Barbara Flynn Currie filed an Amendment to Senate Bill 2059, which can be found at http://ilga.gov/legislation/99/SP/PDF/09900SB2059ham002.pdf. This Amendment calls for appropriated funding to be reinserted into the Educational Systems throughout the State of Illinois.

Article 11 in the amendment focuses on raising funds to Governors State University in particular.

“The Budget Impasse continues, Rallies Grow Stronger”

By Holly Britton

On April 20, Governors State University staff and students traveled to Springfield to participate in a rally among more than a thousand more concerned Illinois residents.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the activists “called for support of a proposal to replace Illinois’ flat income tax with a tax on seven percent of the wealthiest residents pay more, saying the revenue will help universities and social services operating without state money.” This means that residents of Illinois would pay more in taxes if they earn more.

The Chicago Tribune explained how the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) provided “fierce criticism” of first term Gov. Bruce Rauner because most of our salaries have not had the same opportunities to continue their education. Gina Richard, a graduate student at Governors State who attended the rally, said “The budget crisis has no effect on me as I am a grad student. However, I have a daughter who will one day benefit from MAP grants.” Richard argues that politicians in Springfield need to stop wasting time and pass a budget to solidify the future of education in Illinois.

If current Illinois students are unable to complete their degree requirements, it will have a major impact on their ability to earn a good living, and future generations may find it even more difficult to attend school of higher education. Richard states while rallying, “There was no one there to answer any of our questions, but our school reps (Yolanda Pitts and Mychael Vanarsdale) spoke with Rauner’s secretary who had close to nothing to say.

I don’t believe she delivered the message in a way that we could have if we were able to speak to him directly.”

The Tribune also stated that “Rauner’s secretary immediately objected to Lewis’s comments.” Catherine Kelly, Rauner’s spokeswoman stated, “This kind of rhetoric has no place in American public discourse and sets a terrible example for our kids.” Richard makes a point however, “It is their referring to undergraduates right to have funding to excel in their education.” On April 21, Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie filed an Amendment to Senate Bill 2059, which can be found at http://ilga.gov/legislation/99/SP/PDF/09900SB2059ham002.pdf. This Amendment calls for appropriated funding to be reinserted into the Educational Systems throughout the State of Illinois.

Governors State University students have been luckier than many other Illinois students because so far, MAP grants are being covered for them. Many other students throughout the state of Illinois though, have not had the same opportunities to continue their education. The budget crisis has no effect on me as I am a grad student. However, I have a daughter who will one day benefit from MAP grants.” Richard argues that politicians in Springfield need to stop wasting time and pass a budget to solidify the future of education in Illinois.

By Misturat Ganiyu

President Maimon has been reminding the University community that Governors State University will not be closing and also that the tuition rates for the 2016-2017 school year academic year will remain the same.

This is all good news for students, faculty and staff. “Students should be aware that because we haven’t had any state appropriations we are currently looking at our future budget with significant decrease in state support, so it will impact the different programs in different ways,” Dr. David Green, Division Chair of Accounting, Finance, MIS, and Economics in the College of Business. President Maimon said in a Town Hall meeting with faculty and staff on April 15 the school will begin to move forward. Governors State University will be operating based on Governor Rauner’s recent proposal which calls for a 20% reduction in Illinois state appropriation to higher education.

According to Keisha Dyson, Director of Marketing and Communication, about 200 faculty and staff members attended that meeting. “President Maimon is doing a tremendously great job leading the university through this difficult time” Dr. John Sowa, Division Chair of GSU’s Science Department and Chemistry Professor, said. Furthermore, in the GSU Newsroom it was stated that “all appropriate possibilities” will be examined.

In addition, it was mentioned that “those possibilities include program eliminations; program consolidations and reassignments; surrender of previously budgeted unfilled position; salary reductions; and layoffs.

“The budget impasse is very meaningful to faculty because most of our salaries come from the budget and if the state does not provide money then our salaries are in jeopardy,” Dr. Sowa noted. He continued, “We’re concerned about that.” Although people may first think about how the budget impasse affects the students, we can also think about its influence on faculty and staff. “It’s impacting me both as a faculty member and also as a division chair who’s in charge of faculty and staff because it’s our planning document,” Dr. Sowa said.

