GSU rallies for budget

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

On March 7, students, staff faculty and GSU community rallied for a budget because since fiscal year has started, state schools have not received a budget.

As soon as people walked into the rally, music was blasting. GSU community held demonstration signs that had printed on them “#SaveOurEducation, #HigherEducationMatters, #FundGSU”. A student held a sign that read, “I can’t believe this crap.”

The rally took place in front of the main entrance of the school. Five news stations cameras were there recording GSU community rallying. Estimated of attendees hundred and seventy five.

In front of rallyers was a stage with President Maimon, Representatives, the Mayor of University Park, paramount student representatives and a few of the Board of Trustees members.

Program Coordinator Life Dennis Dent Jr. was the MC of the rally and he began by saying, “Make some noise if higher education matters?” The crow yelled as he kept on repeating the same phrase.

Coordinator Dent welcomed the President of Student Senate Mychael Vanarsdale to the microphone.

“We are here today because everybody here is impacted by the stickerate that is taking place in our General Assembly in Springfield. Students from across the state have been feeling the repercussions of not having a state budget and Governors State is no exception. Yet somehow, someway we are continuously growing as a university” stated Student Senate President Vanarsdale.

He continued to express that Student Senate has been fighting for GSU by rallying Springfield and attending State Representatives Round Tables.

Next was Illinois Representative Larry Walsh and he greeted the campus. He reminded the rallyers that they were on news “Come on the news is here today. Channel 2, 5,7 are here to hear you!” He wanted rallyers to make some noise and with that reminder they yelled as much as they could.

Representative Walsh welcomed Chicagomaniacs and told them that GSU was the only public university in Will County. “I am proud to represent Will County,” shouted Representative Walsh.

Afterwards Student Trustee Yolanda Pitts stepped up to the podium. She gave reasons why she was proud to be a Jaguar.

Pat McGuire, the chairman of the higher education committee, and Illinois Senator “I have a simple message for you today, but it is going to require some work on your part. Here’s the message, for you to continue to learn here at GSU. You have to thank the governor”

Then Matthew Gentry, graduate student in the doctoral program from physical therapy and Chair of the GSU Graduate Professional Network spoke. He expressed how he would have less debt than his colleagues in the future because of GSU.

Later came other members of GSU community to speak to rallyers, such Will Davis, Dr. Ben Almassi, Illinois Senator Brian cancellation, preacher Reggie Williams, and the Provost Deborah Bordelon.

Finally President Maimon spoke, “I just want to say a big thank you. I want to thank all of you for being here, give yourselves a round of applause. It’s all about making a better Illinois and doing it together.”

No change in tuition rates

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

Governors State University will keep the tuition rate the same for the next academic year.

“We did that because we wanted to do everything we can to encourage students to attend Governors State University,” President Maimon said.

According to the Chicago Tribune, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign Trustees have also decided to “freeze tuition.”

“We wanted to send a message to new students that we are an affordable, high quality university and we thought the best way to send that message is through something very clear and to the point and that is we are not increasing tuition,” Maimon explained.

This decision was approved at the last Board of Trustees meeting.

“The trustees were persuaded by the fact our goal is to serve more students, not to charge fewer students more money,” said Maimon.

National Center for Educational Statistics observed that in between 2002-03 and 2012-13, the price for undergraduate tuition, room and board increased at state colleges and universities 39 percent.

“The models that we worked out were based on our non-increasing tuition, helping us to attract more students, so we’re going to serve more students,” said Maimon.

Maimon explained, “Helping them have a quality education that also, in effect, brings in more revenue to this university and that is probably a better revenue than small increase that could drive away students to whom we would otherwise be serving.”

According to a US News article, one of the key factors that influence freshmen students’ choice of college is the cost.

“Given all of the bad news in public higher education in the state of Illinois, we have another challenge: we have to send the message that we are open, we are staying open, and any student that matriculates with us is going to graduate our first class in 2018 and we are going to celebrate our first 50 years in 2019,” Maimon emphasized.

