GSU kicks off its annual Family and Friends Weekend with a pep rally, introducing its sports teams and coaches and cheer leaders, with the help of Hills Crest High School Marching Band, photo by Kyle H. Horn

By Andrew Kriz
Intern Reporter

The halls were packed in the Hall of Governors with students cheering on the fledgling Governors State University Jaguars sports programs as part of the Friends and Families Weekend.

Students occupied the entirety of the Hall of Governors, the balconies and the three-story staircase to witness the second annual GSU sports program Pep Rally.

Hillcrest High School, the home of the Hawks, volunteered their marching band and cheerleaders to drum up support for the rally at 3:30pm by performing a few dance routines, marching routines and “Beat It” by Michael Jackson.

The announcer, Dennis Dent Jr. from Student Life, led the rally with infectious energy and introduced the seven sports teams by player and coaching staff.

He first welcomed the cheer squad headed by Tamekia Scott and they also conducted a brief performance before proceeding with the event.

Coach Mark Haines took the floor with his squad of men and women golfers, then Kevin Kredens and the men and women cross country teams stormed the assembly.

Served up third were Coach Ashley Ottmann and the 11 girls on the volleyball team who received a thunderous round of applause from fans.

Introduced fourth was the entire 16 player roster of the women’s basketball team along with Head Coach La Toshia Burrell, Assistant Coach Ed Schodrof, and Assistant Coach Tonisheia Mack.

Finally, the men’s team made up of 19 players made their debut along with Head Coach Tony Bates.

Coach Burrell took the stage to address the crowd. “I just want to thank the band and Student Life for making this event possible. Also, I want to encourage everyone one to head out to the women and men’s scrimmage games tonight at 5 and 6:30 and cheer them on!”

A booth was onsite handing out inflatable thunder sticks, spirit sticks, clackers, glitter confetti and cupcakes for students attending the rally.

Cheer squad and host, Dennis Dent, photo by Kyle H. Horn

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Cheer squad and host, Dennis Dent, photo by Kyle H. Horn

Early buckets, a higher free throw percentage and pivotal takeaways helped the orange scrimmage team take a 46-39 victory over their grey shirted teammates.

Continued on p.6

By Andrew Kriz
Intern Reporter

On Thursday Oct. 8, over 400 people attended the first Families and Friends night scrimmage game between the women’s basketball team and another 500 plus came out to see the men face off against one another.

For the contest, both rosters were split into two evenly sized teams. The women were separated into orange and grey jerseys with the grey team acting as the visitors. The men had orange jerseys versus black jerseys.

Shay Robinson drives the ball past her teammate, photo by A. Kriz

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

The Illinois House and Senate are due to reconvene on the 20th of this month. In the interim, The Senators Higher Education Committee has been holding hearings to discuss the negative impact that the budget impasse has been having on Illinois campuses and communities.

So far, the meetings have not resulted in anything of substance but shall continue.

Day 273
Budget Stalemate
The Phoenix is Hiring!

Your student newspaper is in need of talented writers to begin training this semester! Submit cover letters and resumes explaining why you are right for the phoenix to Debbie James at djames@govst.edu

The PHOENIX is published twenty four times annually. We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the GSU community. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership. All submissions must be credited, and include the submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study.

Address Correspondence to: Phoenix Newspaper, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway Room E2543, University Park, IL 60466

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Deborah James   Editor-in-Chief: Kyle H. Horn Associate Editor: Brenda Torres Assistant Editor: Misturat Ganiyu Staff Writer: Bob Meyers Industry Professional Guest Mentor: Randall Weissman

To contact for more information: phoenix@govst.edu or call 1(708) 534 - 4517 / 1(708) 534 - 3068
By Brenda Torres
Associate Editor

The Professor
Profile for is this Issue is Aslam “Sam” Shahid from the College of Arts and Sciences, division of Computing-Mathematics and Technology.

