State Representatives visit Governors State University

By: Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

The state of Illinois Representatives participated in a roundtable panel discussion with community members. Pi Alpha Alpha, an honor society here at GSU, organized the event. They did what someone would normally do to reach their local representatives, such as sending an email or speaking to someone over the phone.

Although the panel was supposed to consist of seven State Representatives, only three state representatives attended the event: Natalie A. Manley, from the 98th district, Anthony Deluca, from the 80th district and Will Davis, from the 30th district.

Momentarily the latter, a GSU alumini and a Pi Alpha Alpha member, led the discussion. One of the questions Davis asked the panelists about the missing element in the state legislation as it relates to leadership. Manley noted that courage is the absent characteristic. She also noted that people expect change to happen although it is a gradual process.

"Unwillingness to compromise is a huge problem and I think we need more women I really do," said Manley as she discussed Springfield. The resentment she receives from constituents as she visits neighborhoods within her district.

Each of these representatives is responsible for a certain area with Illinois. According to the Illinois House of Democrats website, Manley’s district “is located entirely within Will County and contains portions of Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Joliet, Lockport, Plainfield and Romeoville. Anthony Deluca’s district include Cook and Will counties and he represents all or parts of Chicago Heights, Flossmoor, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Manhattan, Matteson, Mokena, Monee, New Lenox, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park, South Chicago Heights, Steger, Symerton, University Park and Wilmington and Will Davis covers all or portions of Blue Island, Dolton, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Midlothian, Oak Forest, Posen, Riverdale and Robbins. Davis noted the geographical differences between the districts.

“Their roles as State Representatives are to connect with people, empathize with people and help them either by connecting them with state legislation that would fix the problem,” said Manley. Davis concluded the first half of the event by asking the audience if they know the name of their local state representatives. He suggested that the audience members should know where their tax dollars are going.

Dr. Donald Culverson, Associate Professor of Political Science, led the discussion between the panelists and the audience. An audience member questioned the urgency of getting a budget passed in Springfield. Davis did clarify that a budget has been passed, however, Governor Rauner vetoed all but one, which was that one was about K-12th education.

“Sometimes it’s not about talking to the people who you know support where you are. It’s about talking to the people who you don’t think support where you are and asking them some very direct—very important—questions about how they feel about certain things,” said Davis. “Are they prepared to allow these kind of things happen in the state of Illinois.”

Another audience member Richard Alexander expressed that he was baffled by the state’s inability to fund higher education as well as asked from the lottery how is the money allocated. No one really answered his question.

“One of the things that we always encourage colleagues to do is to come walk a day in our shoes. Spend sometime in the South Suburbs, so you can get a better understanding of the challenges that exist here… the challenge is they always feel like we’re taking something from them,” said Davis. Governors State University is a polling place. Early Voting registration will begin March 7th and will end March 11th.

GSU students rally in Springfield

By Darius Robinson
Intern Reporter

On Feb. 16 and 17, the GSU Student Senate and other students went down to Springfield, IL. The trip had two main focuses for each party, Student Senate and Student Senate members and students in general, were supposed to meet with as many legislatures in the house and the senate, to give them first hand student leaders experiences in higher education. They were to explain to them how the budget crisis affects their campus and also to rally, showing support and a presence amongst the students from other Illinois universities that attended the mass rally event.

Continued on p.4
OpEd

Good Night Ms. Lee

Natalie Helberg

Harper Lee died on February 19, 2016 at the age of 89. Her novel To Kill a Mockingbird shaped my life and inspired a deep passion for American Literature. Her words opened up a world to me where people were not afraid of differences and where they stood up against injustice and discrimination.

I first read her novel as a freshman in high school and although I did not experience discrimination as Tom Robinson did, by the age of fourteen I had faced my own tormentors, my own enemies, my own pain. I was different.

Lee’s novel, written half a century ago, puts Atticus Finch at the center of a great divide. Somewhat of a rebel, he is a white man who defends an African American man in the Deep South during a time of extreme racial tensions and segregation. Scout, his daughter, is trying to understand how a group of people could so brutally victimize a man simply based on the color of his skin.

