave a Legacy" campaign. According to Jacquelyn Smalls, Director of Development, she thought of the Leave a Legacy campaign to help serve potential students who are seeking to further their educational experience at GSU.

"So many GSU students are on scholarships. Someone helped them. They now have the opportunity to help other students complete their education," Smalls said.

The Leave a Legacy campaign is connected with the GSU Promise Fund, which assists qualified Pell-eligible community college transfer students to achieve a bachelor's degree without the stress of accumulated debt. The 'Promise Fund' has its beginnings with GSU's president. "When Dr. Elaine Maimon came to the university, she brought the concept with her, starting the GSU promise," said Smalls.

Funding began as an honorable act. The first year President Maimon made a $10,000 gift and since then, Dr. Maimon and her husband, Mort Maimon, have donated more than $142,000 of their personal funds to the GSU Promise. The amount of money intended for the fund is even greater though. The goal is to fund the GSU Promise Fund with a $1 million endowment. This is where the piggy banks come in. Free, small piggy banks were distributed on April 6 and 7 at the "Salute to Grads" event in the Hall of Governors. According to Smalls, the banks are to be filled with $20.11, the amount as a numerical representation of the class of 2011. Contributors can be assured that all contributions will go to the fund.

"100 percent of all money collected goes into the GSU Promise Fund," said Smalls.

The process is simple and is by no means limited to those graduating in 2011. Anyone willing can participate. Also, anyone can still receive a piggy bank. "We're asking students to return the banks by May 6, 2011 filled with the funds to the Development Office, room D34200. Some have asked me if they can support the cause, even though they aren't graduating. My response is 'yes', please feel free to contribute and thank you very much for your support," stated Smalls.

The Leave a Legacy campaign is just in time for the newly developed Dual Degree Program. This is a partnership between GSU and six Chicagoland community colleges that brings positive attention to the goals of full-time students while providing affordable associates and bachelor's degrees locally, within 4 years.

"We're building momentum for the promise because the first students in the 'Dual Degree Program' will be on the GSU campus in 2012," said Smalls.

When asked if any such gift contributing occurred with past graduating classes, Smalls stated, "No, not that I am aware of." All contributions are tax deductible.
We must take steps to end reliance on oil

Courtesy of The Maneater Editorial Board
Via U-Wire

Fuel is a hot commodity and one we Americans often underestimate in our relatively low-cost energy market. Our infrastructure, our politics and our very lifestyle are all designed with the need in mind to allocate energy the most efficiently. Even down to the level of college students, the energy market has countless strings that tie down finances and resources.

We notice this most heavily in the price of gasoline. Often we bemoan the prices of fuel when they rise near the $4 per gallon mark, but we fail to realize that the U.S. actually enjoys relatively cheap fuel prices compared to nations like Great Britain or France who pay more than $7 per gallon.

The U.S. government has been subsidizing oil companies for decades in order to offset the cost of gasoline to consumers. That means almost $40 billion in taxpayer money is paid directly to oil companies for fuel each year.

We are one of the few countries who do this, and it begs the question - what if we allocated that money beyond oil?

A new wave of hybrids and fully electric vehicles has recently become available to consumers, and they seem to be catching on fairly well. But the technology is only a newcomer in an arena of giants.

A bill recently died in Congress that proposed cutting oil subsidies completely. Undoubtedly, doing so would increase the costs of fuel. But what if we took the $40 billion and gave it back to consumers, in the form of credits households could use to purchase an electric vehicle.

House Republicans were responsible for killing the "Ending Big Oil Tax Subsidies" Act, but it almost certainly traces back even farther to energy lobbyists infecting legislation.

How long is it going to take for us to realize we’ve been mucking around in oil long enough? Politicians continue to stall legislation that would release the death grip oil companies have on the energy market. How does that benefit us or count as forward thinking?

The answer to stymieing oil subsidies is to cut off demand for oil itself, and that’s where our generation can succeed.

It’s simple. Cutting oil subsidies will cause the price of gasoline to increase toward its natural equilibrium. The high price will necessarily shrink demand for oil and create massive demand for non-oil dependant transportation.

Taking the money from oil subsidies, and giving it to households for electric cars in a cash-for-clunkers-esque manner would give the auto-industry more than enough incentive to innovate away from oil in order to make massive gains off the new clean energy market’s demand.