Phoenix: How long have you been teaching?
Shahid: I started my teaching career in Fall 2002 at community colleges. I started teaching at GSU in Summer 2007. Therefore, I have been teaching for over 13 years as of now.

Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?
Shahid: I teach math, computer science, information technology, information security and business at colleges and universities. I am a versatile and multi-discipline faculty member. I have taught at associate, bachelor and master level.

Phoenix: Why did you decide to enter your field?

Aslam “Sam” Shahid, photo by Brenda Torres

Aslam Shahid

Editorial by Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor mganiyu@student.govst.edu

The teaching of cursive, the most elegant type of writing, is all but extinct in classrooms. When I was a young girl, I despised practicing this type of handwriting. My teacher walked around the class and glanced at each student’s worksheet. My cursive writing needed so much attention that I had to spend 30 minutes of recess to master it. My third-grade teacher hovered over me, making sure that my Q’s looked like Q’s and my Z’s looked like Z’s. Beautifying my writing was the last thing on my childish mind. I barely remember us kids writing in cursive outside quizzes and tests.

Fast forward to year 2015, I contemplate purchasing Spencarian penmanship (theory book) in order to add pizzazz into my comical writing style. As a young adult, I only scribble in cursive when I need to sign my name on the dotted line of official documents or contracts. As a writer, alternating between print and cursive adds to my creativity which is why I was shocked when I had read in an article on fox13news.com that a teacher ordered her seven-year-old students to "stop writing in cursive." I am uncertain about the teachers’ request that papers meet specific requirements: Times New Roman, size 12 font, double space, and MLA or APA format. We are not given many opportunities to submit anything in print—let alone cursive.

“I like art. I like to doodle. I like to draw, so writing for me is just an extension of artistic expression.” said Karen Williams, Adjunct Professor for Communications.

Cursive writing is one of the skills that takes me down memory lane and forces me to remember something until it reached my version of perfection. For anyone who deems cursive writing irrelevant, consider yourself oblivious to its elegance.

Shahid: I came from academia family. My grandfather was a professor, my father is a professor (retired), and me teaching at Governors State University. Basically, teaching, learning and research are in my blood. I like to help my students to be successful at schools.

Phoenix: You use to work for the federal government in Washington, DC. Can you tell you about your work there?
Shahid: I worked for the US Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC. I was a Patent Examiner dealing with domestic and international intellectual property application. Basically, innovation and invention drives the global economy. It was an invaluable experience for me since I get to see how our big federal government works and meet and greet our elected officials and legislators at the Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Phoenix: What else would you like readers to know about you?
Shahid: I like to read a lot and always enhance my knowledge and skill in computer science and information technology by doing professional development. I do STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with the youth on Aviation Technology and Lego Robotics Technology through IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

If you are interested in being featured for a professor profile please contact Brenda Torres at: btories@student.govst.edu

The art of penmanship

Editorial by Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor mganiyu@student.govst.edu

The Center for Performing Arts (CPA) Executive Director Lana Rogachevskaya recently sat down with the Phoenix for an in-depth interview regarding the CPA’s usage and standards.

When asked how often the CPA is currently being used, Rogachevskaya said, “The CPA has a very active usage in the full semester starting with the invocation. I’d say we have about 85-90% occupancy rate with August being primarily maintenance-focused with September being heavily academic-focused with events like TAPS Auditorium, TAPS academic and theater program events is increasing.” Rogachevskaya elaborated by discussing CPA events happening in the coming months.

“In the month of October, once again we are continuing the trend of heavy academic usage. Family and Friends Weekend, GSU Symposium, and starting on October 26, for two weeks straight, we will have our very own TAPS Academic Theater Program that will be working on putting together the production of Fahrenheit 451. They come into the theater and they live here for two weeks prepping and rehearsing and putting the production into action.”

Continuing the trend of events the CPA is hosting the Veterans Boot Camp, a sorority induction ceremony and the Career Fair in November.

