It’s official: GSU to admit freshmen 2014

By Corrie Gray
Staff Writer

It’s official. GSU is looking to open its doors to freshman for the first time in the institution’s 43 year history.

On October 14, GSU’s Board of Trustee’s, unanimously approved an operational change allowing the university to add lower division and authorized GSU President Dr. Elaine Maimon to propose the change to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

The proposal is set to go before the IBHE on December 6, and upon approval GSU will begin planning for a small group of freshman in August 2014.

“GSU will continue to serve a highly diverse student body: first-generation college students, community college transfers, working adults, and veterans. Classes in the late afternoon and evening are close to capacity. The freshman program will attract full-time, day-time students, adding to our diversity,” said Dr. Maimon.

The university plans to admit up to 270 freshmen in 2014 and expects the number to grow to about 500-625 by 2020.

With 270 students we could have three cohorts of 90 students each. They easily break into sections of 30 students with 15 students in freshman writing courses,” said GSU Provost, Dr. Terry Allison.

Executive Vice President, Dr. Gebe Ejigu confirmed that GSU’s student Housing Steering Committee has been working actively with an architectural and engineering team that was selected through a competitive process in designing student housing units which will be located on the University Park campus.

“GSU has been exploring the issue of student housing before the decision to offer lower division programming was made. The admission of freshman has strengthened the need for on-campus housing,” Dr. Ejigu said. “I am confident that we will have an approximately 300 bedroom complex ready for occupancy in August 2014.”

Not counting the University of Illinois or Southern Illinois University, about 4000 students per year from GSU’s regional high schools enter into Illinois public community colleges or regional universities.

The Maimon administration predicts that somewhere between 5-10% of these students might be attracted by a new, cohort-based freshman program in their area.

“With a public university in the region now accepting freshman, we believe that some students who choose out-of-state options or private universities I or out-of-state will chose GSU instead,” said Dr. Allison.

CPRC program offers jobs, funds for college

By Tolulope Afolabi
Contributing Writer

Looking for a way to pay for college and also want to earn some extra money? Then the Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP) may be right for you. CRCP is a program that assists students financially while earning their degrees, and also offers a part-time job at United Parcel Service.

“Most students need to work to help pay for school, CRCP offers some assistance, with some additional education benefits,” said Servelure Bostic, Recruiting and Marketing Director for the Chicagoland Regional College Program. Bostic was on campus recently to recruit students for the program.

“What is great about CRPC is that we provide students with a job and money, and those are the two things most college students need,” she added.

The employment partner for the program is UPS.

“Students who are in the CRPC program work for the UPS in Hodgkins,IL where they receive a paycheck and also $1,500 dollars per semester, $2,000 dollars if they are a supervisor,” said Bostic. “We also offer an additional $300 dollars to each student and $500 dollars for veterans for being a part of the program,” she said.

Students must be able to work the night shift from Monday-Friday 10 p.m.-3 a.m. or Monday –Friday 4 a.m.- 9 a.m. CRCP also offers paid vacations and holidays.

Persepolis Book Review

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Freedom Isn’t Free

By Antron Washington
GSU Student and U.S. Serviceman

The mist draws near as waking eyes are blinded by the ray of sun. Watery lids are tightened as tears of fear are not welcomed. Soldier up, because freedom is not free.

Just like an eagle trying to fly with one broken wing or a humming bird that feels it has no more reasons to sing, it musters up the strength to soar and proclaim that defeat is not an option and power, strength and joy runs through their veins because they know that to live is to survive and that freedom is not free.

Moving forward, while the forces of the enemy draw near, the beguiling sounds of bombs echo from a far yet the overpowering feeling of honor and courage from comrades are clear because they know and realize that freedom is not free.

Realizing, that there is light beyond the darkness, joy beyond any pain, hope in our great justice even through signs of disdain. Believing that the morning may seem to linger, over the hilltops far away, the stars will continue to shine, and that bars the promise of a brighter coming day.

What you don't understand, my words might never explain, so I am hoping that time will, things might not go as you plan dark clouds may bring you pain but courage should be in your heart still, just continue to drill on, because freedom is not free.
By Tolulope Afolabi
Contributing Writer

GSU has long embraced diversity on campus and these days it goes beyond race. Many languages can now be heard on campus thanks to about 300 international students who left their home countries to study at GSU.

They come from all parts of the world including Russia, Japan, Jordan, Turkey, Macedonia and Hong Kong. But the vast majority of our international students come from India. Many are students in the science and computer science departments.

Sindhu Aaireddy who originally hails from India and moved to the United States about a year ago is pursuing her master's degree in Analytical Chemistry. "I like interacting with people and knowing about different cultures and religions, I love exploring the world, which is why I decided to come to the States for my masters."

