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Student Life

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PHOENIX

February 4, 2015 • Volume 16 • Issue 7



Art Walk: strides of style and substance

Masks from the Yaka people of Africa on display in the library Skylight Gallery during the GSU Art Walk

“Know Your Rights” examines effects of police brutality

Upcoming Events

-All February the Friends of the GSU Library Annual Book Drive

-Black History Taught Through the Bible
5:00PM 2/4 F1622
5:00PM 2/5 F1622

-The Impact of Incarceration
5:00PM 2/5 Engbertson Hall (B1200)

-NCTTA Table Tennis Tournament
9:00AM 2/7

-Art Gallery Open House
10:00AM 2/7 E1571

-For Colored Boys



National Bar Association President Pamela Meanes discussing the cultural divide in law enforcement between African Americans and caucasian Americans.

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

One specialist amongst the several featured panel guest included National Bar Association President and St. Louis Attorney, Pamela Meanes. Meanes gave her perspectives on the law, the courts and the relationship between the community. She also touched on how Americans can protect themselves by knowing the law and their Constitutional rights when dealing with community violence.

Tio Hardiman, former Illinois gubernatorial candidate. Executive Director for CeaseFire Violence Interrupters, Inc. A long term community rights advocate was also in attendance.

Also present was, human rights advocate Mark Clements, who was 16-years-old when he was coerced into confessing to crimes. Mark spent 28 years in prison for arson and murder, and was released after the true circumstances surrounding his confession came to light.

During the conference, the

group laid out their national plan for solutions to police brutality. This years event closely marked the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was hosted by The Criminal Justice Student Society at Governors State University(CJSS), and it was their first CJSS event of the semester. Anyone who is interested in future Criminal Justice Student Society events may contact CJSS Advisor: Caron Jacobson, cjacobson@govst.edu or for more information or assistance, at 708.534.4570.

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PH^{THE}ENIX

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 credited, and include the submitters full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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Professor Profile: Thomas Bierdz

By Brenda Torres
Online Editor

The Phoenix is launching a series of Professor Profiles. Professor Thomas Bierdz, from the College of Education, is the inaugural subject.

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

Bierdz: Well, in '92 the state of Illinois gave me a certificate to plow the field, and since that time, it looks like the field has developed into factories. But I was teaching before that point partly out of necessity. I have mild autism and that makes social situations difficult for me: what do I do, what do I say? So I learned to turn some social situations into teaching or counseling situations. That gave them a structure and me a role.... But that was survival, in terms of true teaching I would say that it was about 10 years ago I began to focus on teaching as a skill that can be developed and sought to improve it each term. I am not the teacher I was 10 years ago.

Phoenix: Was education your first choice as a major? If not, what was it?

Bierdz: No. I had many first choices. All of them were science based. In high school, I was discouraged from science because of my eyesight. I couldn't figure out what I could do to work and survive. Most all jobs come with a visual component, so I looked for something that used my ears, and decided on music, but I had no background or training. Well, I could look at a piano and turn on the radio, but that was it. My parents were sensible and hence against this idea, but I taught myself guitar and piano and in a year I applied to Saint Xavier for music and got in and started earning scholarships and taught myself to compose music. I made some money writing music for weddings. But mostly I abused that innate ability and never seriously practiced or developed it. I was a bad student and rather irreverent towards music as an art, but not as a science. How my teachers tolerated me is still beyond me. They deserve an award. But back to science, in high school, it was bad advice when my teachers advised me not to enter science because of my vision. At that time they didn't say "look all the things you want to do in science, you can do them because there's adapted technology that will allow you to cover those visual components." No one told me that they just said "you can't do this because you're blind". The fact is I couldn't do it because of ignorance. There were high-quality scientists who are totally blind in many science fields including chemistry and medicine. And those are two fields that one might think that sight is a must, but it isn't.

Phoenix: What made you become a teacher?

Bierdz: My parents and luck. As I said, I was in music and while I was in school my parents said: "You can't just do music, why don't you get a minor in education? That way, if the music doesn't work you have education as a back-up-plan". So I did. But when I graduated in 1992 with teaching certificates in music, the state cut all of the teaching positions in Illinois. So I had many different jobs and kept returning to school to earn degrees and certifications. In one class here at GSU, I delivered a presentation I thought was reasonable for the masters level. The coordinator of the special education program – Dr. Kasik – was the program coordinator at the time and offered me an adjunct teaching position on the spot. I am very grateful to her for this. I would not be here at GSU unless it was for her actions. When I

thanked her she said that it was lucky that I was in her class, but assured me that it was my hard work and dedication to the field that landed me the job. For this I am grateful.



Bierdz- back of room- lecturing at Jiangmen Polytechnic in Guangdong China January 2015. "Important is who and what I teach, not me [sic]"

Phoenix: What classes do you teach?

