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Prairie Place a hallmark of GSU's new living and academic experience



By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

Prairie Place, the new residence for GSU students, was welcomed with open arms with an official ribbon cutting in front of the main entrance at 4:30pm on August 22nd. For the first time, GSU student tenants can immerse themselves in an on-campus living and learning environment that features all the comforts of home, including two-to-four-bedroom living areas, free Wifi,

cable television, residence shopping, onsite laundry, controlled access entry, and many other amenities.

GSU President Elaine Maimon, in her Welcome Letter to freshmen, praised Prairie Place and Governors State's unique freshman experience. "Our freshman program is high touch: small classes taught by full-time faculty members working together to illuminate connections among structured courses."

"Making connections is also the prevailing concept at Prairie

Place, GSU's first living/learning community," said Maimon. "We don't call Prairie Place a 'dormitory' from the French word 'dormir'—to sleep. Prairie Place is predominantly a place to learn and to realize that there is nothing more exhilarating than education, guided by three full-time faculty members living on site. Sleep is important, no doubt, but only after a full, stimulating day and evening."

Assistant Vice President in charge of Marketing and Communication Rhonda Brown

said that she was pleased to see the reactions from students and faculty that attended the August 22 ribbon cutting. "The incoming freshmen who were there were amazed at the sophistication, beauty, and layout of Prairie Place," said Brown. "The layout is like a painting."

Prairie Place's rooms are spacious and include modern living areas, kitchenettes, shared and individual bathrooms, and a variety of rooming options for students and *Continued on pg. 7*

Don't Shoot!

By Bob Meyers and Jon Bulthuis

Governors State University's Social Work and Social Organization Club held a peace gathering on August 26, 2014 at 3:30 pm in the GSU Gymnasium to draw attention to violence in our communities and in the Chicagoland area, and to the continuing protests in Ferguson, MO in the wake of the Michael Brown shooting. About three dozen of the approximately seventy assembled peace protesters wore t-shirts bearing the words "Don't Shoot."

The gathering opened with a moment of silence for all those who have been affected by gun violence in our community and our nation. "Police don't shoot, black men don't shoot; just put the guns down," said Dr. Phyllis West, Senior University Lecturer in Social Work, during the demonstration. "Just put 'em down. Show some peace, and show some love," said West.

During the silent protest, SWASO Public Relations Officer Latesha Newson shared the following



quote by former US President John F. Kennedy: "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process; gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And, however undramatic the pursuit of peace, the pursuit must go on."

The "Don't Shoot" demonstration exemplified these sentiments, as demonstrators quietly filed into the gymnasium and

silently followed instructions from photographer and SWASO official Addison Jackson. The event closed with the protesters posing silently for a final photo.

Jackson spoke passionately after the demonstration about the need to subvert violence in our communities and in the global arena. "The purpose of this whole event was to show that we have solidarity," said

Jackson, "not only in Chicago and St. Louis, but the whole world, to end violence. Violence is a plague that has spread over the whole world, and we need to end it, period."

Newson echoed these sentiments and described a growing need for new leadership in the youth community. "It's important for us to stand up," said Newson.

"We are the next generation of emergent leaders," said Newson, "and if we don't stand up for this generation, what will be said? What will be told about this generation? We have an obligation and a responsibility to stand up."

"The time is now, we can't wait," said Jackson. "We can't wait to see what happens next on TV, and we can't wait to see what happens next in the newspaper. We have to act now."

GSU students who are interested in joining SWASO or participating in demonstrations or activities in the future should contact Addison Jackson at ajackson12@student.govst.edu.

Comrades:

We made it back, with bells on. The hallways of GSU are louder, younger, and a little more energetic. GSU's indigenous denizens aren't the only ones catching Z's on campus after 10:30pm, the pool is occasionally filled with basketball players, we have a ferocious, carnivorous new mascot, and thousands of us, from all over the world and the greater Chicagoland area, are returning to GSU to get some learning done.

Chances are, getting here and getting enrolled was a trial for most of us. We've juggled occupational, financial, and domestic responsibilities; we've tracked down ancient immunization records or lined up to get injected with chemicals to inoculate us against diseases we were never going to get anyway; we've stood anxiously in last minute lines at the Registrar, Cashier, and Financial Aid Offices, and we've thrown ourselves into another semester of study. We've taken the Metra down from Chicago, and we've flown in jets from the other side of the world. And that was just the bare minimum, right? That only got us here.

The seemingly endless list of requisites for earning a degree – an action chain of thousands of cause and effect reactions, all representing the effort and will of the student involved – can be compared to the effective operation of automobiles: impossibly complicated machines that contain few, if any, indispensable parts. If you've ever done your own repairs on a car, then you already know that underneath every aluminum hood is a Pandora's Box of potential dysfunction, an impossibly complicated network of action-chain responses that simply do not give a damn if they are not operating copacetically.

It's the same score with attending a University and earning a degree. No one class is indispensable, no single report is exempt from the paper-trail of responsibility, and everything about our lives, from the food we eat to the time we allot for sleep, are all vital components of our academic progress: the more effectively we accomplish our respective tasks, the more efficiently the vehicle runs.

Bottom line, we all made it here. Give yourselves a round of applause; and remember that if we have one thing in common as GSU students, it might be the respective hurdles we've had to navigate before we could even start the race.

Letters from the Student Trustee

Governors State University Board of Trustees
Fall 2014 Enrollment Facts and Objectives

By Jeremy Joyce
Student Trustee

Freshmen:

The number of enrolled freshmen is up to 248 (the goal was 270). There are 526 students in the Dual Degree Program (DDP) pipeline, exceeding the Fall 2014 goal of 400.

Enrollment:

Enrollment is up at GSU, and not just because of the new freshman class. Transfer enrollment is growing. In the meantime enrollment at all but one of the other State public universities in Illinois is flat or down.