Aaireddy lived in Mississippi for about a month and later moved to Illinois. "I moved to Chicago because I was interested in this university because of the program it offers. GSU is very affordable and the program I am doing is very rare at other universities. My cousin also graduated from here and that was how I really got to know about the program," she said.

"I was a pharmacy student back in India as an undergraduate student. I want to use my current major to get in to the pharmaceutical industry." Aaireddy said she wants to gain some knowledge and working experience here in the States before she moves back to India.

"I also want to go back home permanently, maybe in about four to five years to help my country. I miss home a lot, I want to go back home to help poor people. My goal is to help and provide shelter for people who can't afford anything," she added.

Although they are thousands of miles from home, some of GSU's Indian students knew each other before they arrived here. Abdul Mohammed moved to the United States a year ago and knew Aaireddy as an undergraduate student in India.

"I am also a graduate student, I and Sindhu are both studying the same major, we actually knew each other back home in India because we went to the same University as undergraduates," Mohammed said. "I like it here a lot, but I miss home very much."

Mohammed plans on working for a few years in order to gain some experience so that he can apply his knowledge back home. But not all the international students are from India.

Governors State Student Zach Luo stands in front of the CAS lab. He is just one of many international students studying at the university.

Photo by Tolulope Afolabi

Zack Luo another international student who was born and raised in China, is a graduate student pursuing his master's degree in Management Information System (MIS).

"I moved to the country about two and a half years ago," Luo said. When asked what he wanted to do with his degree Luo said, "I have two more years to complete my program. I want to get an internship and then work for a while before I head back to China," he added.

"When I go back home, I want to have my own company in China dealing with computers." Like the others, Luo says he misses his family in China.

"I miss my family, but I get to talk to them every now and then via Skype or Facebook...I am actually going back to visit during this Christmas for vacation," Luo added.

GSU will be celebrating the cultures of our international students with activities throughout during International Education Week Nov. 14 to 17.

"The program is all about learning different cultures," said Vreni Mendoza, Director of International services. "All students on campus are welcome. It is always good to keep an open mind about different cultures, it is all part of education," she added.

The event is going to represent different countries with many exciting things to offer including a Chinese tea ceremony, Indian dancing and henna tattooing, Chinese kung Fu show and more. Different cultural dishes in the cafeteria will be featured during that week.

Panel discussions will also be held each day from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on a variety of topics including international students' perceptions of the U.S., international trade and the European Union.

Locations for the events will be announced as International Education Week approaches. For more information about the event students can contact Vreni Mendoza, Director of International Services at 708-534-3087 or via email at vmendoza@govst.edu.

CPRC

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In order to qualify to receive the benefits, students are required to work at the Hodgkins location. GSU is one of the universities participating in the program and about 16 students in GSU are currently enrolled in the program. Other schools participating include Chicago State University, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, Olive Harvey and Morton.

CRCP currently has openings for the holiday season and spring 2012 semester. To learn more about how CRCP can assist with academic pursuits, students can log on to the website at www.crcprogram.com or attend the upcoming open house event.

For information on the event and other program details, GSU students can contact Darcie Campos, Director of Career Services at 708-235-2198 or via email at dcampos@govst.edu.

Freshmen

Continued from Pg. 1

Allison added, "GSU has a great location. Students from other parts of the state will be attracted to a suburban campus with easy access to Chicago and to more rural areas."

The university has estimated the number of new faculty and staff members that will be needed and GSU's Academic Master Plan through 2017 was reviewed and refined this fall to stage new majors (e.g. Economics, History) as well as graduate programs with the premise that freshmen will be arriving in 2014.

Partnership with community colleges is still the university's top priority and GSU is receiving a great deal of support from the local community colleges.

"The Illinois Public Agenda calls for a significant increase in Illinois college graduates by 2020. Local community college presidents are supporting GSU's admission of freshmen because they understand the necessity of offering a variety of quality options to achieve our goals," said Dr. Maimon.

In line with President Obama's nationwide push to increase the number of college graduates by 50% in the year 2020, Triton College President, Dr. Patricia Granado's endorsed GSU's newly proposed venture in a letter of support to the IBHE.

"GSU becoming a four year institution will enhance effort and opportunity in support of increasing college completion rates, and in turn strengthens our state and nation," said Dr. Granados.

GSU is committed to strengthening its existing partnerships and the university remains excited about the nationally acclaimed Dual Degree Program.

"We believe that students who begin in community college deserve a high quality, clear pathway to a university bachelor's degree. We support the completion of a community college associate degree as an important milestone, not only for DDP students, but for all community college students." Dr. Maimon said, "GSU will not offer associate degrees. That is the job of the community colleges."
Student exhibit focuses on 'color as content'

On Thursday, November 17, Governors State University graduate student Tim Vitek will unveil a collection of new artwork at the university's Visual Arts Gallery called "Additive / Subtractive; Sensory Interactions Developed By A Geometric Algorithm."