As we know, these are the people who are teaching us and helping us gain knowledge for our future careers. Students expressing their concerns for students is understandable.

“I don’t think that the students should worry about the faculty. Let the faculty worry about the students. We’re here for your benefit,” Dr. Sowa said.

Dr. Sowa mentioned the importance of communicating with your local government representatives and Dr. Green shared the same belief, “Students should contact their elected officials at the state level because as strong as the university is this has really been challenging for everyone involved,” said Dr. Green. He added, “I know that it has caused a lot of stress for students, worried about what is going to happen… We don’t want students questioning whether or not the university is going to be here because we are going to be here.”
To walk across the stage (or not walk across the stage)

By Misturat Ganiyu
Associate Editor

Finals are approaching, which is a sign to students that the spring 2016 semester is coming to an end. This may be your last semester of college.

Whether you will be pursuing another bachelor’s or doctoral degree, or starting a new career, these past few years in college have been a journey, and walking across the stage lets you know that you have made it to your destination.

Hearing your name called at the ceremony can put a smile on your face. Academic advisors extend their degree-clad hands to the student body; people come to realize that the years full of obstacles were worth it.

However, the thought of graduation can be intimidating. What if you fall on your way to the stage, or someone mispronounces your name? These, among others, minor incidents to consider when a graduation ceremony comes to mind.

If your path was too tiresome, or you want nothing more than to begin your career, you may desire to skip it altogether. Some paths can be so full of adversity that arriving to the finish line might only seem like another task. For that reason, some students choose to skip the ceremony.

In traditional colleges, students cannot opt out of commencement ceremonies. At Governors State University, it is optional. Once students have completed their classes, they can receive their degrees in the mail six to eight weeks after the conclusion of a semester.

Celebrate your degree completion however you want, and make it so that when you look back on your college experience, you find that you savored it in the best way possible.

We have evolved and are still evolving, so look at the college graduation ceremony not as a three or four hour waste of time, but as a celebration of your growth welcoming you to take part - a celebration of your journey.

By Matt Gentry
Grad Columnist

With 259 million professionals using LinkedIn, including every single Fortune 500 firm, LinkedIn is a powerful professional networking tool. But as a student, how can you make LinkedIn work for you and what are some common mistakes to avoid and tips to making your professional image online shine?

According to Director of Career Services at GSU, Darcie Campos, here are the 5 golden rules for creating a LinkedIn profile for students:

1. include a professional photo of yourself alone, 2. include a headline with your area of study and your career ambitions, 3. create a keyword-rich summary that includes your strengths, qualifications, and types of positions you are seeking, 4. include all of your volunteer activities, internships, and extra-curricular activities, and 5. include any recommendations from professors, advisors, and internships. Fortunately, LinkedIn has its own tutorial for students to help them succeed online, which can be found at https://university.linkedin.com/linkedin-for-students.

Now that you have completed filling out your profile (which improves your ability to network), what is next? Now is the time to start making and maintaining connections. Some potential people to connect with include faculty, alumni, past employers and colleagues, and other professionals in your field. Another great opportunity is when you meet someone at a conference or networking event, since LinkedIn is a great way to stay in touch. When making a connection, be sure to add a personal message. The recipient will be much more likely to accept your request and endorse your skills in response. No emoticons, jargon, or typos please!

Once these connections are made, you can ask a current connection to “introduce” you to someone in their network. As you can see, this creates a chain reaction that helps increase your exposure to an ever-expanding network.

Now that you have a profile and network, LinkedIn is a great resource to finding jobs. One way to help the job search process is to join groups and organizations in your field, which leads to many valuable connections. Find and follow companies that are relevant to your field, as these companies may post events or workshops that provide an opportunity to attend and introduce yourself to those in hiring positions. Posting relevant questions and articles to a group page can show that you are an involved individual who can offer valuable opinions and pertinent information. These are all factors in creating a positive online reputation that can cause employers to actively seek you out.