Vision 2020:

The Board is actively taking part in the development of Vision 2020, which will lead the efforts of the University for the next 5 years. The Board of Trustees will be meeting on October 1 for a strategy session, facilitated by two experts from the University of Wisconsin.

The BOT will be joined by the Deans and members of the President's Cabinet. The final document of Vision 2020 will be brought before the Board for approval at a future Board meeting.

Compliance:

"GSU takes compliance very seriously, because as Dr. Gebe Ejigu said, 'compliance is everybody's business,' " Joyce Coleman, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity and Chief Compliance Officer, reported at the Board of Trustees Retreat.

GSU also has a Compliance Oversight Committee chaired by Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President for Administration and Finance. Compliance at the University deals with the following 4 laws:

Compliance Laws

1. Title IX
2. The Clery Act (Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act)
3. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)
4. Campus Save (Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act)

Board of Trustees, Next steps: Short Term

1. Launch GSU Compliance Website
2. Develop Title IX Training Programs
3. Purchase Investigation Tracking Software
4. Purchase On-Line Title IX Training Software
5. Negotiate and Sign MOU's (with local police dept., rape crisis centers, counseling centers and hospitals)

Board of Trustees, Next steps: Long term

1. Develop "Early Warning System" on Pending New Mandates
2. Develop GSU "Compliance Catalog"
3. Identify training needs/opportunities for compliance oversight committee members
4. Identify training needs/opportunities for GSU offices/staff
5. Design and administer "Campus Climate Survey"
6. Develop recommendations for future structures and functions of compliance activities at GSU

Questions? Contact Jeremy at: jeremyjoyce5@gmail.com

Throughout history there has always been a need to keep people informed about the interworking's of society, and a great news network does that and more it also provides inspirational and positive news about what's working in the world and how we view our world.

If we want The Phoenix to be an influential newspaper at the university, we should motivate students to bring forward "new consciousness and with new ideas." Interaction is necessary to give the students a "powerful" voice. This interaction will have a profound impact on the students because as we know society is on the verge of far more important history events both societal and political levels, and the youth could no longer be discounted by the masses. Their vote, their opinions and soon their voices can no longer be ignored.

By Gregg Greer, President,
Freedom First International

Mr. Greer;

Agreed. The Phoenix exists as a platform for all editorial content originating from the GSU community. - Ed.

A citizen-endorsed petition recently got shot down in the Illinois State Legislature. This is not surprising. Of course politicians, Illinois and worldwide, do not let slide the idea for term limits for themselves. I, however, find term limits in Illinois a necessity. I understand that we are inadvertently electing the wrong people. But, term limits would help simmer the temptations for any corrupt activity for any politician in Illinois.

Also, term limits for politicians would bring in some young blood to Congress and the House of Representatives. Presently, in my opinion, we have cranky Congressmen too much set in their ways in Congress and unwilling to see any change. A lot of the current Republican Congress never wanted to help President Obama since he took the office of the presidency in 2009 simply because he is a member of the Democratic party or because of their own potentially racist reasons. If we have term limits in effect, young blood would possibly be willing to negotiate with the president and his Administration to see more positive change to better this country. Young blood would help finally get more things done. Term limits are a necessity.

By Bob Meyers,
Staff Writer, The Phoenix

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The PHOENIX is published twelve times annually. 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 must be signed, and include the submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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Fight for \$15

an historic protest for fast-food workers in the GSU community, Chicagoland, and the U.S.



By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

On September 4, 2014, in the Chatham neighborhood of South Chicago, low-paid workers took part in a historical 150 city sit-ins at McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger Kings and other chain locations. Their fight began at 7:30 am with an estimated 400 fast-food workers marching on the South side of Chicago; an impressive show of support which is also scheduled to be the first of many multinational campaigns for higher wages.

The strategy, to "Fight for \$15," pushes for a \$15 hourly wage for fast-food workers and the ability to unionize, versus the current federal minimum wage, which remains at

\$7.25 an hour. The group of protesters contained college students, labor organizers, and community activists; all whom expressed support of a wage increase. Dozens of people participating in fast-food protests were arrested in New York, Chicago, Miami and other cities Thursday, according to police and political organizers.

"It's becoming clear that when conditions deteriorate for the lowest paid workers, the standards drop for all workers," said a GSU student who attended the rally.

Organizer Byron Hobbs stated "I believe it is important to stand in solidarity with this cause because these folks have to have a decent working and living wage." According to the United Students against Sweatshops

(USAS), it is the nation's largest youth-led, student labor campaign organization.

"Our generation is constantly reminded that we are the first generation to be financially worse off than our parents," said Hobbs. "The biggest concern for many university students is not whether they'll be able to find good jobs, but any jobs after graduating."

Also present was Organizer Charles Austin from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, to represent homeless and low paid workers. "This cause is serious," said Austin, "because these workers need to survive, and the current living wage, now is just not working. Many of the workers are a step from being homeless and we want to prevent

that."

President Obama renewed his call to raise the federal minimum wage and to protect the right to equal pay for women, on Labor Day, at a rally in Milwaukee.

"If your member of Congress doesn't support raising the minimum wage, you've got to let them know they're out of step, and that if they keep putting politics ahead of working Americans, you'll put them out of office," said Obama. "Tell them to reconsider. Tell them it's time for \$10.10. You can tweet at them — use hashtag #1010Means. Let them know how raising the minimum wage would help you, or your family, or somebody that you know. And while you're at it, tell them to restore unemployment insurance for Americans."

Midwest World History Association Conference Fall 2014

To be hosted by author, "Democracy Now!" anchor Juan Gonzalez

By Jon Bulthuis, Editor

GSU will host the 2014 Midwest World History Association Conference on September 26 and 27. The 5th annual conference will include a panel discussion with keynote speaker Juan Gonzalez, co-host of the independent news program "Democracy Now!" And the author of "Harvest of Empire, a History of Latinos in America."