The collection, which is Vitek's graduate thesis show, is based on modifications the second year Studio Arts masters student made to the 150 plus year old, Weber-Fechner law. Resulting from Vitek's focus on color gradation theories during his studies, the works use an additive and subtractive algorithm he developed to achieve a unique spectrum of color.

"I have always had an interest in color," said Vitek, 36, "but after my accident my fascination with color became an obsession." A one-time music producer of note and former banking executive who received his Bachelor of Arts with dual concentrations in Music Production and Fine Arts from Columbia College in Chicago in 1999, Vitek came to Governors State University following a motorcycle accident in November 2007.

"I suffered multiple injuries and wound up with permanent nerve damage in my right foot, but it was what happened after the accident that was truly significant," added Vitek, who had been making electronic music since he was 17 years old. He had produced more than 20 music releases and owned two recording companies while handling a career in investments and finance. "I literally had no interest in what I had been doing passionately for the last 15 years. What was even more interesting is that my passion and interest in music completely shifted to color."

In addition to the new collection, Vitek, along with other Governors State University graduate students, is currently co-curating "Visible," a traveling art exhibit featuring works on paper by the artists of Austin Special, a Chicago-based agency that assists developmentally disabled adults. The opening reception for "Visible" will begin Thursday, October 20 at Governors State University's Center of Performing Arts Balcony.

Vitek's graduate thesis show will be unveiled beginning at 6 P.M. on November 17. For more information about "Additive - Subtractive; Sensory Interactions Developed By A Geometric Algorithm" and the unveiling, visit www.timvitek.com.

E & F Wing Celebration

By Corrie Gray
Staff Writer

On October 20, GSU ushered in a new era of excellence with a groundbreaking ceremony for the university's E & F wing renovation project.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon and the Board of Trustees were joined by university employees, community members, dignitaries, and more than 150 students for a gathering held in the F wing atrium.

"Today we tear down the walls of the 20th century and construct state of the art science labs appropriate to this model 21st century university and, most appropriate, worthy of our students," said Dr. Maimon.

"Illinois needed a capital, a bill, and needed to invest in those things that we share in common," said State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields). "When we make investments like this, it's not just good for the Southland. It means that GSU can make a bigger contribution to this state."

GSU student, Antron Washington, attended the event with Senator Hutchinson.

"The celebration was inspiring. GSU students and faculty enjoyed a fabulous breakfast and fiery conversations regarding the growth and development of the university's future," said Washington.

Washington, who works with disadvantaged youth and serves as an Inter-Governmental Legislative Liaison for Hutchinson's 40th District, said "I am extremely proud of GSU's accomplishments. Teamwork, dedication, hard work, and sacrifice, appear to be key elements in the success of this project."

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Analytical Chemistry Professor, Dr. Karen D’Arcy is thrilled that the university will soon have new science facilities. In an earlier interview with the Phoenix, D’Arcy expressed her feelings about the groundbreaking, “As a chemist I can’t wait to use the new teaching and research lab space and look forward to working in labs with new chemical safety hoods and work benches,” she said.

The renovation will include new labs for biology, chemistry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, communication disorders, math, and computer science. In addition, the renovation will include places for informal gatherings and study groups.

“These will be located along the north hallway with great views of the lake and sculpture park. I predict the new space will become the liveliest place on campus” said D’Arcy!

Now in its sixth year, the Grow Your Own Initiative is a partnership that works successfully to prepare qualified elementary school teachers who are committed to teaching in targeted high need schools in the community. The partners are GSU, Prairie State College, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and five local school districts. Program participants are leaders in their community, paraprofessionals, or employees in local school districts, and residents of diverse communities where school staffing is sometimes difficult.

Through a grant by the State of Illinois that provides forgivable loans, candidates receive the financial support they need to complete a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. During the program, they attend monthly seminars, participate in local community projects, and commit to teach in hard to staff schools in their community.

Since its inception, GSU has graduated seven teachers from the program, all of which are currently employed as full time teachers or substitutes in local communities. Currently, there are 15 program participants attending class, partnering with school districts, and working toward their degrees.

Courtesy of the GSU View
I don't quite know where to start with Persepolis. For one, it's a graphic novel, a genre that's presence in the literary genre is under constant contention. At the same time, it's also "the story of childhood," the autobiographical tale of Marjane Satrapi growing up in Iran during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Then there is the tumultuous state of Iran—the Islamic Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war both occurred during this time period—and the numerous political theories which play pertinent roles throughout the novel.

