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Student Life

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GSU Builds Septic Fields



Photo courtesy of the GSU PR Dept.

By Jonathan Visona
Contributing Writer

Since the invention and adoption of the automobile as a form of transportation at the end of the 19th century, people the world over have come to rely on the road and the parking lot to make driving simpler. Dirt roads were covered with gravel which was eventually sealed with asphalt or concrete, the surfaces that most of us park on today. But while contemporary roads save wear and tear for the millions of cars in this country, they have been slowly poisoning the earth. To stop that from happening, those surfaces have evolved once again right here at GSU.

"Nobody thinks of the ground as alive, but it is," said Marcus Davis, student in the

College of Arts and Science. "There's so much life packed into the soils and ponds and rivers." According to Davis, chemicals like antifreeze, salts, hydrocarbons, metals and other organic compounds such as PCB's are funneled and are concentrated when they accumulate in waters on top of current lots. Most lots gradually collect, transport, deposit and concentrate these poisons in water tables, ponds and streams, substances that would normally be absorbed and broken down by bacteria in the soils.

The Facilities Development and Management (FDM) department of Governors State University has been working over the years to lessen the environmental impact of the campus. Using native plants in landscaping, solar energy to heat the pool, and upgrading the lights in the theater to more efficient models are some of the steps FDM has taken. The upgrading of conventional parking lots to permeable ones is the latest step.

"Permeable paving is recognized as green by the EPA and the US Green Building Council," said Susan Rakstang, Associate VP of FDM in a recent press release. "Installation of this environmentally responsible material fits with our commitment at GSU to better manage our storm water systems and protect and preserve our natural environment."

The process of laying a conventional lot first requires grading and tamping which is essentially the leveling and compression of the top horizons of the soil, such as humus and clay. Instead of laying down 2" limestone and covering it with asphalt or concrete, a permeable parking lot instead lays down multiple layers of gravel starting with a layer of 8" to 12" gravel. Following layers are of finer size creating a deep, porous underlayment for special, interlocking pavers which have gaps in the joints when assembled allowing water to run through.

"It's really porous," said Davis. "Think of it like a huge filter." Davis pointed out it was the reverse idea of a drain tile. A drain tile, according to Davis, works the opposite way. "The perforated, corrugated plastic pipe is in a bed of rock. The water then pours from the soil to the pipe and is carried away. A permeable parking lot is like the opposite." Davis joked it was like a great septic field.

Collaborative Mural Painting: Diversity Comes Together

By Margie Glass-Sula
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 6, two days after the historic 2008 Presidential Election, the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) held its annual open house showcasing the GSU Art department known as ArtsFest. This year I couldn't help but notice some excellent changes to the festival, but also the enlightened friendly mood of many of those attending.

I was present throughout the day in the Hall of Governors where I was able to watch the creation of the Collaborative Mural. CAS Professor Javier Chavira in collaboration with the office of Student Life had placed four very large stark white panels in the hall with a whole table of colorful paints and markers, which were to be used by anyone who felt like painting on the mural.

As I watched individuals and groups approach, (many who had to be urged to paint for fear of "not being able to draw or make art"), I noticed just how diverse the crowd was that watched, painted, discussed, and admired what was being created.

Students, visitors, children, faculty, administration, all backgrounds, age groups, and ethnicities worked on this mural in a very jovial, unified matter. I can't help but add that this diverse make up of painters that day reflects that of our country and the GSU population.

Many things were painted, painted over, enhanced,

and changed, as I witnessed the mural evolving throughout the day. One thing I did NOT witness was any anger, animosity, or severe judgment on anyone's behalf, even when their portion of the painting may have been altered by another contributing painter's hand.

As the day progressed into the evening, and the Collaborative Mural made its way down to the ArtsFest finale in the E-Lounge, where it continued to evolve and many continued to paint, I stopped to speak with Student Senate Vice President and the Leader of the President's Club Council, Fernando Rayas.

I was glad to see a fellow student from outside of the art department enjoying the ArtsFest. Our short exchange of words inspired me to write this article, as I hope it finds its way to the GSU students.

Fernando admired the mural, and pointed out what a great thing it represented about our university: a unity of our diversity. And immediately after we spoke, I also came to realize it isn't really about the "finished" mural painting.