In my mind I was Scout, wondering how people could treat others so terribly. I was Atticus Robinson, persecuted because of something inside me that I could not control. I was Atticus Finch wanting to stand up and fight for those people who had no one to battle for them. Most of all, I was Boo Radley, haunted by a cruel world, alone and insecure as I watched the wretchedness of humanity around me.

Ms. Lee’s novel inspired me to read more of the literary greats. In doing so she gave me a place where I felt safe. We didn’t just lose a significant contributor to American Literature; we also lost someone who wanted to create a better place in which to exist. Rest in Peace Harper Lee, Rest in Peace.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to phoenix@govst.edu

The Phoenix is accepting Letters to the Editor

Grad Column

Why Rally?

Matt Gentry

Graduate students, whether you like it or not the state budget crisis in Illinois will impact our education. While President Elaine Maimon has delivered a strong message that GSU will stay open for the next academic year, you should know that we could be affected in significant ways. Although classes may stay in session, tuition could increase, support services could be eliminated and GSU employees that you rely on as a student could be furloughed. Nobody has a crystal ball, but one thing for sure is the status quo is unsustainable.

For this reason it is imperative that you join the rest of GSU on Monday, Mar. 7 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in front of the main entrance for a Higher Education Rally. We need our leaders in Springfield to hear your voice that public university higher education is an essential part of Illinois. This rally will have local media coverage and we need a strong GSU community presence to send a strong message to Governor Bruce Rauner. Similar to your civic duty to vote, you should consider this your civic duty as a student at GSU. The gravity of the budget crisis for GSU is hard to understand and, the ramifications are especially real for those that expect to graduate after May 2017. Everyone makes sacrifices to be a graduate student, and taking an hour out of your day on Monday March 7th is perhaps the smallest sacrifice for the most amount of gain you will make in your entire academic career.

There are a number of things that you can do right now to help the cause. Please post on social media using #HigherEdMatters and #SaveOurEducation and let the social media world know that you plan to attend the rally. Reach out to classmates and friends and encourage, coerce, bribe, or physically bring them on Monday to ensure a strong turnout. Are you part of any student groups or organizations? If so reach out to your club president to find out if you can make it a club/group event. Like voting, many naysayers say that rallies are not worth their time, but this misconception is false. Just like every vote counts, it doesn’t take a hard look at history to find proof that rallies are powerful instruments for change. The civil rights movement started as rallies and led to sweeping social changes, or more recently look at the strong statements protesters have made regarding police brutality. GSU will be turning out in force so please make every effort to be in front of the GSU main entrance on Monday, Mar. 7 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. - your future education at GSU may depend on it. Stand with us. Stand with GSU.

By Holly Britton

Staff Reporter

Ask Holly

Staff Reporter

How do you adjust to being home after being away for college?

This question is common not only for graduate students, but for those who started one school and returned home to go to a school closer to home. Coming back home after being away for a few years can be difficult for some students. Once someone gets used to being away from home and doing what they want, when they want they may run into an environmental shock of having rules again.

My experience does not exactly involve leaving home, but I know other students who have and feel like the rules are even more strict then before they left. Having freedom is one thing, but many people forget that when they move in with someone else there will be rules. Just remember that you are living in someone else’s home even if it is your own parents. Talk with them prior to moving back and understand their rules prior to moving back so you are not as much shocked when you actually do. This will prepare you for the adjustments you will have to make. If for some reason you can’t seem to make it work with your parents’ rules, talking ahead of time gives you a chance to find other ways if necessary. However, there will be rules and compromises whenever you live with someone else. Once you are ready to move in make sure you have everything previously planned in order to make the transition go smoothly. Adjustments may take a little time, but can definitely be accomplished.
**Feature**

**Benjamin Almassi**

The Professor Profile for this week is Dr. Benjamin Almassi from the College of Arts and Sciences division of Division of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Interviewed by Brenda Torres

Editor-in-Chief

Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

Almassi: The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing,” the Greek poet Archilochus said. As for me, I’m a fox, and so I count myself lucky to teach a range of courses at GSU including Logic & Practical Reasoning, Ethics in Healthcare, Political Theory, Philosophical Issues in Religion, Chemistry and Ethics, and Introduction to Philosophy. Next fall I’m adding Environmental Ethics to that list. I am a philosopher who wants to bring philosophy into fruitful conversation with all areas of our lives.