"This is the first time the MWWHA conference is being held at GSU," said Dr. Andre Marak, Division Chair of the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and GSU's representative on the MWWHA executive committee. "The theme of the conference is Civil Rights and Human History, recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act," said Marak, "and we're trying to expand the discussion beyond just black and white themes, to include Latinos, Native Americans, the Gay Rights Movement, and other minorities."

About a hundred people working in history or global studies from around the Midwest will attend the conference, including K-12 teachers, college students, and members of the public. The conference will feature presentations by students from the Alpha Phi Theta History Honors Society, and will be the subject of a class by University Lecturer Tamara Winn. Attendees may also attend a tour of the Nathan



Manilow Sculpture Park and an art exhibit entitled I'm American, curated by Sergio Gomez. A major theme of the conference is how bi-cultural people understand their belongingness in the United States. "One of the most important claims that Gonzalez makes," said Marak, "is that one of the major causes of undocumented immigration is U.S. imperialism in those sending countries."

"For example, the U.S. invaded Cuba and took it over," said Marak. "The U.S. also intervened in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Mexico a number of times. These are countries that the U.S. has either invaded repeatedly, or overthrown governments there; in Guatemala, for example."

"These aren't direct interventions where the U.S. sends the marines ashore, but they're ones where governments are toppled," said

Marak, "and we can argue how much responsibility the U.S. has for the overturn of those governments; some people say a lot, some say less, but it's clear that [the U.S.] is involved."

One of the biggest injustices facing Latino immigrants in the U.S. is the paradox of resources that they contribute to by working, but do not benefit from. "A lot of these folks get regular paychecks and pay into Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, but they can't access those things," said Marak. "A pertinent issue right now is that the number of Latinos in the U.S. has skyrocketed with the passage of the Immigration Reform Act of 1986," said Marak. "The reform act gave immigrants amnesty here, and also allowed for Family Reunification, which has had a major impact on immigration. That meant that it wasn't just the single worker that ended up in the U.S., it was the entire family."

"History never repeats itself, but sometimes it provides a mirror for other times," said Marak. "[Latino immigration] is similar to what the Irish did. One argument that people make is that Latino's may be part of the next white middle class in the 2050's."

If anything is clear about our evolving sense of national, cultural, and ethnic belongingness, it's that our conceptions of those ideas are still being defined. "There's more interracial marriages now than ever," said Marak, "but there's no guarantee that that will be the outcome. It may be that people now will maintain biracial and bicultural identities. They may say that 'I'm part Thai, and part African-American.'"

"Social constructions of race change over time," said Marak, "and so the suggestion is that it's possible that instead of us becoming a majority-minority nation, that we'll become a nation that has a new white majority by people being absorbed into it."

Professor Tamara Winn's Interdisciplinary Studies class will focus on Gonzalez' book. IDSS students will attend the conference for two days, attend various panels and the keynote speech, and then create a final project online. All GSU students may attend the event without receiving credits. The MWWHA Conference will begin at 8am on Friday, September 26, and will adjourn on Saturday, September 27.

Campus

GSU Library Reopens, Unveils Improvements



By Brian Bock
Contributing Writer

Governors State University students may have noticed that the Library and ACS lab have undergone some drastic changes. These improvements took place over the summer vacation, and helped to give the library a more modern look and enhanced features. This improvement is keeping with GSU's commitment to changing and evolving with its students.

The remodeling took all summer, with construction beginning just after finals of Spring 2014, and the grand reopening taking place August 25, 2014. The most apparent change to the Library is the new placement

of the doors, and new windows. The library's entrance has been moved from its previous place, perpendicular to the main staircase, to directly parallel with the staircase. Aside from the more accessible doorway, the West facing walls have been replaced with large windows, evoking a modern aesthetic.

Inside the library, more cosmetic changes have helped improve the atmosphere. New carpeting, a brand new GSU logo, modern furniture, and a new wooden trellis have been added to the new Library layout as well. These new changes also include the combining of the ACS lab with the Library. The ACS lab is now the Computer Connection Central Lab, or The Cube, and is adjacent to



the Library. The Cube and the newly renovated Library will also contain classrooms, helping students become more familiar with the new design. Returning students will also notice that the suspended hallway that leads from D building to E building has become larger, and lined with new furniture.

Aside from the new cosmetic changes to the Library, there is also some new resources that students can utilize. The new library has an Information Desk, managed by students, to help with navigating the library, aside from the Circulation Desk and Reference Desk. A charging station has also been constructed, allowing students to power up electronic devices easily.

The Governors State University Library will also have a new institutional repository, called Open Portal to University Scholarship, or OPUS. OPUS is used to store a wide variety of documents, such as capstone projects, newsletters, and online journals.

The Library is still in the process of getting things completely organized after the renovation. The stacks are still not accessible to students, and library staff are available to retrieve books for students.

The classroom located near the stacks, D2401A, is still open to students who have class there. For more information on the Library, like their new Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/GSULibrary>.

GSU provides first freshman class with ASUS laptop

By Sean Johnson
Contributing Writer

GSU issued Laptop PCs to qualifying freshmen this year as part of what was described by President Elaine Maimon as "an historical educational development process", GSU's push to immerse incoming freshmen in a fresh, comprehensive, redefined academic community setting.

The ASUS Transformer Book (T-100) is a touch-screen tablet with a detachable keyboard. It operates using Windows 8.1 and contains a complete Microsoft Office software package. This latest high-performance tablet-computer is equipped with a vivid 1280 x 800 IPS display and a lightweight (optional) keyboard dock with USB.

"The laptops were given to qualifying incoming freshman who are taking at least 24 institutional credit hours," said Student Program Assistant Jessica Horne. Freshman students picked up their tablet-computers in the ACS Lab starting at the beginning of the semester.

"This program was started so that all incoming freshman students can excel in their studies here at GSU," said Horne.