It does not matter if the area you painted was painted over by another, or altered in some way, what mattered was that you contributed your time, your act of painting to it with others you may not have ever spoke to or interacted with that day by joining in an activity that you may never had done with them, making art!

Though the mural might be viewed by individuals



Phoenix Photo by Margie Glass-Sula

that will find it messy, and graffiti-ugly, they may realize that this initial response is completely out of line when they come to know just when, how, and by the many hands that it came to be.

So, as Fernando and I discussed, if the Collaborative Mural project of Artsfest does NOT represent that the GSU students have already started walking together down a unified and diverse path towards a greater whole, then I don't know what does. Thank you to everyone who was involved in anyway with the mural, and remember this prime example of togetherness, art and creativity. The Collaborative Mural will be on display through the winter inside the GSU Main Entrance in the Atrium lounge area.

Econ Ed Takes it to the Bank

Page 3

CAS & COE Deans Lists

Page 4

Yoga at GSU?

Page 6



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the PHOENIX

The *Phoenix* is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

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Forget the Resolutions, Find a Solution



By Sarah Silhan
Editor

The time has come again for new goals, new resolutions and new hopes and dreams. But, as a sign on a local church near my home reads, "Resolutions are like ideas: In one year and out the other."

If you're anything like me, you find yourself making your New Year's resolutions every year, only to reach Feb. 1 and realize you haven't kept up on them at all. Why does this happen? Lack of time? Lack of commitment? Lack of interest? Maybe it's a bit of each.

Or perhaps it's simply that for most people, resolutions are a lofty, if not impossible goal. You can sugarcoat it however you please, but the reality is that not all goals are attainable. For example, "I'm going to lose 40 pounds by Spring Break!" is probably not the best New Year's resolution.

I've done it, though. Every year, I set a lofty, unattainable goal. Though I will admit that my goal in 2006 did stick. I vowed to quit smoking, and by September, I had completely quit. I'm now a proud non-smoker.

This year, my goals were smaller, much more realistic. I want to get more exercise and eat better foods. To help, I enrolled in a nutrition class at GSU. And more exercise doesn't mean running five miles at 4 a.m. Those who know me I only run if I'm being chased by someone with a weapon or a very large dog.

No, my exercise plans are simple: a few workouts each week coupled with simple solutions. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park further away and walk to class. Carry the laundry baskets from the basement to the second floor in one trip, without a stop on the first floor. Walk the dog to the mailbox instead of running through the drive through

at the post office. These little things have inspired me to do better so that I FEEL better.

The same goes with my food choices. No more Pepsi or Dr. Pepper (though I'll miss it terribly!). More water. More fruit. Less pizza and NO more fast food after my night classes. Sure, there are days when I slip up and get a cheeseburger on my way home, but I'm opting for Subway over Burger King on a regular basis now.

My sister-in-law recently succeeded on the Weight Watchers program, losing more than 35 pounds. And trust me, she's a knock-out. But she told me that setting a goal and reaching it will always have its setbacks. But she had a good analogy.

"If you broke a piece of your fine china, would you throw the rest intentionally into the wall to smash it?" she asked. Of course you wouldn't. You'd be frustrated that you broke a dish and then move on to be more careful with the remaining ones.

The same must be true for your goals and expectations in 2009. If your goal is to lose weight, try just one MINUTE of exercise EVERY day. Run in place or do a few sit-ups during a commercial break of your favorite show.

If your goal is to become more organized or finish all your assignments on time, start by simply marking all your due dates on a large calendar where you can see what's due and when. Instead of tackling a 10-page paper in a day, try to write one or two pages each day for a week.

Or, if you find you're constantly inundated with things to do and feel you have NO free time, try canceling one simple time-consuming act. Maybe it's abandoning your Facebook or MySpace pages.

No matter your goal this year, start small and then build to bigger and better things. You just might amaze yourself with the results.

Happy New Year, GSU!!!

Civic Engagement and GSU Students: Do You Care?

The GSU Student Senate hosted the presidential inauguration celebration on January 20. With this event, the members of this GSU governing body intended to raise awareness of the importance of civic engagement while celebrating this historical event. In his book *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, Thomas Ehrlich describes civic engagement as "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities... and promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes (from the Preface, page vi).

Our democracy needs educated and engaged citizens. Higher education institutions should encourage students to become civically engaged and provide avenues for them to do so. The Student Senate in our university gives students the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills to improve the life of the GSU student community through the representation of students' needs, concerns, viewpoints, and interests regarding governance issues to the administration, staff, and faculty.