Beyond mere content, one needs to factor in the subjective perspectives of American readers when approaching Persepolis. When I first picked up the book, I knew only of Iran what I read in the news: of President Mahomoud Ahmadinejad’s speeches, the motion over their nuclear program, and the most recent alleged Iranian assassination plot on the Saudi ambassador in Washington. As far as international relations go, I consider myself fairly ‘up’ on things (at least, as far ‘up’ as your average person goes), but if someone were to ask me what it would be like to grow up there—or, in this case, to have grown up there—I would have no clue how to answer.

Persepolis is the convergence of a plethora of themes, topics, and people, all intertwining in a complex matrix of relevance and understanding (and in some cases, the lack of understanding), but Satrapi handles the story masterfully and the graphic novel works. She tells her story perhaps the only way she can with a tale so complex—the way it happened.

Satrapi’s style—both narrative and artistically—portrays an under-standing of the rapidly shifting world around her through the eyes of a child. This lens performs two functions. First of all, it aids the readers in comprehending events that they might not be familiar with. We come to terms with the reality of Iran along with Satrapi. However, the lens also shows readers something about the author, how the world of a revolting and then wartime Iran shapes her identity.

The artwork is simple, not the detailed images from most comic books like the popular Walking Dead series, but black-and-white illustrations reminiscent of Art Spiegelman’s Maus. That is part of the reason why the work is so hard to take seriously, because it seems to be intended for a much, much younger audience. I found Persepolis in the “Young Adult” section of my local public library, adjacent to Spider-Man. But the style, in this case, serves to constantly remind readers that they are reading a story of a child, seeing the world through a child’s eyes. It is very much something to be taken seriously.

This is not to say that younger audiences would not be able to appreciate or understand Persepolis. On the contrary, I believe that the work is perfectly appropriate and palatable for young adults who are interested in the subject. I merely mean to imply that the Persepolis appeals to a wide group, much like Philip Pullman’s His Dark Materials Trilogy.

I found Marjane Satrapi’s Persepolis both enlightening and entertaining, a piece that can be finished in a single evening but should be read more than once for a sufficient appreciation. I am not quite sure how I feel about the work—it left me melancholy, confused, and fulfilled all at once—but this kind of abstract and incomplete comprehension emulates life, and if art is to imitate life, then Persepolis is wildly successful.
Crossword

ACROSS
1. Not quiet
5. Affirm
9. Semi aquatic salamander
13. Sea eagle
14. Inhabited
16. Mormon state
17. Cards with just one symbol
18. Feudal lord
19. Remedy
20. Lights
22. Incompetence
24. Head
26. Exchange
27. Accept as true
30. Imagined
33. Immensity
35. Palm cockatoo
37. An official of the Ottoman Empire
38. Directs from the front
41. Pen point
42. Trachea
48. Esteem
51. Fortification consisting of a low wall
52. Sanctify
54. South American country
55. The fetal cord
59. Part of the United Kingdom
62. A period of discounted prices
63. Exploded stars
65. Wise one
66. Distinctive flair
67. Wear away
68. Auditory
69. Amount owed
70. Arduous journey
71. In order that not

DOWN
1. Loyal
2. Killer whale
3. Out of work
4. Hopelessness
5. Each and every one
6. Eight in Roman numerals
7. Happening
8. Esteem
9. Atomic
10. Decorative case
11. Blemish
12. Not we
15. Prevent
21. Flower stalk
23. Brainstorm
25. Wick edness
27. What we sleep in
28. Bowl clearing
29. French for "Summer"
31. Control shrewdly
32. Balderdash
34. Deviate erratically from a set course
36. Assist
39. Down turn
40. Break
43. Completely enveloping
44. Small brook
46. Sketched
47. Sumahde
49. French for "Queen"
50. Accompany
53. Enjoy
55. Utilized
56. It's a guy
57. Give away
58. Place a load on (archaic)
60. Breastplate
61. Religious offshoot
64. "Yikes!"

Comics

PHD: Occupy Academia

"PHD" ("Piled Higher & Deeper"), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. Updates occur about twice per week. To read more comics, head to www.PHDcomics.com

XKCD: Everything

"XKCD" is a webcomic "of romance, sarcasm, math, and language" run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to www.xkcd.com

GSU Happenings

Student Veterans Association
November 2
3:30
Cafeteria Annex

Gay Straight Alliance
November 3
3 to 4 p.m.
F2600

Eid celebration and awareness event
Muslim Student Association
November 7
6 p.m.
November 8
8 p.m.
Cafeteria Annex

Distinguished Lecture
"Flow" Director
Sonita Surratt
November 9
5 p.m.
Engbreton Hall

Adults are Students, Too
Panel Discussion
November 9
3 p.m.
Hall of Honors