The Phoenix interviewed a number of freshmen who had qualified to receive the ASUS T100. Those students who were willing to have their opinions published were asked, specifically, if they liked their new laptops, if it met their academic and/or recreational needs, if they needed to install new software, and whether or not they were allowed to use their laptops in class.



The ASUS Transformer Book T100 is a 2-in-1 portable laptop that consists of a 10.1inch IPS multi-touch screen tablet with Intel HD Graphics, a 1.2MP Camera, and a detachable QWERTY keyboard. It can operate as a standalone tablet or as a regular laptop. The ASUS Transformer runs on an Intel Atom Quad Core Processor with the Windows 8.1 Operating System and Microsoft Office Home & Student 2013, Internet Explorer, and Mozilla Firefox automatically included. The T100's battery life is 31 watt hours, or 11 regular hours.

Jenny Voogt (Freshman):

"Do I like my new laptop? Of course I love it, because I can do everything I need to do on it. The computer meets all my needs academically and recreationally because I can play games, take notes, and check everything I need to do; and my Internet requirements are absolutely met. I don't need a lot of storage space, so the computer's storage fits my needs perfectly with a little extra. The computer is the perfect size because it can fit into my book bag without taking up a lot of room, and I didn't need to install anything except one game."

Kevin Cin (Freshman):

I love my new laptop. I am loving getting used to Windows 8. I would definitely use my new laptop for academic purposes, but right now I am mostly just checking email and watching some videos. The storage space is good enough for my needs. Microsoft Office is the most excellent program that is helpful for doing my school-work. The computer is conveniently sized, but it's acceptable to do school work. I had to install the Facebook and YouTube apps. So far, none of my professors allow me to use the laptop in class sessions."

Cymone Muhammad (Freshman):

"Do I like my new laptop? Well, yes! It provided me with Internet resources and allows me to access my GSU portal and Blackboard. The storage space is sufficient for my needs. The Microsoft Word program and Internet Explorer are helpful for my school work. "The computer is conveniently lacking in size (it's a little too small). I installed software programs on the laptop myself and the laptop does run these programs. I can most definitely use my new laptop in class and the professors allow it. I'm able to access my books that I have purchased online."

Justis Walton (Freshman):

I really appreciate GSU for giving me a new laptop! It's really useful. This new laptop meets my needs both academically and recreationally, although the storage space isn't sufficient for my needs. All the software and programs installed on the laptop are helpful for my school work. There is nothing I haven't worked with...

"I installed software and other programs on the laptop and I've had no additional problems. The laptop runs the programs just fine. [Pertaining to using the laptop in class]...it really depends on who the professor is and what class. Mostly, it's only when we're working where a laptop is needed. The computer is convenient."

Marshae Willis (Freshman):

"I like my new laptop because I didn't have to buy one a new one! Does the computer meet my needs academically and recreationally?"

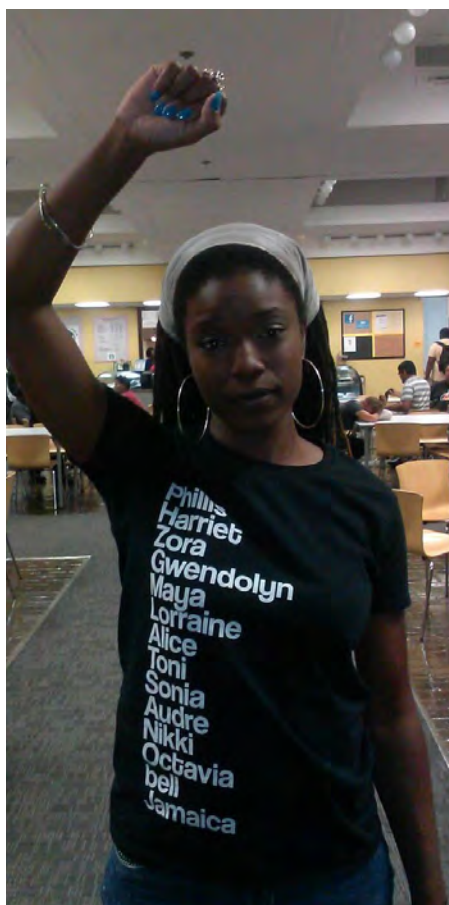
Continued on pg. 7

“Raisin in the Sun” auditions



Stage Manager Sherry Nolan (left) and Professor Tony Labriola (right) assist and look on as Dr. Patrick Santoro (center) makes the difficult decisions at a competitive casting call for the TAPS production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Showtimes for the play are November 5, 6, 8, and 9 in the CPA.

Open Mic night a hit



Open Mic night performers showed off their stuff at the Aug. 28 event.



By Brittney Woods
Assistant Editor

The Fall 2014 schedule for Open Mic Night started off with a bang at 6pm on August 28 in the Cafeteria Annex. The open stage event is an opportunity for GSU students and members of the community to show off their talents; whether it be through spoken word poetry, song, dance, or performing an instrument. The first open mic of the semester saw a significant turnout, with over a dozen

students performing and a growing number of people in attendance. Refreshments were served to the attendees and performers, the lighting was dimmed and augmented by disco balls and lighting effects.

In order to become a part of Open Mic Night you just sign up and wait until your name is called. If you have a talent that you want to display, don't be shy; stop by the Cafeteria Annex on the last Thursday of every month after 6pm.

Fall 2014 Student Employment Fair



GSU students crowded into the Hall of Governors on August 27 to inquire about student work positions, check their eligibility for on-campus jobs, fill out applications, drop off resumes, and chat with GSU faculty and staff.



GSU students who attended the event were able to speak with representatives from various campus organizations at the Student Employment Fair.