If you are eager to become engaged in our university's affairs and make a positive difference, the Students Senate invites you to become a student senator. Students senators interact with each other, learn from each other, and together promote the general welfare of GSU students. Any students is welcome join the Student Senate regular meetings. These meetings will be held on Feb. 13 and 27, March 13 and 27, and April 10 and 24 at 2 p.m. in the Student Commons Room, A2140, unless otherwise indicated.

Civic engagement is important in our university and the larger society. If we do not make the effort to become civically engaged in the issues that directly affect us in our campus or the larger community, we should not complaint about such issues.

For more information about the Student Senate, please visit our GSU webpage or contact Adam Taylor, Student Senate President, at a-taylor1@govst.edu or 708 235.7362.

Sincerely,
Student Senate Public Relations Committee

Econ Ed Takes It to Bank

By Jonathan Visona
Contributing Writer

It certainly pays to be educated about money, and Governors State University (GSU), through the Office of Economic Education, is helping local residents and communities to cash that check. Recently, the Illinois Council on Economic Education (ICEE) and 3M awarded Sheryl Gallaher, Director of GSU's Office of Economic Education (OEE) with a plaque to recognize and commemorate the 30 years the center has been open.

According to the OEE's website, the office is "dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of economic education. It accomplishes this mission by training educators in grades K-12 to become better teachers of economics."

"I am very proud of the work we accomplish," said Gallaher in a recent press release. "Our job is to help further economic education in our schools and help teachers learn methods and develop the tools they need to teach their students. Recent events in our nation's economy have illustrated how a sound understanding of economics is needed by every student."

Located at Northern Illinois University with 3M as a sponsor, ICEE awards grants, provides professional development, sponsors programs to understand international as well as domestic financing, and consults on the design and modification of curricula. Awards depend on which program an instructor is affiliated with.

Among those the ICEE recognized, those affiliated with the OEE are Lauren Musielewicz, teacher at Meadow Ridge School in Orland Park, who won the first place Innovative Economic Educator Award which honors "teachers who create and implement innovative projects that increase economic understanding."

Others include Rhea Lindeman, teacher at Heritage Middle School in Lansing who received the Economic Education Excellence Award, and Sylvia Walter, teacher at Wolcott School in Thornton, who received honorable mention in the same category.

According to the website, the 3M Economic Education Excellence Award "recognizes teachers who have a sustained history of commitment and contribution to economic education." All ladies were honored this October at the Union League Club in Chicago. Those who won the awards were given cash prizes.



Phoenix Photo courtesy of GSU PR Dept.

RecycleMania: Making a Difference

By Krystal Lang
Contributing Writer

If you were told by the time you reach age 70 that you will have thrown away more than 50 tons of trash – nearly 2,000 pounds of trash per year – would you believe it? The average American throws away about 1,200 pounds of trash annually.

The typical American family throws away about 3,960 pounds of trash each year. The waste can be broken down into these categories: 2,460 pounds of paper, 540 pounds of metal, 480 pounds of glass and 480 pounds of food scraps. Eighty percent of trash thrown-out goes to land-fields, the remaining twenty percent is split, ten percent is incinerated and ten percent is recycled.

To help ease the strain on the planet, Governors State University (GSU) is working to make a difference. This year GSU, along with 200 other colleges and universities, is participating in RecycleMania, a friendly recycling competition used to benchmark schools recycling and waste reduction efforts.

RecycleMania began in February 2001 when the staff of two schools - Ohio University and Miami University (Ohio) - decided that something had to be done to improve the recycling efforts at their schools. During a 10-week competition, the schools went head to head to see who could recycle the most, and Miami University won. That was the beginning of

RecycleMania, and now, eight years later and 201 schools strong, students, faculty and administrations are continuing to make a difference.

RecycleMania is a 10-week period of recycling



more, reusing more, and tossing out less in order to heighten awareness of your schools' recycling and waste management programs. GSU's recycling and waste management efforts have been in full throttle for years, evidenced by the many recycling units throughout the

university.

Peggy Schiesher, GSU's Supervisor of Housekeeping, is heading up the university's participation in RecycleMania.