Phoenix: How long have you been in the field of education?

Almassi: I’ve been teaching philosophy courses for about 12 years, first as a graduate student, then as a community-college instructor, and for three years now at GSU. I did my graduate studies in philosophy at the University of Washington, out in Seattle, where I was so fortunate to have some great seminars, supportive professors, collaborative friends, and beautiful hills and mountains. As a teacher, I was really fortunate at the UW. In my six years there, I taught a really wide range of courses, which has given me a great foundation for my work at GSU. I completed my dissertation on the role of trust in scientific knowledge in 2009, and in a pretty grim academic market, I was overjoyed to take up a tenure-track job at the College of Lake County, a really fantastic two-year college north of Chicago. CLC like GSU has a really great mix of rural, suburban, and urban students, as well as traditionally-aged and non-traditional returning students. I can’t speak highly enough of my four years at CLC. One student opportunity that I built at the UW and CLC - and that I hope to bring to GSU soon - is the Ethics Bowl, which is a great chance for students to reflect together on their moral commitments in a deeply practical, socially relevant way. It’s been great to teach at GSU. I’m especially gratified to have created new undergraduate minors here in Philosophy, in Religious Studies, and in Practical & Professional Ethics. Contact me directly if any of these pique your interest!

Phoenix: Was education your first choice?

Almassi: When I was a kid, I wanted to be an astronaut, and so I went to Purdue for aerospace engineering to that end. There I realized that I was more interested in how we come to know and understand the world, in the evidence and the assumptions behind our beliefs and actions than I was in the mechanics of rocketry and flight. So I moved to physics, then philosophy of science, and once I began graduate school it was clear to me that there was nothing better than teaching, writing, and practicing philosophy.

Phoenix: Many students say that you work with them to insure success in your classroom. Can you tell about that?

Almassi: It is really gratifying to learn that students feel that way! The truth is that a student is the author of her own success, and that as a teacher I’m at my best when I am able help facilitate this. For example, overcome inertia or uncertainty and allow yourself to visit office hours, and I’ll be thrilled for the chance to offer focused, personalized feedback. Put your ideas and questions out there in the creative melee of classroom discussion, and I’m so happy to help illuminate the deep relevance of your questions and the real merits of your ideas and the unexplored assumptions baked into both. I think my major pedagogical responsibility is to help students explore that great rich creative middle ground in which each of us recognizes our capability and fallibility: that is, to be confident enough to recognize that you have ideas truly worth sharing and humble enough to recognize that you always have more to learn.

Phoenix: What is your favorite part about teaching?

Almassi: One marvelous thing about my field is that teaching philosophy is doing philosophy. That’s true about some other fields, of course, but even in introductory-level courses we take on the same problems and puzzles that philosophers today and throughout history have taken on in their work. And for me, what’s possible when people gather together in a classroom to share ideas and challenge each other and themselves is a truly powerful thing.

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**Club Spotlight**

**Sign Club**

By Jessica Rodgers

Contributing Writer

Have you ever wanted to communicate with someone without using your voice? Do you have a friend, neighbor, or family member that is deaf whom you wish to communicate? GSU has a club on campus called Sign Club which is designed to help give students the opportunity to learn American Sign Language (ASL) as well as experience the deaf culture. This club is organized and run by a sophomore student, Shanell “Shelly” Sigers. The club was initiated in the fall semester of 2014. Sign Club offers many experiences and opportunities that one can take advantage of. An event that Sign Club attended last semester was the Deaf Expo at Harper College. Throughout the course of the day, the club was able to speak with people of all ages who were deaf. While at the Expo they met some celebrities, Katie Leclerc, who plays Daphne Vasquez on Switched at Birth and has Ménière’s disease causing fluctuating hearing loss and Nyle Dimarco who won this past season of America’s Next Top Model, and he has been completely deaf since birth. With all of the people who attended the Expo, you would not believe how quiet it was... well, maybe you would.