She added, “Student educational priorities always comes first.”

The Board of Trustees also approved an increase of student fees for the 2016-17 school year.

“We have a whole range of fees that are targeted to very specific things and can be targeted to only those things,” Dr. Maimon said.

“We can’t take money from a student fee pot...”

Although GSU has a partnership with Riverside Hospital to care for student’s emergencies, it has yet to create a place for students to go for minor symptoms.

The student fee increase will assist in funding the first ever health center at Governors State.

“It has another advantage to it,” Maimon said, “and that is that we have an advanced nursing program and other advanced health programs, so some of our advanced students will be able to participate in the center.”
Editorial

Voting in the 2016 Election

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

Suppose the candidate you voted for did not do well in the primary election, or the political party you are supporting is divided. Maybe both of these are true. Either way, you are keeping up with the election, and you are appalled. The general election is in November, but because of what you have watched or heard regarding the election, you have decided that voting in the upcoming election is a waste of time.

This is the next step for people who choose not to vote? Continued complaints about politics and politicians? Abstaining from the polls? What you should not do is let polling data and biased news outlets putting their own spin on the election cycle discourage you from voting. Part of these people and organization’s responsibility is to inform the public about the presidential candidates.

The president is one of the most powerful people in the United States, and learning about people who want to take on that position is beneficial during election season. Election season is the time when everyone is more opinionated than normal of all things politically related. For this reason, you may want to distance yourself from mass media, but that can be impossible, as 2016 is the year of the presidential election. Whether you like it or not, if you want change to happen, voting is an essential way to be heard. This includes participating in your local election, as well as national campaigns. Sometimes we forget that local state officials address concerns in our own neighborhood, clinging to this idea that the President of the United States cares about each state’s worst problems.

If you have voted previously, take a moment to think about the ballot and whether or not you are voting for people you have never called to your mind. Lacking knowledge of candidates does not make a bad citizen, however it is a neglect of duty to yourself and others.

Some may argue that not voting is just as powerful because it sends a message to our legislators that we have lost faith in our government. The government does not get that message. It gets lost somewhere in the communication process, which leads to distorted reasons as to why voter turnout decreases over the years.

The media says that we do not care. News outlets and pundit claim that we are oblivious to current issues internationally, but they are wrong - we care too much. With the assistance of news media, we have found new ways to be involved in politics. However, while we demonstrate democratic expression online, we should not let our most relevant means slip away. We need to vote to express our need for change. Voting still matters.

Grad Column

Conquering the Career Fair

By Matt Gentry
Grad Columnist

The Spring Career and Internship Fair is coming to GSU on Thursday, April 14 from 2-5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors and Center for Performing Arts Lobby. Targeted programs include: communications, technology, business, public administration, criminal justice, addiction studies, community health, and education.

Do you need to attend this event? If the answer is yes, then here are some quick things you should do to make the most of your opportunities.

First, it is important to realize that career fairs take preparation. Every interaction is a mini interview, which means that you need to have done your research before arriving. Check out the Office of Career Services website (www.govst.edu/careerservices/) and go to their Facebook page for a list of companies in attendance and then do some research. Make a list of your top choices and budget your time so you hit them all. Researching also is important because you can come up with appropriate questions that show you go the extra mile. For example, you could ask: “I saw that you started a new management training program for your employees. Will this job position have a chance to work with that program?”

Another critical piece of advice is to make an appointment with the Office of Career Services to have your resume critiqued by a professional. Even if you already think your resume is hot stuff, having a trained eye look it over can only help. A suggested edit here or a corrected error there could be the difference between your resume ending up in the ‘keep pile’ instead of the ‘toss pile’. Be warned that appointments are filling up fast, so don’t expect to walk in and be helped two days before the Career Fair. Book your appointment today.