"The focus of GSU RecycleMania efforts will include promoting inter-office reusable envelopes for campus mail, replacing paper documents with electronic alternatives wherever possible, and implementing campus printing initiatives, which prohibit or discourage unlimited printing," said Schiesher.

"GSU is striving in every way to reduce and reuse," said Lindsay Gladstone, a spokeswoman for GSU's Office of Public Affairs.

Gladstone reflects on how well the university is doing with environmental issues. She says, "LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is what we're striving for; an environmental standard"

"Setting a standard, setting an example," is how Gladstone put it, as she talked about the GSU community on recycling.

"When our students leave this place, the ideas about recycling are something they can take home with them," she said. "That's the attitude we are trying to foster."

See RecycleMania Page 5



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Congratulations to the following students in the College of Arts & Sciences and College of Education who earned a 3.75 GPA or higher for the Spring-Summer 2008 term!

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Sara Kristine Bintz
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Glenn R. Bluemer
Gail D. Bonds-Carpenter
Anthony Boyle
Beverly J. Broadway
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Nantuscha O. Bumpas
Susan M. Bunting
Kristin N. Burroughs
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Jeremy R. Cassan
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Christina M. Christner
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Christopher J. Clark
Araceli Collazo
Victor Collazo
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Maya A. Edwards
Shelley M. Engstrom-Kestel
Francisco Enriquez
Crystal L. Fielder
Joanie V. Fleming
Jacquilla Marie Foster
Sherri Lynn Funk
Cristina V. Geisler
Tina M. Gladue
Timothy James Gonzales
Lenora I. Gordon
Gwendolyn D. Grant
Laura L. Guerra
Martha M. Gylleck
Kishauna M. Hampton
Lisa M. Hanks
Timothy Charles Hannagan, Jr.
John M. Hardeman
Takiyah C. Harris
Karen D. Harrison
David B. Hearn
Hector M. Hernandez
Lashawna M. Hill
Tameka N. Holcomb
Lucille A. Holewinski
Karen Holman
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Christian M. Jauch
Betty J. Jones
Carmene A. Jones
Catherine A. Jurisic
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Waleed M. Kishta
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Chris A. Lavizzo
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Cheryl A. Lewis
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Jennifer A. Lola
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Sheila Luecke
Thomas P. Luehring
Shondella S. Madden-Jones
Dawn M. Malec
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Lois J. Marshall
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Linda Mattox
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Jonathan T. Visona
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Adam Washington
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Vanessa D. Willis
Jacqueline L. Wilson
Ronald J. Wojcik
Sheryl L. Yarbrough
Sheila A. Yarbrough
Amy Marie Younker

College of Education

Jennifer L. Anglin, Bourbonnais, IL - Elementary Education
Ross C. Bartlett, Evergreen Park, IL - Elementary Education
Tenya Baskett, University Park, IL - Early Childhood Educ.
Matthew C. Bates, New Lenox, IL - Elementary Education
Laura Marie Billets, Homer Glen, IL - Psychology
Janet Blackmon, Chicago Heights, IL - Elementary Education
Judith M. Blakey, Orland Park, IL - Early Childhood Educ.
Amy L. Blanton, Tinley Park, IL - Elementary Education
Christina L. Blumthal-Johnson, Frankfort, IL - Elementary Education
Amy L. Boss, Evergreen Park, IL - Elementary Education
Tracy L. Box, Tinley Park, IL - Elementary Education
Crystal R. Cekal, Hickory Hills, IL - Elementary Education
Breanne M. Cherry, Frankfort, IL - Elementary Education

Tammie Chopp, New Lenox, IL - Psychology
Erin E. Clayton, Amboy, IL - Elementary Education
Gwendolyn S. Cole, Orland Park, IL - Early Childhood Educ.
Tabitha M. Cole, Crestwood, IL - Elementary Education
Kayleigh E. Conrad, Orland Park, IL - Psychology
Courtney L. Creagh, Lombard, IL - Elementary Education
Martha Damian, Blue Island, IL - Elementary Education
Lisa M. DiZanni, Mokena, IL - Elementary Education
Maria V. Diaz, Chicago, IL - Elementary Education
Laura J. Dirschl, Chicago Ridge, IL - Elementary Education
Sarah J. Dorrance, Homewood, IL - Psychology
Cindy B. Fisher, Tinley Park, IL - Psychology
Michele Fitzgibbons, Mokena, IL - Psychology
Jason M. Flood, Oak Lawn, IL - Elementary Education



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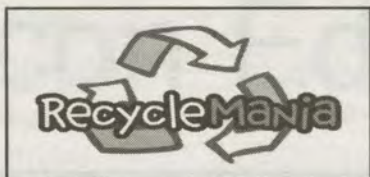
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RecycleMania

Cont. from page 3



Susan Rakstang, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Development and Management also is proud of the progress GSU is making with its recycling program.