By Brittney Woods
Assistant Editor

On August 27 GSU's annual Student Employment Fair was held in the Hall of Governors, inviting all students to come out and seek employment. Upon entering the fair, each student had to give their Student ID, which was scanned to make sure they were in good standing. Students were able to inquire about and apply for federal work study student positions on campus, in the Financial

Aid and Recreation and Fitness departments, the Library, Cafeteria, and CPA, as well as other departments and locations on campus. Many employers there were seeking workers for a federal work study although some were seeking regular student workers. Many employers had applications on sight for student submittal. The GSU fair experienced a good turnout. Freshmen, upperclassmen, and representatives from GSU's various departments were in attendance.

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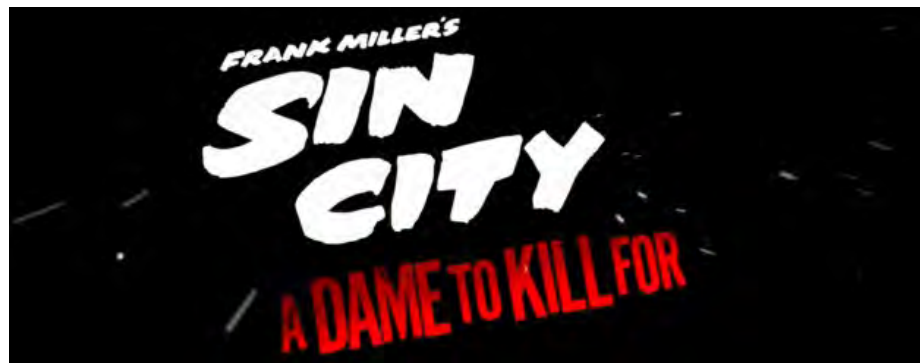
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Reel Reviews: Sin City 2, A Dame to Kill For

By Walter Banasiak
Columnist



Nine years ago a really cool, sleek movie called “Sin City” came out. People praised its style and literal comic book look. It was based on the graphic novels written and drawn by Frank Miller. So how does the sequel, “A Dame to Kill For” match up to the original? It definitely took way too long to come out. The film kept getting delayed and director Robert Rodriguez was involved in other projects. The question is, was it worth the nine-year wait? There’s enough here to keep fans of the original entertained and pleased for the most part. “Sin City 2” still has its unique noir vibe

intact and was a lot of fun to see in the theater. What makes this movie, aside from the visually appealing style, are the characters and the acting. Josh Brolin and his story with Eva Green, Mickey Rourke, Jeremy Piven, Dennis Haysbert, Christopher Meloni and Ray Liotta is the best arc in the movie: all really good performances

that fit the Sin City feel perfectly. However, Joseph Gordon-Levitt’s Johnny steals the show. The guy is just so likable in any role he does. He could be his generation’s top actor within a few years. Jessica Alba and her character Nancy return to avenge the death of Bruce Willis’ character, John Hartigan, from the last movie.

This was definitely the weakest story told in the film. Compared to the other arcs, Alba’s struggle to deal with Willis’s demise is not very intriguing. All in all, this is an enjoyable sequel. While it may have taken too long to come out, it still delivers on the goods that made the first film strong, while introducing some new characters and interesting stories. If you’re old enough for the R rating, it’s worth a watch in the theaters. Reel Reviews is giving “Sin City: A Dame to Kill For” a solid 7 out of 10.

Make sure to follow our video reviews at youtube.com/user/TheReelReviewsShow and “like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/ReelReviewsShow.

A frank discussion about identity, ethnicity, and cultural heritage with two new GSU faces:

Director of Intercultural Student Affairs Robert Clay & Intercultural Student Affairs GA Danny Vergara

PHOENIX: What influenced both of you to come to GSU?

RC: “I went to Western Illinois University, and got my Master’s in College-Student Personnel. While at Western, I gained experience from working in various areas from Multicultural Affairs, Leadership Development Programs, campus activities, and Greek life. I came here to Governors State University because I’m excited about the opportunity to build community and really engage the campus community through programs and services that speak to the intersection of identities. At Governors State, we’re really in a transition mode where we’re going from mostly non-traditional age students to include more traditional age college students.”

“Now we have more intergenerational diversity taking place to really create a community where all people are welcomed and appreciated, representing multiple identities, whether it’s their race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, age, socioeconomic status, veteran status, so on and so forth. So, that’s my role here at the university to ensure that all students feel welcome and have access to resources but ensure their experience is holistic reflecting what their specific needs are, and that we’re always able to come together as a community to really value their uniqueness here. This is why it is important that cultural heritage months such as Latino Heritage Month takes place.”

DV: “For me, my job description is a little bit different. I serve as the Graduate Assistant for Intercultural Student Affairs to support the programs and services out of the department, but I also have a great opportunity to align my work to be geared towards the Latino students because, with going towards a 4-year institution now, the number of Latino students has dramatically increased, so I think this school felt like they needed someone as the voice to hear the new students who are coming in. So, that was inspiration enough.”

“I come from the southwest side of Chicago and it’s a predominantly Latino community. It might slightly be somewhere between low middle class to poverty level, so I’ve seen what some of the neighborhoods can be like. It’s kind of tough. I made it out, but there were people I went to school with, unfortunately, that didn’t make it out. So now, this is my way of just giving back. Through my parents, through my religion, through my school, somehow, I got out of it; I was able to find some success and education, and now I totally feel that it’s my obligation to give back and to help others.”

PHOENIX: Tell us about some of the events that you’re planning for Latino Heritage Month.

RC: “So, part of my responsibility here is to aide in developing campus-wide diversity awareness programming, and part of that includes Cultural Heritage Month. As stated earlier, Cultural Heritage Months allows us the opportunity to really celebrate the contributions of different groups here at the university, as well as globally, in different capacities. So, starting off we’re going to have Latino Heritage Month, which is celebrated September 15-October 15, due to the independence day for several Latin American countries starting September 15th.”