Rallying around high-speed rail development and promoting infrastructure changes to accommodate more clean energy use are just a couple ways we can move away from this archaic age of oil.

It’s our generation who is ultimately responsible for realizing enough is enough, that the oil fad should have died decades ago. The technology is there, has been there for a long time, and there’s no reason for us to continue driving our parents’ cars.

If we are to call ourselves a progressive generation, we can’t allow oil companies to continue weighing us down. If we create the demand, the market will follow. Students need to realize they in fact do carry enough influence to change demand, and ultimately, the way we consume energy.

The Phoenix Student Newspaper would like to make the following corrections to a recent article on “New Programs at GSU”:

1. GSU used to offer an MA in School Psychology and has plans to offer it again along with an Education Specialist degree (EdS) in the School of Psychology. GSU’s MA in Psychology is not a new program;

2. While the 10-year master plan may include new doctoral programs, PhDs are not part of that plan;

3. GSU does not have existing accreditation for a Theater program; and

4. At the time of print, GSU was applying for Title III Part A funding, however the university has since learned that there will be no competition this year. Campuses that applied last year that achieved a certain cut-off score are going to be funded. GSU will apply next year.

It is the intent of the Phoenix to provide fair, balanced, and accurate information to the GSU campus and community. Please pardon the errors in this article and continue to trust the Phoenix as a reliable news source for GSU.

Sincerely,
Danyale A. Lucado
Editor-In-Chief
Activities mark GSU Earth Day Celebration

Governor State University's annual Earth Day celebration offers practical demonstrations in environmental sustainability as well as music, wild animal exhibits, children's theater, and organic food served on eco-friendly products.

Earth Day takes place Thursday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the patio by the lake, just outside GSU's Hall of Governors. All events and demonstrations are free and open to the public.

New events have been added to this year's Earth Day. Big Run Wolf Ranch will give demonstrations of its wild animals, including wolves and a bear. Food items include buffalo mini burgers, organic hot dogs and potato chips, and hummus on pita bread. Kidworks Touring Theatre will present a show on global warming and a GSU student will demonstrate beekeeping.

A number of demonstrations are planned on sustainability topics such as composting, organic and community farming, manure, and garden stakes.

Alternative fuel vehicles will be on display. Jewelry made from recycled materials and other eco-products will be available. GSU's Biology Club will again clean up a section of Thorn Creek that runs through campus and display trash taken from the creek.

In addition, tours of GSU's Natural History will take participants to the university's biology field station. Tours of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will also be offered.

Earth Day will include stations for recycling batteries, pharmaceuticals, and cell phones. Other activities throughout the week will focus on sustainability and environmental awareness. The Biology Club's Thorn Creek clean-up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. A recycled art show opens Wednesday in the Hall of Governors and young students at GSU's Family Development Center will help plant trees on Friday.

Earth Day is sponsored by the GSU Sustainability Committee. Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois. For more information, contact (708) 534-4524.

GSU Theater Auditions

Southland Theatre Ensemble to Perform “Ragtime” at GSU

The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) at Governors State University announced it will present the musical “Ragtime” as its 2011 summer production.

Auditions will take place May 18 and 19 in Sherman Recital Hall at GSU. “Ragtime” has roles for a diverse cast of between 40 and 50 players. There are roles for six principal cast members, 10 supporting players, and 23 ensemble members.

Persons wishing to audition should be prepared to present a one minute song selection that demonstrates their vocal range. A dance call will follow the vocal audition.

“Ragtime,” based on the best-selling novel by E.L. Doctorow, is the powerful story of three groups of people coming together in early 20th Century America—well-off WASPs, African Americans, and Eastern European immigrants. Coalhouse Walker, a brilliant Harlem musician, is at the center of the story, which also includes historical characters like Henry Ford, Booker T. Washington, and Harry Houdini. Following its 1998 Broadway debut, “Ragtime” won Tony awards for Best Book and Best Score.

Performance dates are July 30 and 31, and August 5, 6, and 7 in The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University.

SLATE was established in 2009 as an artistic collaboration between The Center for Performing Arts, local theater educators, and veterans of area community theater companies. SLATE has produced two critically-acclaimed summer productions, “Into the Woods” in 2009 and “The Wedding Singer” in 2010.