"While GSU's recycling efforts are already well established, we are always seeking new ways to reuse and recycle," Rakstang said. "This competition gives us another reason to look at our procedures and processes to find new ways to reduce our overall carbon footprint and trash production."

GSU's involvement in energy conservation and promoting a clean environment are a work in progress.

"GSU has the largest public solar insulation in the state that is how they heat the water for buildings A-F and even the swimming pool," Gladstone added.

In addition, any renovations or upgrades that are made to the school are all in compliance with energy efficiency and environmental standards, and careful thought and planning are used to assure proper disposal and efficient reuse of all materials.

RecycleMania is strictly a voluntary competition in which any or all students and staff may participate. RecycleMania will begin on Jan. 18, 2009 and run for 10 weeks. The winning school will be determined by calculating the weight of the recyclables and adding the weight of the trash and dividing the total by GSU's population and the school with the least amount of waste wins. There will be postings around campus with more information about RecycleMania.

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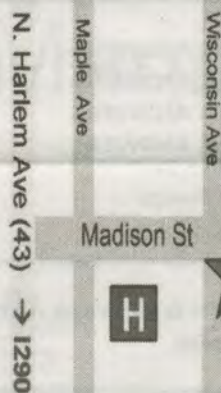
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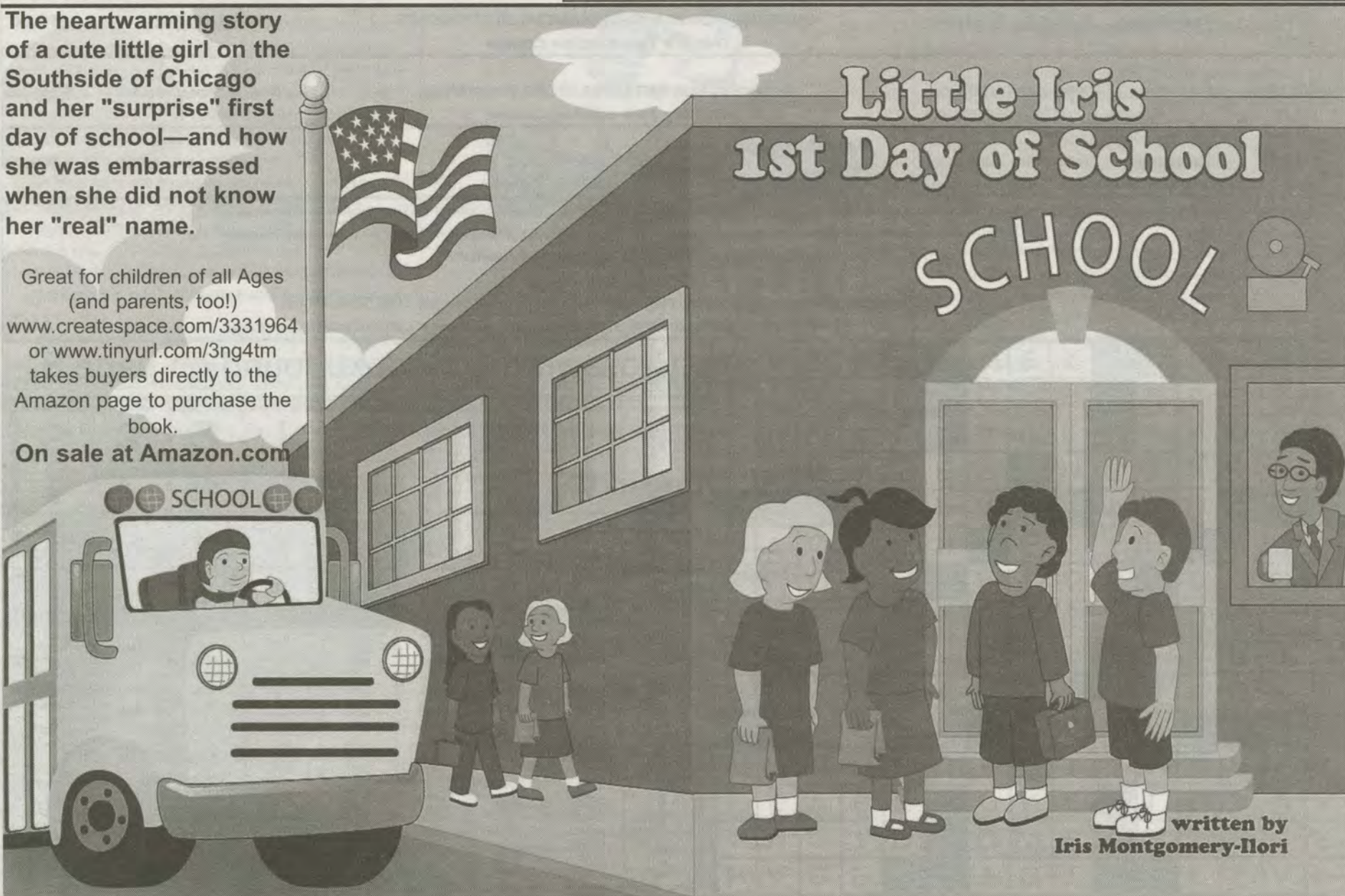
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By Michelle Hulett
Staff Writer