Here are a few more random tips. Go to settings and under privacy change your notification settings to stop sending alerts every time you make a small change to your profile. Upload your resume, which automatically populates a lot of your profile for you (but make sure your resume is up to date). LinkedIn will try to sell you on upgrading to their paid “Premium Service”. This is great if you are a recruiter, and may be an option if you are using LinkedIn as the sole means to find a job, but for the average user the free version is usually adequate.

If you are going to take the time to create a quality LinkedIn profile, I encourage you to check out the website listed above. If you still have questions, you can see a counselor at the Office of Career Services who will be happy to assist you or email Graduate Professional Network Co-Chair Matt Gentry at mgentry@student.govest.edu.
The Toastmasters Club is a world-renowned public speaking and leadership organization that helps its members become more effective communicators and leaders. The Phoenix Toastmasters Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the University Park Campus Center, starting at 6:30 PM. The club is open to anyone who wishes to develop their public speaking and leadership skills. The club offers encouragement, motivation, and tools to help people become successful in public speaking. The club is active on campus and in the community, with regular meetings and events throughout the year. The club has a diverse membership, with members from all walks of life and at all levels of experience. The club is a great place to meet new people, improve your public speaking skills, and have fun doing so. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced speaker, the Phoenix Toastmasters Club is a great place to start your journey towards becoming a better communicator and leader.
Campus

Want a more flexible class schedule?

By Brenda Torres
Editor-in-Chief

A group of students at GSU have started a social movement regarding the scheduling of classes on campus. The organization is called Start Taking Action Regarding Time (START) and it is for their Social Movements class with Dr. Cortees.

The founders of START are Jessica Buford, Simeon Black, Raquel Vanloon and Priscilla Jones. Black stated what START is, “An organization that we created that is pushing for more flexible schedules when it comes to taking classes. That includes having more options for one class, having more or less breaks in between, depending on someone’s schedule.”

According to Buford the organization founders do not have roles assigned, they are making it a group effort. START was established not only for class but also because the founders of the group were having problems with the class schedules that are offered. “What started off as an individual problem, became a movement,” said Jones. Vanloon, stated her problem with how classes are offered, “I am a psychology major and the three other classes that I did not take were not available, so I had to take a sociology class.” Vanloon continued to explain that she likes the sociology class that she is in, but she would rather be taking a psychology class. Moreover, Jones had a problem as well with her scheduling issues, “She is visually impaired and her classes are being offered at night. She is on public transportation. That makes it difficult.”

Another issue that START has found is that many classes are either offered in the Fall or Spring. Therefore, sometimes students have to wait a whole semester until a particular class is offered again. Which sometimes can lead to students graduating later than planned.

START has been collecting signatures from students in expectation that the class schedules offered each semester will become more flexible. So far they have collected approximately one hundred and fifty signatures. They are to present the petitions to their professor and present on their social movement to their class. According to Black, START is still in the beginning stages. However, a few members want to continue the movement after the semester ends, “I’m here for another year. If I can get some help, I will continue it because it is definitely an issue that is a concern to everyone [students].”

If you would like to sign the petition please email Jones at pjones7@students.govst.edu.

Dual Degree Program Induction

By Holly Britton
Staff Reporter

On April 15, the Dual Degree Program (DDP), hosted their semiannual Spring Induction. Registration and breakfast began at 8:30. As students enjoyed their refreshments they had an opportunity to have fun playing games such as “stack ‘em” with cups and keeping balloons in the air for a minute.

After a general welcome from the coordinator of peer mentoring and transition programs, Tiesha Walker, and the director of the Dual Degree Program, Roshaunda Ross, students had the opportunity to get to know each other through DDP Bingo. Following bingo, students were given an overview of DDP and how to make transferring from their community college easy. They got to hear from current peer mentors on their experiences throughout DDP, including experiences such as transferring and participating in community service activities.

As new members gathered outside for a group photo, guests were able to learn more about the transition process and how they can assist in the process.

Mrs. Walker then lead all the new members in reciting a pledge to themselves. The pledge consisted of a promise to themselves that they will be committed to education, while growing as an individual.

To gain more information on their particular programs and colleges, students broke off into individual sessions. Here students could ask questions about their programs from some advisors and deans within their particular college.