At the career fair, it is expected that you will dress professionally, bring business cards, plenty of resumes, and individualized cover letters if you already narrowed down the company and position. You will also have a few minutes to deliver your “elevator pitch” to each company representative. An elevator pitch is a brief delivery (~30 seconds) of information to spark an employer’s interest in your skills and abilities. Having a great elevator pitch takes practice! Focus on your education, your experience, and what makes you the perfect candidate, i.e. what sets you apart. Practice in front of a mirror, in front of a friend, or in front of a counselor at the Office of Career Services.

Many employers will have giveaways, but please remember that this is not your early Christmas shopping trip. Take one promotional item at the very end of your interaction, only after you have handed over your resume, delivered your elevator pitch, collected their business cards, thanked them for the opportunity, and exchanged a handshake.

The reason it is important to collect a business card is so you can follow up with an email. Soon after the career fair (within a day or two) send an email with a note of thanks and reference something you talked about so they remember you out of the many candidates they met. Hopefully this helps you succeed at the career fair. Will you need more help crushing the interview you’ll get? Attend the event, “Interviewing Skills Workshop” hosted by the Graduate Professional Network and Office of Career Services on Monday, April 18 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in B1241. Get expert advice from Office of Career Services professionals to help you stand out in the interview? Contact Matt Gentry at mgentry@ student.govst.edu for any questions.

OpEd

Ask Holly

By Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

My roommate always seems to have new people over all the time, even when I am trying to study. What should I do?

Living with people is difficult, especially when you have to share a small space. When your roommate always seems to have new people over, it can be distracting during your study time. One of the first things you want to do is talk to your roommate about this problem. The conversation may be awkward, but necessary.

When approaching your roommate remember to not speak in an accusatory or negative tone, e.g. I failed my test because I couldn’t concentrate when your friend was over. Your roommate may not be aware that they are distracting you the first time you mention it; or that it bothers you. Keep an open mind to hear their side of the story, without getting into a defensive mode even if they may. Try to make a compromise. For instance maybe providing options such as Wednesdays are friend-free days, or after 10 pm no more visitors. Compromise is usually the key to making any relationship work, even as roommates. If for some reason you cannot make a compromise with your roommate bring up the topic to your resident assistant to pursue a solution all can agree upon. Always remember though that no matter whom you room with there will be something that needs compromising.

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: Tammara R. Winn and Randall Weissman

Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Torres

Associate Editor: Misturat Ganiyu

Staff Writer: Holly Britton

Sports Reporter: Afolabi Bello

Business Manager: Suzette Shepherd

Intern Reporter: Darius Robinson

To contact for more information: phoenix@govst.edu

or call

1(708) 534 - 4517 / 1(708) 534 - 3068
Interviewed by Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

The Professor Profile for this Issue is Dr. Patrick Santoro from the College of Arts and Sciences division of Communication-Visual and Performing Arts.

Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

Santoro: I teach a variety of Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS) courses, such as The Storytelling Tradition, Directing, Performing Culture and Identity, Performance and Social Change, Writing as Performance, and Chicagoland Theatre. I am also an affiliated faculty member in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Communication Studies, so I teach courses in those areas as well.

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

Santoro: I have been teaching at the university level for 12 years, starting as a graduate teaching assistant as part of my master’s program before working as an adjunct. I received my Ph.D. in 2010, so I am now in my sixth year as a professor. But one might say I actually began teaching in high school as part of an exploratory education program, where, as a senior, I student taught freshmen and sophomore high school theatre and English courses as well as reading to elementary school students. I have always known I wanted to teach.

Phoenix: You are the Program Coordinator of the Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS) here at GSU. Can you tell me about TAPS?

Santoro: In 2012, as GSU prepared to become a comprehensive 4-year university, I was hired to lead the development of a performance program to launch in Fall 2014 alongside the arrival of our first freshman class. In many ways, the program—with its focus on how we use performance as a transformative agent of social, cultural, political, and personal change—is one I would have enjoyed as an undergraduate.