“We’re going to kick off this year with a program on Monday, September 15th at 4:00 pm in Sherman Hall with an engaging lecture by Mr. Michael Benitez, Jr., who is a nationally-renowned social justice educator with Speak Out, as well as Chief Diversity Officer, Dean of Diversity & Inclusion at the University of Puget Sound. He is going to talk about the usage of the terms Hispanic vs. Latino and how they are used with the sociopolitical background, how it impacts that community as well as how it impacts how we engage to ensure that we’re able to speak to their cultural heritage and understand it from a historical, post-colonial aspect as well.”

“Then, we also have a couple movie discussions taking place. We have one to talk about the great political activist Caesar Chavez on September 23rd at 7pm in F1622 with a discussion led by Dr. Ellen Walsh, Assistant Professor of History. We’re also going to have a movie and discussion about Undocumented Children and Students, and I’ll let Danny talk a little bit more about that as well.”

“On September 26th at 5pm there is a reception for the I AM America Exhibit curated by Sergio Gomez A multimedia exhibition exploring what it means to be an “American” from the perspective of bi-cultural artists living in the United States followed by a keynote address at 7pm by Mr. Juan Gonzalez, the founder of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists as well as a political activist which are all part of the Midwest World History Conference. Food services will be showcasing different Latin American dishes, throughout the month on various days in the Café. The library will be highlighting literary works and other resources pertaining to Latino heritage and authors. There is also an exhibit sponsored by the art gallery called I AM American, emphasis on the I AM part, which is an exhibit. There will also be a fun filled event called El Grito Celebration on October 15, which is the closing event for Latino Heritage Month. There’s going to be food, dancing, live music, very festive and fun just to get folks to come celebrate and have a good time. As always, the Hall of Governors will be decorated with the Latin American country flags, you know. I want Danny to speak about a great program we’re having regarding undocumented children.”

DV: “OK, So, I’m about a year and a half into my grad program right now, and I would say most of it I have spent really advocating awareness for undocumented children and undocumented students. So, on October 14, we will be hosting a film called Which Way Home? Along with a coworker of mine—she is a clinical mental health therapist—it’s a great

documentary, I saw it a couple years ago, an HBO documentary about the journey that children from Central America make from Central America to the United States. It’s a 2,000-mile journey, it’s very dangerous, they’re doing it by themselves, some of them are as young as 8 but a majority of them are 14, you know, they’re teenagers, you know. So, they’re coming to the U.S., they’re undocumented, most of them are trying to find their families that are already here in the U.S. It’s a very powerful documentary. I invite everyone to come check it out because, for me, it really opened up my eyes to, you know, other worlds and what it’s like to live outside the U.S. You know, the stuff that we have here that we just take for granted, to them, it’s just, they could never even imagine the stuff that we have here. So, it’s certainly very powerful for me. And, like I said, these kids are really trying to escape poverty and violence in their countries. And, for me, the biggest thing is it’s, it’s bravery, you know, they’re hoping on freight trains and they’re travelling—sometimes it can take them up to a month to get from Central America to the U.S. border just so immigration can detain them and send them back. They end up doing it again because, just, where they’re coming from, it’s a lot worse than anything they can go through on their journey here.”

RC: “And we have 2 more programs that are happening I want to highlight: On October 2nd there will be a Brother to Brother, which is a opportunity for a conversation amongst Black and Latino males to connect and share their personal journeys, define manhood and establish brotherhood to really build community and ensure there are support systems to aid in their success in and out of the classroom. Then, we’re going to the Logan Square Neighborhood Association on October 18th for National Immigration Service Day to help out, volunteer and learn more about the process that a lot of folks go through to really become citizens in this country. GSU is committed to collaborating on such efforts.”

Conquering Group Work

By Katrina Koltz
Columnist

Group projects are an inevitable reality for most students, which can turn into a beautifully organized masterpiece, or a conflict ridden disaster. No doubt, these group assignments can contribute to a student's success or failure in their coursework.

Clear expectations, creative problem solving, and effective communication help to provide a framework that enables all group members to have a voice and equal stake in the project. In your group, take time to clarify personal goals and expectations for the assignment. This will help to identify each group member's strengths and weaknesses so that tasks can be delegated accordingly.

It is wise to break the project up into smaller components. Assigning early due dates for each component allows extra time to edit and critique each other's work. This will allow each member to feel less crunched for time when the firm due date rolls around. When conflict does arise, it is important to maintain a team mentality of working together rather than individually.

As a team, brainstorming can facilitate creative problem solving and generate ideas that may diffuse a stressful situation between group members. It is important to not let emotions cloud one's judgment when feeling passionate about a position or topic. Sometimes a simple gesture that acknowledges others feelings can help to calm strong emotions. This is when active listening comes in handy.

When you see a conflict arising between group members, do not immediately pick sides or align with either one. Instead, serve as an impartial party that can look at the conflict without a biased view. After utilizing your active listening skills, clarify each argument in your own words to opposite parties so that each party is heard and recognized. This may also frame the disagreement in a different manner and result in a new perspective on the other's opinion.

Effective communication throughout the project can help to stave off conflict and facilitate accountability. One way to stay in touch with group members is to communicate through Google Docs, which is a resource for compiling and collaborating in various formats similar to Word documents, Excel sheets, and PowerPoint presentations. This allows you to collaborate, post comments, and chat with group members in real time. It also streamlines large projects where the work is broken up to enhance continuity of the material.

When the project is completed and submitted, it is important to remember to recognize others for their hard work and commitment to the project. Taking time to individually recognize people for their contributions can go a long way in affirming their role in the group and can help to ensure cooperation and accountability in future group projects.

Vitae

What's Up with GSU Sports

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

GSU has a variety of sports and sporting events in the works for the coming months.

The Jaguar Jamboree, a men's and women's exhibition basketball game that begins at 9pm on September 26, is "a part of student late night campus programming, to engage students and students on campus," according to Student Life Program Coordinator Dennis Dent.