When Sigers was interviewed, she stated that “everyone is welcome, even if they don’t know Sign Language.”

On a typical day at Sign Club, you will most likely practice signing the alphabet, amongst other things. The overall agenda of Sign Club includes playing games that teach you Sign Language or help you practice, watching videos and movies in Sign Language, spelling your name and learning about the deaf culture.

Sign Club meetings are held on Mondays from 2p.m.- 4p.m. in room E1540. If you are interested in having your Club/Student Organization featured in our “Club Spotlight” email us at phoenix@govst.edu
Con. GSU students rally in Springfield

Assistant Dean Sanderson, Student Senate and GSU students at the Capital Building. Photo courtesy of Mychael Vanarsdale.

Rough estimate, how many students do you believe were in attendance at the rally overall?

Roughly there were about 200 to 250 students in attendance, but the 200 to 250 didn’t look bad. I felt it was still a great rally and the group as a whole made our presence known and made a lot of noise, literally and metaphorically. Here’s a very interesting point that an Illinois senator on the democrat side and on the higher education committee pointed out; 180,000 students are recipients of the Illinois MAP grant, there is no reason that there shouldn’t be 180,000 students out here rallying. I know that if there was 180,000 of us out there Governor Bruce Rauner would have had no choice but to hear us out and mention and address higher education in his budget speech on Wednesday, February 17th. What type of information did the student senate gather from this trip?

We pretty much got information as to why higher education was a target overall?

Do you believe that the student senate encourages students to become active with the movement to try and let the voice of students be heard by congress, in hopes of a potential solution that would benefit everyone education wise.

We will continue to fight until the state gives us the money that they basically owe us. We are not asking for a loan or begging for money, we are just asking for the money we are technically owed and entitled to.

Sondheim on Sondheim: A Live Documentary

By Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Sondheim on Sondheim was performed at Center for Performing Arts at GSU. Sondheim on Sondheim was based on the Broadway songwriter Stephen Sondheim.

Many people may know of the songs that Sondheim wrote such as 'Pretty Women and The Worst Pies In London from Sweeney Todd, What More Do I Need? And Everybody Says Don’t from Side by Side, and Agony from Into The Woods. Although his songs are widely known, Sondheim on Sondheim allows the audience to really to get know Sondheim as a person.

The performance was not just a musical. During the three-hour performance we saw a live performance, heard live orchestra music, and observed a documentary media of Sondheim speaking.

The set was simplistic, consisting of three-layer riser and four strips of white cloth running from the floor to the ceiling changing lightening color throughout the show. The overall structure of the performance seemed to follow the formula of hearing some information behind the upcoming song from Sondheim then performed the song. While the show spoke about Sondheim, his history and career they also added humor to the show by the way they decided to intercut the music and the video. J.R. Rose, the director, did an excellent job at choosing which actor was to sing which songs. One of the performers, Meghan Hoyt was given one song that was done at such speed and accuracy the audience was left in awe and amusement.

Although wonderful choices were made on song disbursement throughout the cast, there were still a few moments where voices would “shake” or “wobble” during the full cast songs. The variety of skill levels and voices though made the entire production work with harmony. The biggest negative to the show was the length.

When the time came for the intermission, it felt like the show should be ending. If it was not for the statement of an intermission in the playbill, the show may have lost some audience members with the assumption that the show was over. The incorporation with media is becoming a common method used in theatre but the extended amount of usage made the program longer than necessary. The performers worked hard and it showed during their performances throughout the play.

The overall usage made the program

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were in attendance during the trip to the Illinois capitol. Mychael Vanarsdale, the President of the Student Senate, shared insight on some of the things that went on during the trip to the Illinois capitol.

Do you believe that the schools presence in the rally was impactful? I think it had a great impact, us rallying with the other universities and I would like to see the amount of students that came out be bigger.”