For more information on “Ragtime” or SLATE, visit www.slatetheatre.org.
Spirituality and Educational Persistence

Fifty community college graduates currently enrolled at Governors State University needed to participate in doctoral research on spirituality and educational persistence.

INCENTIVE:
The first 50 completed survey responders will receive a $5.00 GSU cafeteria gift card.

INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS:
contact the researcher, Shawn L. Govan
at shawnlgovan@gmail.com or via phone at (708) 381-0016

*This project has been approved for implementation by Governors State University’s Institutional Review Board

Disclaimer: The researcher will make the final determination as to whether or not completed survey responses have been submitted seriously and for the purpose and intent of the research being conducted. Incomplete surveys and/or those submitted for any other purpose outside of the nature and scope of the research will not be considered, nor will any incentive be provided to the respondent. It is anticipated that there will be no risks to research participants. Participants and their responses will remain confidential and anonymous to all but the researcher, Shawn L. Govan.
Media Studies at GSU

By Kimberly Snapp
Staff Writer

Governors State University is continuing to establish a reputation that students can rely on with some of the most competitive Media Studies programs in the area. If you’re a Media Studies student or are interested in the program for any reason and are wondering if GSU can compete with the bigger multimedia schools, the faculty at GSU has confirmed that they can.

Mark Kundla, adjunct professor, stated “Nothing is perfect! That is why the GSU degree programs are always studying, researching, and re-inventing. In this day and age of media awareness GSU cannot sit on the sidelines and watch the parade pass by.”

According to James Howley, Chair Division of Liberal Arts, and Marilyn Yirku, Communications Studies Coordinator, GSU uses state of the art programs such as Captivate and the Adobe Creative Suite to thoroughly train students.

Some of these programs are included in the arts department and can be taken as electives, while some are part of the discipline. Yirku also said that the University has just purchased new state of the art software for media studies as well.

GSU offers real world experiences many other universities do not offer. One example comes from the professors themselves. The Photoshop professor travels the world for her photography as well as her graphic work.

Another example is the real world internships that are coordinated for television and radio stations.

“The faculty are very accomplished,” Yirku said. She added, “They are cool folks.”

GSU’s professional media department also offers students the opportunity to make money and work to gain the real life experience they need.

Yirku spoke about the great reputation the interns have with what they have learned at the university stating, “We are yet to hear a complaint from an employer.”

An example of such work comes from the student film “Chicago Heights” which has traveled to many different festivals and was acclaimed as one of Roger Ebert’s best of 2010.

Another perk of GSU is that Alumni often return for guest lecturers to share their experiences and knowledge in the field. Some even come back as adjunct professors such as Mark Kundla.

Kundla continues his education at GSU taking classes in the IFDI discipline. He said “I have been amazed by the thoroughness of the course structure. I have been in the media field for over 15 years and I can truly say I am an “old dog who has learned new tricks.” I have also taken a course for the Photoshop software and had found all of the information I need to create complimentary art work, graphics, and DVD menus to please my clients and my boss.”

To add to the accomplished and experienced staff an Assistant/Associate Professor in Media Communications will be hired for the Fall Semester. Yirku and Howley mentioned in only a week and a half they received 16 applications. The resumes they have seen thus far are very impressive.

The hiring process is very thorough. The committee that is involved in the process even has a student representative to help in the searching process. This addition to the faculty should add to the competitive edge in the program.

Some new things that will be incorporated into the Media studies program will be blogs, social media, and networking. With these devices being so dominant in how we communicate, the university is trying to utilize all the tools the students will need to compete with their peers in the industry.

End of NASA era

BY Nicole Marie Pratl
Contributing Writer

The United States was in all its glory in 1969 when Apollo 11 landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the celestial body. NASA technology and space program has come a long way since then.

Since 1981, space shuttles have taken astronauts into space and made deliveries to the International Space Station. Unlike the Apollo rockets and capsules, the shuttles have been used for multiple missions.

But those missions are coming to an end this year and no further space travel is planned at the moment.

In 2004, former President George W. Bush announced that once the International Space Station is complete the Space Shuttle Program will end. President Barack Obama confirmed the cancellation last year.