Located in the A wing, the GSU campus gym offers several different classes designed to suit the variety of student needs. From aerobics to swimming, there is something for everyone. For the students looking to increase flexibility, strengthen their core, or melt away daily stress, yoga is a class to try.

Virginia Angellotti has been teaching the yoga and pilates class at GSU for three years. She has 200 hours training at Feel Your Best Yoga and is a registered Yoga teacher through YogaAlliance.com. She also has 100 hours of Stott training at Element in Motion and continues her education through various courses.

Angellotti's classes at the GSU Recreation and Fitness center are open to all students, regardless of their experience. The Hatha style of yoga, which she teaches, combines Iyengar, Ashtanga and Viniyoga forms. Explaining, Angellotti states "in these styles, you will hold your poses much longer than a

Vinyasa class." This allows students to "de-stress, build stamina through breath work, lengthen muscles, build immunity, among other things."

While yoga tends to attract women, Angellotti says it is equally beneficial for men.

"Once the venturesome guy comes in, they are usually hooked because they really end up seeing the benefit of flexibility and mind body connection," she says.

Angellotti also debunks common stereotypes about yoga saying "it is for every body type and every age." She also notes yoga is "not tied to any religion but as you start practicing, your own religion can have more meaning." In addition to her classes at GSU, Angellotti also teaches in the community. She holds classes at H.F. Park District, St. James health and Wellness Center and centers in Crete and Chicago Heights.

Yoga classes are currently held Tuesdays from 12:30- 1:30p.m. until Dec. 16. For more information, session start dates or to sign up for a class, please contact the Recreation and Fitness center at (708) 534-4945.

E CENTERPOINT FOR ENTREPRENEURS



2009 Winter - Class Schedule



DATE	DAY	TIME	NAME OF COURSE	LOCATION	COST
1/10	Saturday	9:30 am - 11:30 am	STARTING A BUSINESS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	GSU - C3300	\$10.00
2/5	Wednesday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	STARTING A BUSINESS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	GSU - C3300	\$10.00
3/7	Saturday	9:30 am - 11:30 am	STARTING A BUSINESS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	GSU - C3300	\$10.00
4/2	Thursday	6:30 am - 8:30 pm	STARTING A BUSINESS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	GSU - C3300	\$10.00
1/15	Thursday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	FRANCHISING BASICS	GSU - C3300	FREE
3/18	Wednesday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	FRANCHISING BASICS	GSU - C3300	FREE
1/27	Tuesday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	A SIMPLE GUIDE TO WRITING A BUSINESS PLAN & GETTING A LOAN This is a Three-Session Course	GSU - C3300	\$50.00
1/29	Thursday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm			
2/3	Tuesday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm			
3/10	Tuesdays	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS This is a Two-Session Course	GSU - C3300	\$99.00
3/17					
02/21 thru 11/1	Saturdays	9:00 am - 4:30 pm	BUSINESS FOR ENTREPRENEURS SIMPLIFIED This is a Five-Session Course	Prairie State - MAC	\$245.00
4/18 & 4/25	Saturdays	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	MARKETING SIMPLIFIED This is a Two-Session Course	Prairie State - MAC	\$149.00

(Note: Course information and pricing is subject to change. Courses are presented based on pre-registration enrollment numbers and are subject to cancellation.)