Continued on p. 4

Get to know the Center for Performing Arts

Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

The Center for Performing Arts (CPA) Executive Director Lana Rogachevskaya recently sat down with the Phoenix for an in-depth interview regarding the CPA’s usage and standards. Rogachevskaya said, “The CPA has a very active usage in the full semester starting with the invocation. I’d say we have about 85-90% occupancy rate with August being primarily maintenance-focused with September being heavily academic-focused with events like TAPS Auditorium, TAPS academic usage, TAPS academic-focused with events like TAPS Theater auditions, TAPS academic dance, Know You Chicago Luncheon, Alumni Meet-and-Greet, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Carts and Cocktails, GSU Big Read, Men of Color Summit, and many others.”

Rogachevskaya also pointed out that the frequency of academic and theater events are on the rise. “The CPA usage, all of the academic functions, GSU-sponsored events, administrative and recruitment events, that takes about over 50% of CPA usage. Over the years, the number of productions that we bring is decreasing a little bit and the number of academic and theater program events is increasing.”

For anyone who deems cursive writing irrelevant, consider yourself oblivious to its elegance.
GSU holds highest GPA standards for honors amongst well-known Illinois universities

By Brenda Torres

Recently The Phoenix was anonymously given a list of honors GPA standards in Illinois as well as Harvard University. According to the list of GPAs, Governors State University surpassed the highest standards for honors compared to the 11 well-known universities.

Governors State requires a 3.80-3.89 for Magua Cum Laude and 3.90-79 for Magna Cum Laude and 3.98+ for the most prestigious title of Summa Cum Laude. Independent research was conducted to make sure that the graduation honors numbers passed on were accurate and were confirmed by a series of university catalogs published in 2015.

The steep thresholds are impacting Governors State students because they are unaware of the high standards of the university. As a GSU student, I recently graduated with my undergraduate, I was not aware of the GPA requirement for Latin honors. I just assumed as other students that the GPA requirement were normal like other surrounding universities,” said the Student Trustee, Yolanda Pitts.

To determine why Governors State has the highest requirements for honor GPA standards, Dr. Barbara Winicki, President of the Faculty Senate and member the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) was contacted. Dr. Winicki said, “The reasons for the relatively high criteria for Latin honors at GSU is that, when they were established in 2008/2009, we admitted only transfer undergraduates. That is, no freshmen or sophomores were being admitted.”

Dr. Winicki continued to state, “GSU’s Registrar does not include transferred credits in students’ GPAs”.

Roots of a Debate Team Growing at GSU

Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

A debate team may be on its way to GSU with Dr. Kahlil Marrar coaching the university debate club with the intention of taking it to the next level.

When asked how the club got started, Marrar drew inspiration from his own experiences, “This is something that, fundamentally, changed my life and I’m hoping that it can change other peoples’ lives in a variety of ways. The way that I’m approaching this is that it’s going to be an opportunity for students to do one of two things.

Marrar continued, “One, they can make money by going to tournaments and I emphasize that because our students are workers. They are members of the working class and have a hard enough time coming to college and being able to coordinate between college and work. So, it is a unique opportunity that takes place between the Chicago Debate League and the university. We’ve established a relationship that allows our students to work and make money in the process.”

Marrar elaborated on another point: The inspiration of being able to inspire others through their stories that really need to get out there. “There’s no other place for them, people just like us in the public high school system, that are aspiring to be something else. So, the value of that you cannot put a sum on it. The way I plan to do that is to facilitate the starting of an organization that allows for students to pair up as a debate team that goes to national tournaments or to have the ability to advise students in the city in the Urban Debate League or in the Chicago Debate League.

“The event that I had is I got together with their leadership is basically composed of individuals that are either coordinating the organization or are involved in getting universities and colleges signed up with the Urban Debate League and the Chicago Debate League.”

In discussing his meeting to launch the club, Marrar stated, “We had a very productive meeting on September twentieth where, at the point that we established a debate club or the point that we at least have three people interested in this, we can, then, form not just the club but also a relationship formally and start having our students participating and, more importantly, partnering with the Chicago Debate League or either judge tournaments and, ultimately, with the intention of starting a debate club at this institution as well.”