According to NASA, the Space Shuttle Program is scheduled to shut down at the end of this year after the last few shuttles are launched. Space Shuttle Discovery retired last February and remaining are Space Shuttle Endeavor set to launch April 29, 2011 and Space Shuttle Atlantis launching on June 28, 2011. They will launch from Florida's Kennedy Space Center to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

NASA's Constellation program, a five-year, $9 billion effort to build new spacecrafts and rockets to launch astronauts into space and on the moon, has been cut entirely from the 2011 budget.

NASA's astronauts, workers and staff, of course, are grieving over the cancelled program. At a National Press Club Conference in Washington back in January 2010, NASA Chief, Charles Bolden said, "To people who are working on these programs, this is like a death in the family."

GSU's own Science and Astronomy Professor, Richard Fox said, "President Obama has to make a lot of tough decisions, and so do the rest of us. NASA has been hurting due to budget constraints at least since the nineteen eighties."

Fox said the United States should emphasize robotic missions in the near term. "We can get plenty of data cheap. In the long run, I think we should also explore space 'in person.' We should continue to learn how to operate in space and on other celestial bodies simply because it enhances our capacity to survive and cope in the universe at large."

Chicago's Adler Planetarium, the oldest in the country, was hoping to house one of the retired space shuttles but instead got the next best thing, the flight simulator used to train the astronauts that went up into space in those shuttles.

"NASA has confirmed the Adler will receive it after the last Shuttle mission is completed by the end of this year. This will become the centerpiece of a new, highly interactive space exploration exhibition in the years ahead," Adler President Paul Knappenberger, Jr. stated.
Guns on Campus; good idea, or asking for trouble?

By Jake Calgaro
Contributing Writer

Five years after 33 students and faculty members were killed at Virginia Tech University, the Texas legislature is considering allowing students to carry guns on college campuses.

It has sparked a debate across the country and here at GSU.

GSU student Grant Jackson believes that if the student has a license or permit for the gun, then they should be able to carry it on campus. "I don't have a problem with it. If they want to protect themselves in a safe and secure manner, then they should be able to," he said.

There were some students that were very afraid of the possibility of students bringing guns to campus. Student Amelia Withrow said, "I would be frightened if people were allowed to bring guns to school. That doubles the chance of there being a shooting here."

GSU Police Lt. James McGee is among those who doesn't think it's a good idea for everyone to be allowed to carry a gun on campus. "There is no valid reason for students to bring concealed firearms to campus. Let the police officers do their job, let the students do their job," he said. Even police officers, sheriff's deputies and state troopers who attend classes here are not allowed to carry their guns on campus. McGee said they have to bring their guns to the police office and drop them off. They're allowed to pick them up at the end of the day.

In Texas, the proposal has stalled in the state legislature. But any further campus violence such as the April 2007 shooting in Virginia or the February 2008 shooting that left six dead at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, will likely revive the proposal.

There were some GSU students who recalled the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech 5 years ago. Ryan Walker seemed to be very sensitive toward the subject. "I had a friend at Virginia Tech when that happened, and the first thing I did was call him when I heard about it. If guns were allowed on campus then I probably would not be going here."

McGee said there is a mandated plan in place in the event that a suspicious or potentially violent person is on campus. Students and faculty will be notified via text, calls, pages or e-mail in the event of an emergency, he said. Students may also refer to their student handbook and the GSU website for additional details on the emergency plan.

The reason the university is mandated to have this plan is because of an incident that happened in Pennsylvania at Lehigh University on April 5th, 1986. Nineteen-year-old student Jeanne Cleary was raped and murdered while she was asleep at her residence hall.

The students at Lehigh University were not notified of the incident or what to do when it happened. There was no plan in place and Cleary's parents later found out that 38 violent crimes had occurred on the campus in the three years before their daughter's murder, prompting them to fight for the Jeanne Cleary Act, which requires colleges and universities to disclose campus security policies and campus crime statistics.

But even with the Jeanne Cleary Act and an emergency plan in place on campus, few GSU students seem to know what to do if an emergency occurred here.

"Just run to the exit," said Withrow, who believed that was the only plan in place for a shooting.