As the day progressed, students and their guests were brought to E-Lounge for lunch, socializing, and discovering more about the school. Representatives from departments such as housing and student life provided insight to students on additional benefits for DDP students.

During the luncheon the new DDP members had the chance to take a tour of the campus, Prairie Place, or both if they wished. The inductees left the day armed with knowledge and resources in regards to Governoy State and their now lasting relationship as a GSU community member.
Rip the Runway: bringing GSU talents together

By Brenda Torres  
Editor-in-Chief and  
Darius Robinson  
Intern Reporter

The Program Council of Student Life presented a fashion show, Rip the Runway, on April 19 in the E-Lounge.

The idea came from Johnnie Ware and Jeremy Frierson; they are both GSU sophomores who are apart of the university’s first freshmen class and were coordinators of the event.

“We wanted to do a fashion show because we wanted to do something new. We wanted to present something different, fresh, over the top for GSU,” said Frierson.

Ware thought it was important to show the hip-hop culture on campus. “We thought it would be just a great idea to do a fashion show, bringing this hip-hop culture here.”

According to Ware, he originally thought of the fashion show as a simple idea and within a matter of time the idea became an actual thing. Frierson decided to help and take on the task of setting up this event, when Ware presented the idea to him.

“We collaborated with this event; we separated the event into two separate parts. I would handle the models and the designers and he would handle the performances and the songs,” said Frierson.

Ware and Frierson wanted to promote the hidden talents that GSU has, such as two clothing designers from campus, a first year student Jared Edwards and Tamond Hill, a member of the dance team.

Furthermore, Ware thought the fashion show was important to campus because, “A lot of students are big on music and fashion. Especially, since we have a lot of new and young students. In our generation music, culture and fashion is a big deal. The fashion show is a perfect way to bring all that together.”

Another purpose of the fashion show was to bring the arts together according to Frierson.

Coverage

The show was not just your average runway walk. It infused fashion, dance and music. If anything this event was more of a celebration, celebrating urban fashion and hip-hop culture.

The beginning of the show allowed the models to display the clothing by the designers that were featured in the show.

The middle portion of the show involved a performance by a GSU dance troop, that judging by the crowds reaction was well received.

The end half allowed some of the models to pose. This gave each of them an opportunity to choose clothes from their own wardrobes, put outfits together and model them.

The host for the night, Ronique, kept the audience entertained and involved. While the music was playing in between the next parts of the show starting, she invited some of the spectators to demonstrate some of their dance moves.

She truly became a crowd favorite and she was embraced with all positive feedback.

Designer brands that were featured in the show were Rio Clothing Company, Elite Customs, Band Land and Treasure Boutique. They are all up-in-coming brands. All of the brands had different looks that helped to make the show unique.

Ware was asked, what was his inspiration behind the idea of having this show? He explained that he is a big fan of the rapper, Kanye West, and his whole style, of music and fashion, influenced him to put together the event.

Both, Ware and Frierson feel that in the future the fashion show, Rip the Runway, will continue on campus and the next one will be even greater.
The following are Honor Societies Inductions that were covered or given to The Phoenix throughout the semester. GSU has many honor societies based on academic majors.

For further information on the Honor Societies at GSU visit, http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Student_Life/Honor_Societies/

Lambda Pi Eta

2016 Lambda Pi Eta Induction was held on February 26, 2016. Photo courtesy of Tammara Winn.

Inductees: Simon Charles, Nancy Gallegos, Donna Gordon, Miguel Marino-Castillo, Josephine Martey, Carisha Pulley, Michelle Sebasco, Cassandra Anne Stephens

Phi Alpha

Alpha Iota Sigma

2016 Alpha Iota Sigma induction was held March 11, 2016 in the Hall of Honors.

Across
1 When you place money into something in hopes for it grow
6 The explanation about how something looks
7 He was "Do the Right Thing" and many other mainly African-American stared movies
9 He's retiring this year after 13 seasons in the NBA
10 To get someone back for doing something to you in a negative way
12 The network that had early 50's cartoons aired on it such as: "Hey Arnold" and "Rugrats"
14 Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and Sammy Davis Jr.
16 The comic books that Stan Lee created were