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Pearl Harbor Veteran visits the GSU Library

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The GSU library had the honor of interviewing Everett “Jim” Schlegel World War II, Pearl Harbor a 96-year-old veteran, for the Veteran History Project through the Library of Congress.

According to the Library of Congress project pamphlet, "The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress." The interview began with the Events Coordinator of the GSU library Alexis Sarkisian interviewing the Veteran Schlegel on his childhood, “It was kind of rough it was during the depression, mostly in the 30’s’. My father was unemployed, he was sick. My mother sometimes talked to someone in politics and they said ‘we can put him in the Works Progress Administration (WPA)’. I worked there for a year and a half,” said Veteran Schlegel.

Veteran Schlegel grew up in Jefferson Park in Chicago, but according to him it was called Norwood Park Township back then. He was the first one to go into the military out of his four siblings.

Veteran Schlegel was interested in volunteering for Army when he was 16 years old, but he was 22 when he joined. Later on, Coordinator Sarkisian asked the Veteran Schlegel what he remembered from how he was enlisted; “I was listed in the drafts when Roosevelt started the fish bowl. I was number 3,131 drawn out of the fish bowl. They notified me by mail that I was going to be drafted,” said Veteran Schlegel.

Furthermore, Veteran Schlegel stated where he had been stationed which was Pearl Harbor; they were called the Hawaiian Pack Train. “We were in area where the infantry was being trained. They trained us how to march, carry a gun, how to shoot a gun later on.” He worked horses and mules, which he had no idea about, but Veteran Schlegel learned.

He was on the base for two months before the attack. In fact Veteran Schlegel was doing stable duty during the attack.

“We hear these planes come through, we said ‘What are these planes coming through Sunday morning?’ The Japanese airplanes came right through us. I saw the first bomb fall that started World War II,” stated Veteran Schlegel.

During the interview Veteran Schlegel was wearing a medal. It was given to him a couple of years ago, thanking for his service. Coordinator Sarkisian ask how she felt to wear the medal, “I feel like I’m somebody. Everybody that was on the island got one of these,” he expressed.

Afterwards Veteran Schlegel remarked that after he returned from Pearl Harbor he went back to work at the WPA as well as obtained a job at the post office. Afterwards he worked at a gas station that was owned friends brother. Later on he went into the dry cleaning business.

Dean Lydia Morerow from the GSU Library stated the importance of having the project at GSU, “I think that the Oral History Program for the Library of Congress is just fantastic program to capture some of the history of our veterans. I think the program will bring a lot of exposure to Governors State University.”

Institutional Advancement

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

There are many ways you can advance the university. You advance the University to create visibility. We talk about scholarship, the excellence of our professors, our curriculum and all of the programs in all of colleges.”

Institutional Advancement works with the four colleges of the university. Each college has a liaison. In the College of Education the liaison is Jessica Butler; College of Business, Angela Mehalek; College of Health and Human Services and College of Arts and Sciences, Jackie Small. They meet with the division chairs and see how Institutional Advancement can help, “we find out their priorities, what they are interested in, what kind of funding opportunities exist in that college and how we can assist them in making that happen,” said Director Small.

Furthermore, Institutional Advancement does for students is raising funds for scholarships. Moreover, Institutional Advancement can direct students to areas where they can look for support. “We can give them guidance and we can give them support,” said Director Small.

A goal that Institutional Advancement has fulfilled is the first $1,000,000.00 endowment through the GSU Promise. The campaign they are focusing on right now is the Presidential Challenge as stated in the previous Issue of The Phoenix.

The newest fund that Institutional Advancement has developed is Jean Bernstein Fund for Literacy “We’re going to be giving students who come from those adopted schools, books. For a lot of them we will be starting their first library. That came as a gift from a funder,” said Director Small.

Money for school that is being overlooked

By Darius Robinson
Intern Reporter

In Illinois, we are still going through a budget crisis, and funding is drying up everywhere, especially in the education sector. With the threat of certain grants being cancelled, students have to find other ways to fund their college education. At Governors State University, we have an Alumni Association department. In this department, the personnel handles an assortment of things, but one of its main responsibilities is to raise funds for scholarships and allocate scholarships to GSU students throughout the semesters.