In detailing the events to gauge student interest, Marrar said, “The events that we’ve had are preliminary right now in the sense that we’re trying to establish a relationship formally. In essence, the goal down the line would be to have some interest here and to be able to have at least three people who would form a foundation that has this exchange so that we can, eventually, start working with them in an organized, more formal way.

When asked how he hopes to have the club started, Marrar revealed, “It’s really up to the students right now. I want to gain interest. I want to have people that can put the time towards it and devote a Registered Student Organization that can be officially recognized by the university and have the relationship with the Chicago Debate League formalized.”

Marrar makes note, “They [the Chicago Debate League and Chicago Urban Debate League] will make the effort to come here and speak to students, but we need to have the most serious students partake in this decision and taking charge of it in an RSO capacity.”

“I want it to be this thing that has grass roots. I want it to not only have grass roots but, really, stems from our students participating and not imposed or artificially-planned without student interest” said Dr. Marrar.

In conclusion, "GSU’s has impacted the CPA, "Rogachevskaya also mentioned, “Some of the events are primarily academic events, but we’re the three-legged stool. We have academic events, functions, and academic theater events as well as rental events and our own productions. We have a number of presenting activities like Curious George and Whose Live Anyway? And a number of productions for little kids we will be welcoming into the theater. A lot of ours take place in the mornings.”

Rogachevskaya went on to say, “In an effort to ensure that we’re not burning up our employees, sometimes Monday is a dark day because so much of our events take place over the weekend, just to close our doors to get the theater ready for the next event.”

When asked how the absence of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra has affected CPA, Rogachevskaya said, "IPO hasn’t been with us for a number of years. Certainly, they found their own home at Lincoln-Way and we’re happy for them. We are continuing partnering with them on cross-promotions and other activities but we have shifted our focus from classical music to a diverse number of activities, especially as we are growing our four-year academic presence. We now have many more academic functions that we have to support and we can no longer offer a number of days of free charge at a discounted rate to a large symphonic orchestra as we were able to do in the past.”

In conclusion, Rogachevskaya talked about other events coming up on the CPA schedule in the 2016 season.

“There is the Made in Chicago series highlighting diverse Chicago-based artists and bringing them right here to our campus, and this series is generously supported by the Chicago Community Trust. We’re bringing hot, Latin, Afro-Cuban Chevere de Chicago for the first time. Porchlight Theater will be coming here with their Ain’t Misbehavin’.”

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Ensemble Español is also included as well as a variety of Chicago-based blues artists with Sweet Home Chicago Blues, the Nutcracker, Curious George, Seussical the Musical, as well as Viva Italia! and Seasons of Song, two open performances.

“There is also a full calendar of arts and education activities for teachers and school children, pre-K to 12, that includes about 25 events, everything from Let’s Go Science, Chicago Shakespeare, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, and more.”

The Center for Performing Arts offers student discounts on all shows, excluding some, of $13 dollars for students and a maximum of four tickets per show. According to Rogachevskaya, “There are three shows this season where student discount is limited to the first 100 students. At the moment Whose Live Anyway is at capacity, the remaining two shows P^{#}Blinddate and the Grammy Award Winning Take 6 still have student tickets available.”
The migrant crisis: finding homes and thwarting smugglers

By Mistarat Ganjii
Assistant Editor

The European Union (EU) will begin searching vessels suspected of smuggling migrants. "The EU has already demonstrated its resolve," said Evgueni Krovos, the EU’s Secretary General for Migration.

"It is essential that we control the flow of migrants and ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect," said Mr. Krovos. "We must also ensure that we do not create a欢迎 abusive environment where migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse."

Call for help

"We are urgently seeking the support of the international community," said Mr. Krovos. "We need to work together to find solutions to this crisis."

A Place to call home

"And so, we launch our campaign..." said Mr. Krovos. "We want to create a place where migrants can call home. This will require the support of the international community."