We look at performance broadly, from traditional theatre to everyday life. I believe that we learn by doing and that we live our lives on one sort of stage or another, so performance becomes a metaphor for human communication. TAPS courses not only ask students to read and perform plays, but to apply their own lives to the study of performance, such as what it means to perform race and how we come to understand gender. While majors and minors are required to participate on stage or behind the scenes in main stage productions, such as in past offerings of Fahrenheit 451 and A Raisin in the Sun, this is an opportunity open to all GSU students. Many don’t realize that the TAPS program is not just about acting, but is equally about the design and research that goes into a production. Ultimately, we want to provide students with opportunities from a variety of perspectives—to make art that matters.

Phoenix: Can you tell me how you are helping students with your longtime experience in performance?

Santoro: Storytelling is an important part of the TAPS mission. In fact, using story is an important part of learning. Before academia, I worked in professional theatre as a performer, director, and stage manager. In class, I often talk about those experiences, as well as my experiences in school. It’s important to me that students know that I have done what I ask them to do, that I have been in their shoes, that I understand the vulnerability, fear, and exhilaration of performing—on stage as well as off. As a teacher, I consider myself a storyteller, inviting others to share their unique stories as well.

Phoenix: What is your favorite part of teaching?

Santoro: Seeing students make connections with ideas, with others, and within themselves. It’s important to me that students understand the importance of what they’re studying—not just a subject, but how it relates to their lives and the lives of others. Those moments are what teaching is all about for me, and the more students can create these sparks, the more I believe they will have the capacity for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives.

Interviewed by Darius Robinson  
Intern Reporter

The club in the spotlight this issue is the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS). This club has been around for several years. The purpose of this club is to help show the Latino presence on the GSU campus, to promote diversity within the school and to bring people together who appreciate the Latino Culture. The club members participate in different recreational activities, and they hold fundraisers at least twice a semester in order to raise funds for the club. They actually just held a Tamale sale fundraiser last week on March 22, which is one of their more successful ones. The club’s president is Jose Serrano. They have sixteen active members. This club is ongoing throughout the school year. Any ethnicity is welcome to join the club and there is no fee to join. To join ALAS email Serrano at jserrano@student.govst.edu. The club meets every Tuesday at 3:30 pm in the meditation room A2150 near Student Life.

When Serrano was asked, what did he see for the future with regards to ALAS his response was, “I see this club growing tremendously with new members and more people will want to find out about Latin culture. Even though this is a school club we try to make it more of a family bond and I hope that this continues.”

If you are interested in having your Club/Student Organization featured in our “Club Spotlight” email us at phoenix@govst.edu

Club Spotlight  
Association of Latin American Students

By Darius Robinson  
Intern Reporter

Past and present members of ALAS. Photo courtesy of Eric Rosas.
**Campus**

**Hemingway re-visited**

By Natalie Helberg
Contributing Writer

On March 8, 2016 members of Reconstructed Journal, GSU English students and faculty, took a field trip to see Ernest Hemingway’s birthplace and early childhood home in Oak Park, Illinois. Born in 1899, Ernest Hemingway is considered a significant contributor to American literature. The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park gave the group a guided tour of his home. The foundation spokesman discussed the influence living in Oak Park had on the narratives he wrote. His opera singer mother and obstetrician father as well as both his grandparents, who served in the United States military and loved the outdoors, heavily affected him.

Ernest Hemingway’s writing reflects his deep relationship to nature while also evolving a particular sense of emotion without direct words. Hemingway was best known for his short stories and the essence in which he created realistic environments using a variety of literary styles and techniques. He was purposely vague with emotive language and pushed the reader to find the hidden subtext and meanings in his works. The Ernest Hemingway Birthplace is a fascinating collection of his early years. The house has been completely restored to what it would have looked like during his life and is a wonderful testament to his lasting literary legacy.