There are many different scholarships that the alumni present to the students. Some have specific requirements and some only require a simple essay. A couple of the scholarships that are open to all students are the Ronald Bean Community Service Scholarship and the Alumni Association Scholarship honoring Rosemary Hulid.

According to Cheri Garey, Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Association member, “There are 65 to 100 scholarships on average each year, but that number varies depending on the donations and earnings from the endowment account.” According to the GSU web page, the Alumni Association granted over $107,000 in scholarship funding to the students during the 2014-2015 term.

Most of the scholarships are awarded for the fall semester and are usually posted on the website toward the end of February for students to apply for the next fall term. There are also term-by-term scholarships offered, but that varies by field of study.

To learn about the scholarship eligibility, criteria, information, application/essay requirements, visit this website: www.govst.edu/foundationscholarships.
By Afolabi- Bello Olanrewju
Sports Reporter

The last home game of season was a classic with the Jaguars going against Bellevue.

The game had promised to be a great game with the Jags kitted in whites and the Bruins in yellow jerseys; with The Bruins having won their last game, the stake was high and the court was to be lit up. The Bruins came in with the free throwing Mike Cardenas, yet it would be the Jaguars’ Willie Lippy that would have the night.

From the sound of the whistle the Jaguars showed class with good short passes, beautiful dribbling skills and a powerful offense, it was obvious that the Jaguars were coasting to another victory. At the end of the first period, the Jaguars led by 51 to 31.

On resumption of the second period, the game started the same way it had ended, the game plan of the Jaguars had not changed much, with good movement on and of the ball, brilliant passing moves, and a defense that was rock solid, the Jaguars had reduced their opponents to shooting from a distance.

The men from Bellevue were not bad on the night, with Mike Cardenas and Nicolus Guzman co-leading the Bruins with 15 points apiece, and with their three pointers, the Bruins have something to look back on and be proud.

On the night Willi Lippy was the man on fire, combining good shooting skills, graceful movement and a brilliance that sparks the imagination when he holds the ball. It might be too early to say, but the boys from GSU might make some stars in the NBA turn green.

The gentle giant Torrey Oliver and Jalen Miller both scored 22 each.

The Jaguars had a 60.7 percent on their field goal attempts, connecting 72.4 percent rate in the first period. The boys in white shot 72.7 percent from deep in the first half as against their opponents who had 38.5 percent. The Jaguars led the game without Bruins ever threatening their lead.

The game ended with the men in white picking a win 91 to 72.
Across
4. Moesha
5. She plays in the Boondocks as both Riley and Huey
8. She played in Sister Act and the Color Purple
12. She got her start by being a finalist on the TV show American Idol
13. She played Denzel Washington’s wife in the movie John Q
15. ‘Cookie Lyons’
16. She plays ‘Olivia Pope’ on the hit series Scandal
17. ‘Nikki Parker’
18. She played in the Best Man, Love Jones and Friday

Down
1. She won an Academy Award for best actress in the film Monster’s Ball
2. She is the main character on the show How to get away with Murder
3. She played a role in the movie The Color Purple and she also hosted her own talk show for numerous seasons
6. She is married to Will Smith
7. She starred as the main character in the movie How Stella got her groove back
9. She is married to NBA superstar Dwyane Wade
10. She was a rap artist in the 90’s and played in the movie Set it Off
11. In the 1967 movie Hoodlum, she played Stephanie St. Clair
14. She co-starred in the urban cult-classic Love and Basketball
I AM FLINT

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**March 3 - Volunteers Needed to Load/Unload Donations**

We need to transport donations to the people of Flint. Transportation will be provided by bus from GSU. Seating is limited. Register to reserve your seat at: civicengagement@govst.edu

**Bring donations to the office of CECSC in Student Life A2130**

Sponsored by Student Senate & Sustainability Club

*Questions - Contact CECSC at civicengagement@govst.edu*