Governors State's Men's exhibition basketball schedule officially begins October 9th with a match against Trinity Christian at 6pm, preceded by a prep rally where the Jaguar mascot name will be revealed.

The Womens Basketball team will also begin their exhibition schedule on October 30 against Trinity Christian at 7pm that night. TWAG and the Digital Learning department is also looking at the potential and

possibilities of broadcasting sports games on game night, on the web and all through the campus on the big screens.

Recreation and Fitness Program Director Dean Jennings also informed the *Phoenix* that the Bowling Club begins again next month, the women's Volleyball Club is currently practicing, and the GSU Table Tennis team begins their collegiate competition in November. The Table Tennis team is also actively looking for participants. Interested students should contact Dean Jennings in the Recreation and Fitness Center for further details.

The recreational outdoor facilities are also available for student use, the International Student Association is looking to begin Cricket as a GSU sport, and in the Spring, the Recreation and Fitness Center is hoping to initiate Golf and Cross Country as collegiate sports as well.

Shedding Light On Reality: Recovery Month encourages openness about Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders

By William Wright
Contributing Writer

In this modern age, mental health is still widely misunderstood, and something that so many suffer in silence because of societal stigmas that are associated with mental illness. According to a 2007 study by the CDC, of the respondents diagnosed with a mental health disorder, only 24.6% agreed that most adults are caring and sympathetic towards people with a mental illness. In a world of ice-bucket challenges, and a national month of breast cancer awareness, this doesn't seem up to scratch.

GSU's Counselling Center is trying to do something about that. Each year, the Counselling Center recognizes Recovery Month, which aims to educate people on a particular theme regarding various health issues. This year, September's Recovery Month theme is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up, Reach Out".

The program aims to shed light and spread knowledge about issues which nobody seems to want to talk about, and spread the positive message that when it comes to mental and substance abuse disorders, "prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover". Emily Petkus is GSU's new Clinical Health Counsellor at the Academic Resource Center.

"Raising awareness for recovery month is a small step toward reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and addiction," said Petkus. Nearly 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. has a mental illness, and Recovery Month takes aim at various issues: including suicide (from which over 800,000 people die each year) and substance abuse issues (which affects

over 22 million people) to issues such as self care and college stress. The events will conclude with RAINN Day, the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network's annual day of action.

"It is important for communities like Governors State University to make prevention, treatment, and recovery support available," said Petkus. "We can be influential in creating that environment in an effort to promote and enable the positive realities of recovery."

During recovery month, various events will be held, beginning with the Warning Signs of Suicide workshop on September 8th, held during observation of national Suicide Prevention week. This will be just the first in a series of events and workshops, beginning with the Warning Signs of Suicide workshop on Monday September 8th, and followed by a Self Care workshop on September 9, the World Suicide Prevention Day workshop, also on September 9, Managing College Stress on September 15, Substance Abuse as an Escape on September 18, and RAINN Day on September 25.

All events will be held in the ARC Workshop room, B1215 at 3.30 on the days announced. Petkus went on to say that she hopes students who have been impacted in some way by these issues might feel supported by the GSU community, and she is hopeful that through Recovery Month, the GSU community can let students know that resources and counsellors are available to them at no cost. "There are people on campus who understand the struggles [students] are facing," said Petkus, "and wish to offer them encouragement." The Counselling Center is in the Academic Resource Center in B1215.

Prairie Place

Continued from pg. 1

resident faculty and staff. "The student housing is phenomenal," said Brown. "It is great to offer on-campus housing at GSU that is very modern. I'm so excited for all of our students to consider Prairie Place as an option."

President Maimon elaborated on the rarity of the GSU freshman experience in this year's Convocation address on August 22 in the Hall of Governors. "These fortunate first-year students will experience a unique foundational experience the equal to or better potentially than any with which we have been associated," said Maimon, "and to which it has been an honor to contribute to such an historic educational development process."

"Rarely does any university both take the opportunity and make the effort to create an 'only one in the country' beginning college experience quite like this," said Maimon, "drawing from the best research findings and best practice from the most knowledgeable experts in college student success, including the University's own experts, the University has really done it!"

Freshmen review ASUS T100

Continued from pg. 4

Marshae Willis (Freshman):

I have to say academically, no, and "recreationally, yes. It's a tablet more so than anything. The storage space is not sufficient for my needs. I still use my other laptop. The software and programs that are helpful for my school work are Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer, Adobe, etc. The computer is too small to type papers longer than two pages. Did I install software or programs on the laptop myself? Some, yes. The laptop run these programs fine. The situation when I can use the new laptop in class all depends on the professor and what activity is going on.

Zaira Carvajal (Freshman):

"I like the new laptop because it works well. It's very convenient to carry around during the day. You need wifi to access pretty much everything, but there are no limitations. The storage space is sufficient for my needs... very much so! I use blackboard for the most part and (Microsoft Word) really helps a lot. The computer is a little small but it's convenient. I did not install software or programs on the laptop. I'm using programs that are already installed. I have no issues about using my new laptop in class. All of my professors allow me to use the laptop."

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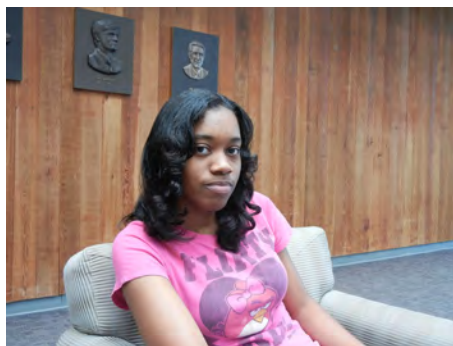
Cover relevant topics around campus, in the GSU community and the world.