Contemporary Issues

"Contemporary issues such as climate change and the refugee crisis require urgent action," said Mr. Krovos. "We must work together to find solutions to these challenges."

The Democratic campaign

By Andrew Kriiz
Intern Reporter

The Democratic campaign has held its first presidential debate, which was held in Las Vegas on September 26th. The debate featured two candidates – Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

"I am excited to face off with Hillary Clinton," said Bernie Sanders. "I believe that we need to take bold action to address the challenges facing our country."

"I agree with Bernie Sanders," said Hillary Clinton. "We need to fight for the middle class and ensure that everyone has a fair share of the American Dream."

The Republican campaign

By Carl Jorn
Assistant Editor

The Republican campaign has announced its first presidential debates, which will be held in New York on October 28th. The debates will feature three candidates – Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio.

"I am excited to face off with our Democratic对手," said Donald Trump. "I believe that we need to take bold action to address the challenges facing our country."

"I agree with Donald Trump," said Ted Cruz. "We need to fight for the middle class and ensure that everyone has a fair share of the American Dream."

"I agree with Ted Cruz," said Marco Rubio. "We need to fight for the middle class and ensure that everyone has a fair share of the American Dream."

Come meet with critically
Acclaimed documentary filmmaker

By Gordon Quinn
October 14 and learn about the
world of filmmaking

The discussion will be held at 6pm. in room F1622
Men's and women's basketball scrimmage, continued

Continued from p1

When the ladies take the court for the first time this season, their opponent will be the Indiana University-South Bend Titans in South Bend, In on Saturday, Oct. 24. The first home game is Weds. Oct. 28 against the Clarke University Crusaders at 5 PM. The scrimmage game provided an early look at the team and they look to be fierce under the leadership of Head Coach La Toshia Burrell.

Starting this year in the NAIA, team fouls for women’s basketball will reset in the 4th period but individual fouls will stay.

As for the men’s competition, freshman point guard Dalvin Echols had a monstrous night against his opponent when he was on the black shirt forward Khalen Davis, who was outstanding defensive work and drawing fouls to head to the free throw line.

Freshman power forward Khalen Davis, who was on the black shirt team, performed well in the scrimmage game by scoring at least four assists and forcing a turnover.

The scrimmage pitted teammates against one another to showcase the talent GSU acquired for their inaugural season, photo by A. Kriz

Tip off was just the beginning of a highly competitive, down to the last moment of the night came with 2.7 seconds left with the ball being accredited with at least four assists and forcing a turnover.

The most exciting moment of the night came when a co-ordinator. Winter coming,” said Simone, “if we have enough clothes daily from the public. Clothes and supplies and toys have received a lot of donated things. More Germans want to help (migrants) arrival, but far more Germans want to help them. The refugee shelters have received a lot of donated clothes and supplies and toys daily from the public. We don’t know if we have enough clothes for them all, especially with winter coming,” said Simone, a co-ordinator.

Continued from p.5

As refugees continue to head to Germany, its federal government decided to pass a new law that requires landlords to rent empty commercial properties to them, according to BBC. Germans are worried about the ever increasing number of migrants entering the country. On Oct. 5, thousands of people protested in Dresden against their (migrants) arrival, but far more Germans want to help them. The refugee shelters have received a lot of donated clothes and supplies and toys daily from the public.

According to the scale.

Office of Career Services

STUDENT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION RECEPTION
DECEMBER 3, 2015 - 3:30-4:30PM - ENGBRETSON HALL

In appreciation for your hard work and desire to enhance your professional development, all on-campus student employees are cordially invited to attend the Student Employee Recognition Reception on Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 3:30-4:30pm, in Engbretson Hall.

Mingle with fellow student workers while enjoying light refreshments!

Those student workers who attend at least three professional development offerings presented by the Office of Career Services will receive a Certificate of Professional Development, which President Maimon will present at the Student Employee Recognition Reception.