Must call the office & speak with a staff member to cancel two days prior to seminar or no refund will be given

NO SHOWS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED

For more information, or to register for a workshop call 708.534.4929.

Full class descriptions and registration is also available at www.centerpointgsu.com

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Crossword & Sudoku found on page 8.

4	6	9	7	8	1	2	3	5
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FEATURES

01 | 22 | 09

7

Adventures in "Dis" Order Meet The Black Keys. You'll be glad you did.



City and the Aquifer by Tim Ryan.
Phoenix Photo by Barbara Hogu

By Barbara Hogu
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 5, "Adventures in "Dis" Order," a graduate art exhibit by Tim Ryan opened in the Visual Art Gallery at GSU. Before the opening reception was half way over he had sold most of his exhibited small and large abstract drawings and paintings.

The philosophy behind Ryan's work is explained in his artist's statement.

"I am an archeologist digging into an imaginary world and finding anthropomorphic mechanical relics," Ryan said. "In the process of my search I impose my sense of order to the chaos. I make small discoveries which connect to others and in turn lead to larger realizations. As archeologist throughout history, I have limited information to work with; and I have to hypothesize. These speculations are only limited by the power of my imagination."

The speculations of imagery in his paintings start with free, expressive black calligraphic lines across his foundations of rectangles and squares in small, medium and large sides. Then with in, between, over, and woven within these shapes are mostly bright and subdued colors.

Some of the drawing and paintings are grouped together to make multiple variations such as "Landshark" which is 2x10 feet and "Remnants" which is made of 6x6 inch squares that measures 6 inches x 11 feet when measured together. Many of the 6x6 inch squares were sold in pairs, or triplicates at the opening. While others large works such as "City and Aquifer" which is 30x42 inches were sold as well.

"Since the beginning of time, humans have searched for meaning and order in their surroundings," Ryan said. "Whether it was the stars, the cycle of life or antiquity, the ancient imposed their sense of order over the unknown using the power of imagination. Inside each of us is this innate urge to order the world. It is through my process that I am exploring this concept." This concept is evident in such works as "Flaptic" 4x6 feet as well as in "Troubled Water" only 10x10 1/2 inches.

This series of drawings and paintings, which were created in Ryan's graduate studies, is what he calls his "need for control and order."

"Each piece begins with spontaneous action, resulting in unpredictable and organic environments," he says. "This is my starting point."

"In my work, the results of these decisions are artifacts to a culture that does not exist," Ryan added. "These fabricated artifacts are inspired by and reference bones, architectural structures and other relics found in the earth. The images I create border on the recognizable, suggesting the forms which inspire me but remain vague in order to maintain the romantic notions associated with mysterious and precious relics."



By Amy Beth Porter
Contributing Writer

Hailing from Akron, Ohio, of all places, the band with a deceptively big sound is actually comprised of only two members, Dan Auerbach (vocalist and guitarist) and Patrick Carney (drummer.) Their newest album, *Attack and Release* (2008), marks a sophomore effort that is far from sophomore by virtue of its multilayered garage band feel and penetrating lyrics.

Like their first Nonesuch album, *Magic Potion* (2006), the music is delivered by means of twangy blues and raucous rock blended into soothing vocals and an instrumental feast for the ears: synthesizers, bass clarinet, bass harmonica, and slide guitar, to name a few. The Black Keys manages to please both the compositionally and lyrically-driven music listener, a rarity in contemporary music.

Recorded in a dizzying two-week period, this album is produced by Danger Mouse, who is also credited with collaborating with musicians Gnarls Barkley, Gorillaz, and The Grey Album. The opening track, All You Ever Wanted, is a melancholy meandering through an unrequited love, completed by pipe organs for your listening pleasure. Clearly, there is no sunshine in sight, but instead a rollicking romp through themes of trying to settle down in an atmosphere of illusion, deception, and wanderlust ensues.