Crossword & Sudoku found on page 8.
Class of 2011

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Steve’s Reviews

Battlefield Play 4 Free

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

Battlefield Play4Free in its current open beta status is not worth the couple of minutes it took to fill out the account registration form. Battlefield Play4Free is a team-based First Person Shooter where the team that reaches a set point total by capturing the most control points on a map wins. The maps are from Battlefield 2 while the class system is from more recent entries in the series. The Assault class drops ammo boxes for teammates, Medics keep their squadmates healthy while Engineers can take out enemy vehicles or repair their own, and Recons are snipers.

Everything you do to help your team win earns you experience points, earn enough to gain a level and you get a skill point, with skills ranging from the ability to fly aircraft to quicker ladder climbing. You also earn credits, which allow you to rent better weapons for up to three days, if you want to permanently own the weapon your gonna have to buy a bundle of Battlefunds, Battlefield Play4Free's currency.

The big problem with this installment of the franchise is the current lack of on-the-fly class switching. Each solider you create can only be one of the four classes. It sounds like a minor issue but playing the same class for hours can get pretty dull and troublesome for your team if most of your team is the same class. Plus if you want to play as all four classes, your gonna have to buy a bundle of Battlefunds, the cheapest being about five dollars for 700 points. Granted a character slot is only 140 points, so the five bucks could get you two slots and a weapon, but even if you do pony up the cash it is a pain to have to exit a game just to switch classes or even spend your skill points. Plus the spawn system can be downright awful, while a rare occurrence it is possible to be killed the second you respawn.

The best things I can say about the game is that it ran fine on my system with no noticeable lag and I liked how a number appears telling you how much damage each shot does, so you know beyond any doubt your hitting your enemy. The maps are well-designed and the vehicles are fun to drive, but since they are from Battlefield 2, you could just get that game for only twenty dollars on Steam and get all the maps and vehicles, plus the class-switching and server browser which this game currently lacks.

So ultimately, unless EA changes things dramatically, I'd take those two minutes you would use to sign up for the game and instead do something more enjoyable like watching leftovers cook in the microwave or cleaning the lint trap in your dryer.

1 star out of 4
Available for PC
Crossword: solution found on pg. 6

Across
1. Snakelike fish
4. Assist in crime
8. Particle
12. Imitate
13. Fruit
14. Pulsate
16. Bad time
17. Border
18. Wipe out
19. Laconic
21. Sediment
23. Additional to or different from
24. Attempt
25. Slightly open
27. Cut down
29. Form of transport
30. Vitality
31. Fuss
34. Study of plants
37. Bill of fare
38. Napkin
39. Quartz used in cameos
40. Used to control a horse
41. As well
42. High mountain
43. Fraud
45. Each
47. Cereal grass seeds
48. Paddle
49. Aromatic herb
50. Fitting
51. Champion
52. Fry quickly in fat
53. Pointer
54. Chew
55. Buddy
56. Wading bird
57. Part of the ear
59. Long and thin
61. Facile
63. Mischievous fairy
65. Staining substance
69. Pack tightly
70. Medieval land worker
71. Hinge joint
72. Conifer

Down
1. Type of duck
2. Mineral used as an abrasive
3. Not as great
4. Simian
5. Pandemonium
6. Avid
7. Woody plant
8. Consumed
9. Toasted
10. Unwritten exam
11. Flowerless plant
12. Glove
13. Insect
15. Yield
16. Tibia
17. Crested bird
18. Flightless bird
19. Charge
20. Animal doctor, in short
21. Fit

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Happenings

What's Going on at GSU?

Celebrate Earth Day
April 21
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Patio by the Lake

Jim Kenney of Common Ground
Sea Change: Cultural Evolution in the Early 21st Century
April 27
5 - 7 p.m.
Hall of Honors

NSSLHA Speech & Hearing Info Table
April 27-28
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Hall of Governors

NSSLHA Speech & Hearing Info Table
May 2
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Hall of Governors

Dr. Jon Carlson
Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence
May 2
4 p.m.
Sherman Hall
Free

Dr. Daniel Goleman
How Understanding Emotional Intelligence Can Improve Results in Business and Education
May 2
5 p.m.
Cntr Perf Arts
$25
Register: 708.534.4024
www.gsu-mile.org

Goings-on @ GSU
Courtesy of the GSU View