You can find a listing of qualifying events on the Upcoming Events page of the Career Services website: www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Career_Services/Upcoming_Events_and_Career_Fairs/
Across
1. what many believe to be the essence of human life
2. it moves and it is not supposed to; use this
3. form of wired or wireless communication, often handheld
4. the circles there dimensional cousin
5. a land hurricane
6. wind instrument developed by aboriginal australians
7. the study of atoms and subatomic particles
8. liquid cheese from a can
9. smallest form of blood vessel in the human body
10. low frequency sound, often dropped
11. leader of the autobots

Down
1. the bottom of your shoe
2. brand of construction equipment, long squishy tube
3. a hollow cylinder
4. long green or white vegetable, alters the scent of urine
5. The leader of north korea, Kim Jong _____
6. brass instrument with a slide
7. brand of construction equipment, common house pet
8. If it doesn’t move and it is supposed to, use this
9. Optimus Prime’s upvote, positive cousin
10. type of american beer, proceeds the return of leaves on a tree
11. capital of South Korea
12. (5-3)-(2) = 7-4 = 9
13. fruit popular in smoothies, tropical

1. degirl
2. arnepro
3. vezul
4. penethole
5. asemmys
6. kneec
7. tyhou
8. sachi
9. timbowa
10. derers
11. nsabo
12. innehet
13. ptcnael
14. ncaonit
15. rabde
The men and women’s golf team have a new head coach after Craig Bowen, a 30 year veteran of the golf industry, was asked to resign by the university.

Assistant Coach Mark Bendelow has been placed as the interim head coach while university officials wait to decide on a course of action.

“I am very thankful that I was chosen to help grow this program,” said Haines.

Haines is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and served as Head Coach for two years at his alma-mater.

As an undergraduate, Haines was a player-coach and dedicated to passing on Haines’ bloodline and is now we have three men and women cleared to play as individuals this season. This spring we have four tournaments to play in and the spring, our busy season, we are signed up for eight tournaments,” said Haines.

Haines’ goal for the 2016 season is to round out a roster of six student-athletes and is looking forward to competing in the 2015 season. “Right now we have six men and women cleared to play as individuals this season. This spring we have four tournaments to play in and the spring, our busy season, I’ve played and coached, and my children have also played,” said Haines.

His daughter was an All-American golfer in 2010 at a NCAA Division III school and his son played Division I at Chicago State University.

Haines has hosted golf clinics for a decade and has coached youth basketball, softball, and baseball. Golf is a sport that has flowed throughout Haines’ bloodline and is dedicated to passing on the game to youth golfers. “My father played at the University of Richmond, I’ve played and coached, and my children have also played,” said Haines.

Haines’ goal for the 2016 season is to round out a roster of six student-athletes and is looking forward to competing in the 2015 season. “Right now we have six men and women cleared to play as individuals this season. This spring we have four tournaments to play in and the spring, our busy season, I’ve signed up for eight tournaments,” said Haines. According to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) rules, four players are needed to compete in tournaments as a team and no school is allowed to compete in more than 14 events per school year.

Along with overseeing his players in tournaments, Haines is also in charge of recruiting and being a mentor for student-athletes. “The key to building a good program is to have good students. You have to learn how to balance studies and golf. In the end, your academics are more important than golf and I am looking to recruit good student-athletes,” said Haines.

Several high school seniors in the area are set to join the team next year as they have tentatively agreed to enroll at Governors State University after being recruited by Haines.

“Governors State is actively recruiting throughout Illinois and Indiana, especially the Chicagoland area. Since GSU offers the cheapest in-state tuition we are quite the growing university and are sure to attract a lot of students.” said Haines.

Students from Indiana also receive the same tuition costs as students enrolled at GSU from Illinois according to the Office of Financial Aid.

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Haines’ goal for the 2016 season is to round out a roster of six student-athletes, four of each sex, so that both the men and women’s teams can enter tournaments as a team.

The golf team is looking to add more players for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons. Athletic scholarships are still available and women golfers are encouraged to apply.