Reconstructed Journal sponsored this trip and publishes the visual artwork and writing of GSU students. The club is always looking for submissions, whether short fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, short film, or visual artistry, you can submit your pieces to the journal. Details are available at: http://reconstructedjournal.com

The Journal also is looking for students to help staff grow. Reconstructed is a student run organization and as a member you would be working behind the scenes to help Reconstructed evolve. Among events in the planning stages are field trips, a writing workshop, fundraisers, a yearly contributor’s reception and civic engagement on GSU’s campus. A print version of the online journal is produced every spring.

Those interested should email Reconstructed@govst.edu to be a part of the evolving journal.

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**Dr. Andujar: professor and novelist**

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

GSU has a hidden novelist, and his name is Dr. Reynolds Andujar. He is a visiting professor since the Fall of 2015.

Recently, Dr. Andujar won an award for his latest novel, "Los Gestos Inútiles" the translation is the useless gestures. The award was presented by the Association Latin America Balansiya Boliviana de los Pueblos de America. It was presented in Cuba.

“The award is very important because it’s an international award for novels,” said Dr. Andujar. His novel was chosen from among 178 novels from 18 different countries.

"Los Gestos Inútiles" is the third novel from a series of mystery novels; “The Triangle Man” and “Candela” were the first two. Dr. Andujar stated, “I always wanted to write detective books but at the beginning for some reason I found the problem of the law and living in a country that is so corrupt. How am I going to write detective novels if I cannot put these people [characters] in jail? In my country [Dominican Republic] you can buy the law.”

However, he did not give up and wrote about a homicide, a murder, the murderer and presents the dilemma with a detective. “It’s a story of a guy that politics did not treat him very well. He is not a hero, my country is full of heroes. I like to show the antihero. I wanted to show that he cannot break the system; it was there long before him. He doesn’t find comfort or redemption in being humble. He tries to be a hero and gets killed in the process.”

According to Dr. Andujar he writes within a specific time frame -- "From the moment the United States invaded the country for the second time in 1965; to the moment the Nintendo got into the stores in the Dominican Republic in the late 80’s/early 90’s.” Dr. Andujar always wanted to be an artist but he said he was not good at painting, sculpting or dancing. “Secretly a writer career was building within me because I always loved to read,” he said. “That is one of the main things for a writer.

“One day at a poetry reading in New York a friend of mine sent it to a contest and it won. That’s how it started.”

In addition to this particular award, Dr. Andujar has won other awards for his short fictions.

Dr. Andujar teaches British Literature and Spanish this semester. He will be teaching Latin American Literature, Sociology and Spanish next semester.

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**Summer Registration**

By Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

Summer registration began on March 21 for priority students, varying depending on the number of credits earned and grade level. As of March 25, all students (new, undeclared, non-degree seeking) are officially able to register for summer courses.

Summer provides flexible options in courses for students. Some of these options include in-class, online, or a hybrid of the two.

There are also three section types that can be chosen for courses. For students who would like to have a vacation at the end of summer, they may choose to take course sections starting the week of May 16 and ending the week of June 20. If you are a student who would rather have a longer break between Spring and Summer the later section beginning the week of June 27 and ending the week of August 1 may be the option for you.

Some students may prefer to extend their summer education by taking classes that begin the week of May 16...

Continued on p. 6
A contest amongst peers

By Darius Robinson
Intern Reporter

On Wednesday, March 9, the Art Department hosted an Art Exhibition for the students of GSU in the E lounge Art Gallery. In addition to the exhibition, there was also a contest among the artworks featured. The event was hosted by the Art Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson. They invited Mary Beth Koszut to be the guest judge for the contest. Mary Beth is a popular abstract artist who has been creating works for numerous years. She is also a professor at Olivet Nazarene University, where she teaches art education and a variety of studio arts courses, according to the Olivet website.