These musings are not as depressing as they are soulful, however, as evidenced by the next track, I Got Mine, which has a rawer edge and defines the band as a more mature pair of musicians than their yesteryears may have proven ("I've grown out /of my ramblin' ways.") Strange Times seems to be somehow directed toward his daughter, who is listed on the liner notes, and through this lens the song takes on a new meaning (consider the lines "Sadie dry your tears/I will be the one.")

Psychotic Girl, arguably the best track overall, is layered by banjo, piano, slide guitar, and a choir. The fifth song, Lies, emotes like someone in love who has been lied to; the song itself feels like the act of wailing. What follows is two renditions of the same song, Remember When. The first version is mellow, sad, dreamy (and a touch crazy, if anyone's listening to the backing vocals.)

When the song is played again, this time rough and bawdy, it feels like coming back to life with a vengeance. So He Won't Break sounds like some kind of mea culpa for misunderstood and emotionally inaccessible men everywhere ("the difference it takes/ Is love, so he won't break.") Oceans and Streams follows the same melancholy groove but leaves the meaning open to interpretation ("These days I'm so slow" either describes an aging lonely man or a debauching and alienated man.)

The album ends beautifully and achingly with Things Ain't Like They Used to Be, joined by the backing vocals of bluegrass singer Jessica Lea Mayfield.

Any album whose first words are "ain't it just like dying?" promises a deeper introspection than usual, but this colossal effort from The Black Keys will also prove addictive in times of heartache at the hands of love.

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WHAT'S UP

Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

- Across**
- Stringed instrument
 - Young child
 - Fuss
 - Obviate
 - Be indebted to
 - Fragment
 - Water barrier
 - Single
 - South American animal
 - Restless
 - Brass instrument
 - Japanese currency
 - Scorch
 - Weep
 - Small stream
 - Ploy
 - Harvest
 - Amphibian
 - Very slow tempo
 - Hawaiian island
 - Overhang
 - Musical composition for one
 - Contempt
 - Sate
 - Carbon black
 - Purloined
 - Zeal
 - Solfa syllable
 - Parch
 - Label
 - Part of a set of bagpipes
 - Female inheritor
 - Country life
 - Regret
 - Visual part of TV
 - Animated
 - Lout
 - Church officer
 - Manufactured
 - Moist
 - Musical instrument of ancient Greece
- Down**
- One of two equal parts
 - Assert
 - Wander
 - Righteousness
 - Implement
 - Possess
 - Fangs
 - Movie
 - Type of year
 - Highest attainable level
 - Type of fuel
 - Postpone
 - Denotes more than one
 - Combine
 - Music with syncopated melody
 - Stringed instrument with keyboard
 - Traverse
 - Respond
 - Cheerful sounding search engine
 - Loiter
 - Musical setting for a religious ceremony
 - Sulk
 - Ice hut
 - Part of a comb
 - Knitting stitch
 - Small wooded hollow
 - Roofing material
 - Cuddle
 - Indicating maiden name
 - Callow
 - Pointer
 - Kind of restaurant
 - Pack to capacity
 - Polynesian dance
 - Desiccated
 - Part of a church
 - Lift with difficulty
 - Miniature whirlpool
 - Soothsayer
 - Painful
 - Arab federation, initially

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69					70			71		
72					73				74	

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Use the loose definition of the word "acronym"

Step 3

Missing a letter? Pull out an obscure buzzword that fits!

Step 4

Desperate? Just pick letters from the middle. I'm sure no one will notice.

ACTually Random Onomastic iNitials You Make (up)

Step 2

Is it coherent? Does it makes sense? What matters is that it sounds cool.

Step 5

Ignore words that don't contribute. Kind of like your part in the project.

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- **Aggressive verb/predatory animal:** a requirement for getting military funding → K.I.L.L., S.H.A.R.K., W.O.L.F. ✓ O.B.L.I.T.E.R.A.T.E. (too many words!), B.U.N.N.Y. ✗
- **Greek names:** nothing says "Sci-Fi" like a good greek name → O.M.E.G.A., A.L.P.H.A., S.I.R.I.U.S. ✓ T.O.G.A., P.I.T.A., T.Z.A.T.Z.I.K.I. ✗

Remember: Acronyms cleverly reveal one's nimble youthful mastery abbreviating construed rigidly opted nomenclature, yielding monetary awards contracting research overtures not yet manifested!

Bonus points: make your acronym recursive!
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