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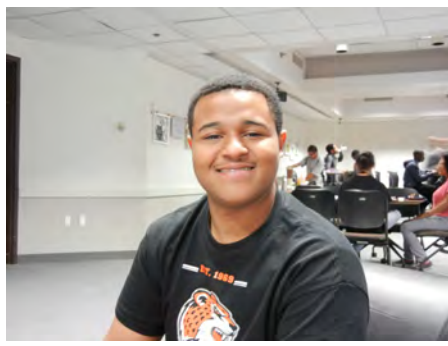
Meet and Greet

Interviews with a few of GSU's new Fall 2014 Freshmen



Samaria Hendricks, 18
Economics

P: What made you choose GSU?
S: "It was cheap."
P: "How do you feel about the diversity of the GSU student body?"
S: "It's more diverse than I thought it would be."
P: What would you like to see more of at GSU that you haven't seen yet?
SH: "More sports."



Fred Hamilton Jr., 18
Computer Science

P: What made you choose GSU?
F: "I saw that they were opening the campus up to freshmen, and I saw that that would mean great horizons for GSU. It's very diverse, but it's very limited as well."
P: What would you like to see more of?
F: "A music program."



Jeremy Frierson, 18
Economics

K: "Don't get me started on [the store]. I'm glad they changed the hours. I think if people want breakfast, that's going to be a problem, and the food prices are ridiculously high."
P: How do you feel about being in school with upperclassmen?
JF: "I feel equal."



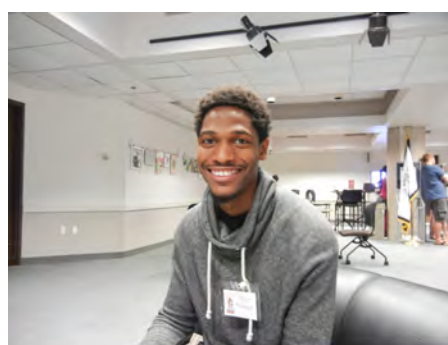
Kierra Johnson, 18
Biology

K: "I feel welcomed. GSU is family oriented. Right now I have an interest in the Civic Engagement Council, but I hope to get involved in a Biology club."
P: What would you like to see more of at GSU?
K: "More organizations and programs, and more people involved in them."



Kevin Dorsey, 18
Undecided

P: What made you choose GSU?
K: "The atmosphere; I feel comfortable and I have family and friends that go here. Prairie Place is a real comfortable environment; they have places where you can sit and do your homework."
K: "I play basketball, that's very interesting to me."



Shavell Crawford, 18
Business and Marketing

What made you choose GSU?
S: "It's a great university. Everything at Prairie Place is beautiful. Currently I'm a part of civic engagement, and I'd like to join more clubs."
P: What would you like to see at GSU?
S: "A football team."



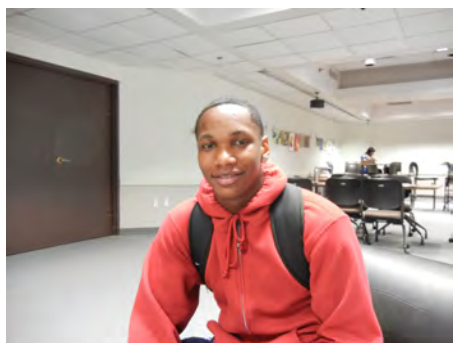
Shaquana, 18
Accounting

What made you choose GSU?
S: "It was closer to home, and I heard that we were going to be the first freshman class. I do not find the prices [at the store] reasonable."
S: "I'm interested in civic engagement, and I'm dedicated to what I like to do."



Jamal Gails, 18
Graphic Design

P: What made you choose GSU?
J: "I feel welcomed. Honestly, I feel there's a lot of different ways that people could take our being here. I see a good, even mixture of kids and adults."
J: "I think with us being here, the place just got a lot louder, and you can tell it's just full of youthful energy."



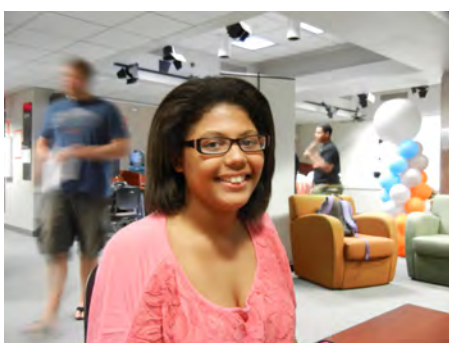
Calvin Brooks, 18
Physical Therapy

P: How do you like Prairie Place?
C: "I love all my roommates, it's really nice. The only problem is the WiFi. I was interested in the basketball team, and I heard it's like the first one, so you're like a pioneer, you're the first."



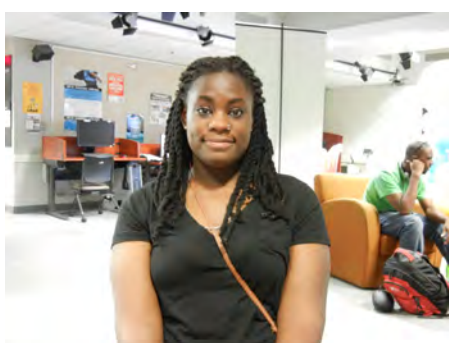
Patrick O'Leary, 19
Psychology

P: How do you feel about the diversity of students at GSU?
P: "It doesn't have that big of an impact on me since I don't see that many people who are diverse here. I met a foreign exchange student from China, that was interesting, but I haven't seen them since."



Dionna Gordon, 18
Social Work

P: How do you like Prairie Place?
D: "I like [Prairie Place]. I enjoy it, and I've gotten to meet new people. The pricing at the store is not reasonable; a box of cereal is \$7 so that is a lot."



Jian Rutledge, 19
Early Childhood Education

P: What made you choose GSU?
J: "It's not a big university, it's in my price range, and they had my major. I'm interested in Student Life and the Criminal Justice Society."
P: What would you like to see at GSU?
JR: "GSU has it all!"