The event lasted for three hours, and it included refreshments for the attendees. The people were able to view the artworks from 4-6pm and at 6 the host began to speak. Jeff Stevenson gave commentary to open the program and then he handed the microphone to Ms. Koszut. She explained a little about herself and then she elaborated about certain pieces at the exhibition that did not win but stood out to her. A couple of those pieces she spoke on were: “Grandma Mimi,” by Senior in Ceramics Kayla Kreiniker and “Gauri Jaya,” by Senior in Painting Alicia Post.

Around 6:30 p.m. the winners were announced. The winner for the Curator’s Choice (3rd place) was Senior Lisa Madden, for her oil paint work which was untitled. For the Juror’s Choice (2nd place) was Senior Dee Sroka, for her stoneware art piece which was also untitled. The Best in the Show (1st place) winner was Graduate Michael Perrott, for his steel, plastic, and botanicals art work entitled, “Bioferric II Segmata.”

The artworks are still on display in the Art Gallery in the E lounge for anyone who is interested in seeing any of the winning students’ artworks or any of the other students works that were featured in the exhibition. The works will remain until the end of March. According to Jeff Stevenson there are other exhibitions set in the coming months, and those interested should check with the Art Department for further information.

Sweet Home Chicago Blues Review

Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

On March 5, the Center for Performing Arts brought joy to the stage with Sweet Home Chicago Blues. Sweet Home Chicago Blues featured several blues artists from the Chicagoland area: Billy Branch, Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater, Demetria Taylor, Jimmy Burns, Eddie Shaw, Zora Young, James Yancy Jones “The Tail Dragger” and Jamiah Rogers. Each performer had their own style to engage the audience.

First performer Billy Branch, who also acted as the emcee, was very animated in his performance. He assured the audience it was perfectly okay to stand up and dance. He played songs like “Baby Butter Your Corn” after starting with stories. There was even a point where Branch came out into the audience singing directly to audience members as individuals. After many jokes, Branch introduced Rogers, who also is one of his students. Rogers was the youngest performer, younger than 21, who sang, and played multiple instruments. The most impressive portion of Rogers’ performance was when he played his guitar using his face.

The audience found laughter in The Tail Dragger dance moves. Initially he came out sitting down, being an older gentleman. When he stood up and began twisting and turning the crowd was taken by surprise and amusement.

As the show proceeded songs such as “A Whole Lot of Loving” by B.B.King and “BrickHouse” by Commodores was covered. Each of the performers also was given a chance to “breakdown” or solo play their own instruments. With a wonderful heart pumping performance by all, the show ended with a standing ovation. The performers took their time after the show to take photos and sign copies of albums for attendees.

Overall the performance was enjoyable for all. With jokes, laughter, and excellent performing personalities the event was a huge success!
Developing film in a chemistry laboratory

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

Chemistry has become a lot more interesting and fun at GSU. Dr. John Sowa, chemistry professor and Chairperson of the Science department, has combined the chemistry of photography with his Physical Chemistry II class. The class is learning how to develop black and white film.

The class consists of three students because Physical Chemistry II is an advanced class. The students are Daniel Kuchta, Joseph Quist and Vincent Schmitz who are all chemistry majors.

“The reason why I decided to do this is that the Chemistry class has a higher level concept that they are learning called quantum chemistry. I was looking for some really good practical applications for quantum chemistry. A really good of quantum chemistry is film photography,” said Dr. Sowa.

“It’s cooler than a traditional cookie cutter labs that everybody does. It’s cooler than just following a sheet, going through the motions to get a grade. He makes us interact more,” said Quist.

The chemistry behind photography according to Dr. Sowa is “it’s where photons of light help create an image.”

Dr. Sowa has a history with photography. Hence he decided to develop film in the lab portion of Physical Chemistry II. His best friend’s father was an artist and a film photographer. “When we were kids, he taught us how to do black and white film photography and developing,” said Dr. Sowa.

Kuchta had previous photography experience in high school. When he was asked how it was learning the chemistry behind photography he expressed, “It’s definitely cool. Science is always something that interested me so taking something that’s been a long time passion of mine actually learning the actual process behind how it works, kind of puts it in a new light.”