Down
2 The type of publication that this crossword puzzle is in
3 The entity that you would donate money to
4 When something costs a lot of money
5 He starred as Blade
8 A 3 letter word for a finale
11 A small shop with limited quantities of items
13 Where the movie "Casino," with Robert Deniro, was based in
15 The name of the NBA team in New Orleans

Ludicrum
**Athletics and Campus**

**Sports Spotlight**

By Afolabi-Bello Olarewaju

Sports Reporter

Zaporia Smith needs no special introduction. Zaporia plays guard for the female basketball team, the Jaguars. Z as she is fondly called, though a junior studying social work, has been the captain of the female team for two seasons and she proudly wears the number 2. Her contributions to the game has not gone unnoticed, as she scooped the 4th Annual Black Women Rock Athlete of the Year for her outstanding basketball skills. Standing at 5.4 her drive, grit and determination on the court led her to be the university’s highest scorer last season. Join us this week as we discover more about our star for the week.

What is your Zodiac sign?
I am a Taurus

Doesn’t matter what designer name I have on, it’s about how good it looks together.

What song are you currently listening to?
Rihanna-Needed Me

Favorite song of all time?
Aaliyah-One in a Million

Who is your role model?
My grandmother. She’s my idol.

Favorite hangout spot on GSU?
The cafe is the best hangout place.

Who is your favorite personality on campus?
Favorite person on campus will have to be Coach Burrell, she’s always there when you need help with anything or need someone to talk to.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?
In my career job and in my first apartment.

What is your thought on life?
Live life to the fullest since you only live once and you can be whatever you want to be; you just have to believe.

What would you like to be remembered for in life and on GSU?
A friend, leader, sister, mentor. That I was a woman that lead by example and you can go to her with anything and she will be there for you with no judgment.

Your thought on GSU?
Great school that’s in the making of expanding to be a big time university.

When did you start playing the sport?
When I was in 4th grade

Favorite team mate on the Jaguars?
I love all my teammates, Jaguars?

Favorite hangout spot on GSU?
The cafe is the best hangout spot.

Who is your favorite personality on campus?
Favorite person on campus will have to be Coach Burrell, she’s always there when you need help with anything or need someone to talk to.

Most embarrassing moment?
Tripping over my feet in practice and there was no one around me.

What did you feel when you won the Black Women Rock Award?
Speechless, emotional, nervous honored all in one.

How will you encourage someone who is looking up to you and wants to play basketball just like you for the Jaguars?
We welcome you with open arms and want you to be a part of history that is in the making.

Career Fair comes to GSU

By Suzette Shepherd

Business Manager

Governors State University held a Career Fair on April 14. There were many job opportunities available and many companies were represented. Students came dressed in their interview attire and were able to complete applications, speak with employers, obtain information and set up future interviews.

It was a chance for companies to meet a large volume of students at once for potential job candidates. Students had two to five minutes to market themselves, therefore making the most of their time. Students are expecting some call backs and are hopeful to gain employment.

Companies represented were:
- Alliance Shippers Inc.
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Executive Inspector General
- City of Joliet Police
- Elim Christian Services
- 18th Judicial Circuit Court
- Heartland Dental
- Illinois State Police
- Menards
- Metra
- Modern Woodmen Fraternal
- Financial
- Monterey Security
- NuFarm
- Prudential
- Richton Park Police Dept.
- R.R. Donnelley
- Sedgwick
- Springleaf
- Walgreens

Remember to visit Career Services, located in A1120 and make an appointment. They also offer open hours 3:30-4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The best day of your life?
Fulfilling my dream of having a car. Recently I purchased my very own car.

Most embarrassing moment?
Tripping over my feet in practice and there was no one around me.

How did you feel when you won the Black Women Rock Award?
Speechless, emotional, nervous honored all in one.

How will you encourage someone who is looking up to you and wants to play basketball just like you for the Jaguars?
We welcome you with open arms and want you to be a part of history that is in the making.

Heartland Dental banner displayed at the Career Fair.

Photo by Suzette Shepherd.