The students made the chemical to develop the film, out of Tylenol. Dr. Sowa expressed on the making of the developer, “There is a commercial name for the Tylenol base film developer its called Rodinal.

I ran across some recipes on the internet about how to make Rodinal directly from Tylenol.”

Schmitz elaborated how he felt about the lab, “I think its pretty innovated, applying quantum mechanical fundamental science to real life application. He really brings that home in this lab.”

Dr. Sowa and his class will in the future be using coffee and Vitamin C as ingredients to make the developer.

Amber Alert review

By Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

Dr. Patrick Santora’s Performance and Social Change class took over the Hall of Governors on March 8 with their performance of “Amber Alert,” performed by an eight-person female cast to highlight the facts about human trafficking. There were three performances of Amber Alert taking place at 4pm, 5:15pm, and 6:30pm. Opening the show, each member of the cast were spread throughout the Hall of Governors as a video played. The video showed isolation of individuals and places while playing audio tracks of females at different ages stating “I have no voice” or “they took my voice.” The older the individual sounded, the easier they were to ignore. The visuals in the video however really connected with the idea of not having a voice, making it more difficult to ignore.

Each of the performers took on the role of an everyday female who was brought into the human trafficking. They told their stories including the loss of a son and dreams of being a scientist. Throughout the performance the cast provided shocking statistics about human trafficking. For instance there are 134 countries that actively participate in human trafficking, including the United States. In these countries it has been reported that 29.9 million adults and children have been sold into human trafficking. Since 2007 there have been 325,000 reported cases of sex exploitation, an increase of 5,000%, with the average entrance age of 12-14 years old. While the performers provided these statistics, they also passed out images that were found in relation to human trafficking, example shown.

One story stuck out because of the innocence of the act. When a little girl was at her birthday party, she had gone to the bathroom; it was during this simple act of using the bathroom alone that she was taken and sold into sex trafficking. That is what made the video of “I Have No Voice” even more emotional and eye opening. Reflecting on all the statistics and images that were provided it made it seem like no one is safe, ever.
Let’s talk about Student Conduct

By Suzette Shepherd
Business Manager

GSU is a community of learning, and as students, the majority of us expect faculty to adhere to a code of conduct that is conducive to the learning environment. This expectation is especially true for professors who are expected to be respectful, professional, and communicative.

According to one faculty member, they are annually reminded of their code of conduct through the completion of mandated online training and seminars. The annual training modules for faculty, focuses on providing students with a safe learning environment void of non-academic issues such as sexual harassment, stalking, and public display that are romantic in nature. Students also have a code of conduct that is documented in the university catalog. But numerous students are unaware of the student code because they don’t read the online university catalog thoroughly.

Often the behavior a student displays on campus is the same behavior they display in the dormitories. There are consequences to certain behaviors, including punishment and sanctions if a student violates the student code of conduct. Nails Silva, Graduate Assistant for Community Standards and Student Advocacy which is located in the offices of Student Life was interviewed on this topic.

According to Silva, her role in the office is to help out Tameika Scott, Interim Director of Community Standards and Student Advocacy as well as the temporary coordinator Jennifer Boender.

She stated, “I deal with a lot of the logistics work in regard to notices sent out to students in reference to hearings and date processes.”

What are hearings for?

“When a student violates any of the codes under policy 4 (student conduct policy), they are subject to sanctions,” Silva said, “including but not limited to academics and non-academic forms of consequences.”

“If the violation is academic, the student’s college is in charge of the conduct violation sanctions. However, if the violation is non-academic, (i.e., sexual assault, physical abuse, verbal abuse, destruction of property, harassment, alcohol in the residence halls, and etc.) these violations are addressed within Student Life.”

Look for the next Issue of The Phoenix for more of the interview with Nails Silva.

Sports highlight: Tony Bates

By Afolabi-Bello Olanrewaju
Sports Reporter

Coach Tony Bates doubles as the athletic director and the head coach of the Men’s Basketball team at Governors State University. The six-foot-tall coach started playing basketball at an early age, and he still enjoys playing the game whenever time permits. He has been a coach for more than 30 years and he has earned a Master’s degree.

Coach Tony Bates is not a new face around basketball circles. His playing career started at the age of five, the would-be coach would later play for Trinity Christian College and become the nation’s fifth leading scorer during his sophomore year, earning him a spot with the fans of the college and winning a scholarship in the process.

For the coach, basketball is not just another job, it is a passion he relishes. And the transition from playing basketball to being a coach of the game was a natural one. This passion would later land him the job of an associate men’s basketball coach at Saint Xavier University. Coach Bates holds firmly to his belief that his athletes must complete their education, sports come second. According to him, “there is success outside of basketball.”

For the coach, the position as the Head Coach at Governors State University is a unique opportunity akin to the high school program he started at Tabernacle Christian in the mid-’80s. The program went on to be a success, winning a record 385 games, with a winning ratio of 4 to 1. Though the terrain is different, the challenge is the same; making the men’s basketball team of Governors State University champions.

The situation at GSU is not much different from Tabernacle Christian, the coach was engaged to build and start a program there, the same thing he is doing here. When asked what his main challenges were, he said “getting a structure around the game,” the other is the game at GSU is “currently not generating enough awareness” to attract the talent he needs to fulfill his ambition.

This coach is not one to shy away from saying it as it is. He will tell whoever cares to listen that the Jaguars need pioneers, that “we need those who want to build traditions, because we are new, we are starting a sport.” Yet, the coach is an optimist, given the results the team posted this season, that a new set of traditions is about to be created. Though the Jaguars currently play in NAIA division 2, next season the team will join the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, a much tougher league. The CCAC is made up of 15 teams across Chicagoland, Indiana, Wisconsin and up to Iowa. “That is the toughest league to be in the NAIA” says the coach. “It comprises teams such as Saint Xavier, Olivet Nazarene, St. Francis, Saint Andrews. These are the team that make up the CCAC, and your school is going to be a part of it next season.”

The coach has a specific set of standards for selecting his potential athletes. He looks for athletes with an IQ for the game, and he looks at the character of the athlete. He talks with both the potential player and the parents to find out if the athlete has academic or character challenges.

This rigorous winnowing process does not go without some benefits. The possible athlete stands a chance of getting a scholarship from amongst the six positions the university has to offer. But it comes at a cost, the interested athlete must be willing to graduate from the university not just to come play basketball, this Coach Tony prides himself in. Coach Bates wins, and he encourages the kids on his team to win. He believes that the unselfish player is the winner in any game. The player who is willing to commit himself for the success of the team, whether it is a rebound, defense or offense. That is the type of player that makes the six footer smile.

Coach Bates has coached over 600 students at the high school and college level, and his greatest feat to date is that more than 90 percent of them have graduated. This is what you hear the coach boast about not the several championships that he has won with Tabernacle Christian Academy. Though the coach would prefer to have better coverage for school games, he also knows that nothing will sell the teams ticket better than churning out the victorious results. This is what he is hoping to work on next season. Yet, he craves the university’s management support in sending out the message.

The results this season were not spectacular, but when you realize that the team played a tough schedule this season with only eight kids for the entire season, one cannot help but acknowledge their efforts. Taking into consideration that this was their first year in the NAIA, a result of 8 wins to 21 may not be bad. His vision is to compete immediately next season with a full team in the CCAC and not only to win the conference but to be invited to the national tournament. He is fully aware of the lofty goals he is setting for himself and the team, but he sees it as achievable with the commitment of his backroom staff and the talent of his players, some of whom he thinks might make it in the NBA.

When asked what his greatest accomplishment was as a coach, he said “my greatest accomplishment has not happened yet, my greatest accomplishment will be when I see my kids graduate.”
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