Bierdz: The only class that I'm teaching right now, and I asked to do this, is the introductory special education survey course. I want to restrict myself to this course because I think this course is the most important course taught here at the university in terms of special education. It's the one class that everybody has to take who is going into an education related field: teachers, speech language therapists, counselors, social workers and so on. This is the class where I can correct a lot of missed information about individuals who have neuro-physical variations and introduce the students to a way of thinking that is not found in the text books. I make sure they are equipped with the skills necessary to work with competence and confidence. Students have described the classes as challenging and rewarding and are excited about how much they have learned.

Phoenix: What types of experiences have you had that you bring to the table as a teacher?

Bierdz: Apart from my education and personal studies concerning psychology, anthropology, religion and neurology, which fit beautifully into the field of special education is that I'm classified as having several conditions, and I let my students know up front that I am labeled as legally blind, hearing impaired, with an auditory processing disorder, ADHD, autism, anxiety, and depression. So when teaching about these neuro-physical variations I approach them as a native, which is very different from simply having foreign book knowledge. It also allows students to see how these neuro-physical variations manifest in a person as strengths, and also how what I need to do in a classroom, or in life is sometimes blocked by its human design, and then how to fix the situation to move forward. Secondly, I've been through the special education system since it began in 1975. I was born in 1966, so I lived its inception and early development all the way through high school. I was there before the ADA in 1990 and its revisions- which still need a great deal of work. In addition I worked in several schools as a general education and special education teacher, so I understand the field as a service recipient and later as a service provider. Thirdly, I understand discrimination first hand – the willfully planted discrimination and its sister

crop of ignorance. I have been denied jobs, being told flat out 'we won't hire you because you are blind.' or being told 'Oh, we wanted someone who speaks Spanish, can you do that?' I spent years of unemployment, underemployment, being on food stamps and public aid. Twice I was homeless. So I understand discrimination and poverty, and some of the students at GSU face these conditions. So I know the challenges of living such a life, where I should be flexible in my lesson planning, and where I must insist that students remain responsible. Finally, I am plowing out a new direction in the field of special education, and also in working with the students I serve as an instructor here at GSU. Overall, many people believe that special education has failed. Public special education laws started in 1975 and about 25-years later NCLB was in part, necessary because students with neuro-physical variations were still not receiving a quality education. This problem persists today. There are many good special education teachers, but there are many more who lack proper training, skills, and a useful philosophical framework. This is where the universities can step in and change the outcome. This is where the field of special education can make advances, but they need a new model, and I have one. Recently, during my time off from GSU, I was lecturing in China concerning parts of this new model of special education, and I plan to lecture in other places.

Phoenix: Can you elaborate on the new model?

Bierdz: With my many conditions I have the same needs as all others, the problem is that those who are neuro-physical typical receive accommodations to fulfil their needs, but what works for them does not always work for me. I need education, transportation, employment, food, health and so on. There is nothing special about these. For my job I need to access information embedded in papers, emails, PDF files and, to equally participate in events. What is special about equal access? To this day I am invited to events and meetings and I am given materials that I cannot access, and hence excluded from full participation. When I am labeled as special needs, the message is that I am the problem, and focus is taken away from the situation, which can always be changed. This discriminatory term is ubiquitous and permeating and so is the message it surreptitiously carries. Our society was created by humans for humans, but the design does not yet provide equal access for all of its members. Dropping the term special needs will help us focus on the flaws in the situations by not placing them on the individuals with neuro-physical variations. Make sure that whatever you do, you're happy in doing it. Those happy in their work perform that work exquisitely and provide excellent service to others. So one sure way to make the world a better place is to ensure you are happy in what you do. Equally important is to believe that what you do has value. If you believe that what you do has value, you will study it from the point of value, invest yourself in that value, and project the value of what you do. Teaching is not a job, it will be if that is all you make it, and that is exactly the view one will take if they don't first establish the value of what they do. I do not teach for money, I do not teach for prestige. I don't care if my students forget me, and I rather wish they would. I teach to change student's perceptions of the world and how they act in the world in a way that promotes equality for all. Because I believe in the value of what I do, I say that whom I teach, and what I teach, is important, I am not.

Bruce Rauner inaugurated as 42nd Governor of Illinois



Rauner taking his oath as Governor. Jan. 12, 2015

by William Wright
Contributing Writer

Illinois' newly elected Governor, Bruce Rauner, was sworn into office on Jan. 12, and he has already begun his shake-up of the state government. Rauner is the state's first Republican governor in twelve years, and he reiterated the key points of his campaign in his inaugural speech.

He wants to turn around the economically struggling state, make it more attractive to businesses and investors, and to reverse Illinois' image of corruption. The state is currently operating on a deficit of around \$4 billion, and it has the worst credit rating of any state. Rauner promised to resolve these issues,

and stated that Illinois can be steered toward long-term prosperity through shared sacrifice. However, Rauner has not revealed any specific plans.

Since his inauguration, the governor has made clear the direction his methods for turning around Illinois' economy will take. After freezing all

“The taxpayers’ money belongs to them, not the government.”

“non-essential” spending within the state, Rauner said,

However, Rauner has already come under criticism for increasing some

members of his staff's pay by 35% compared to the amount Quinn paid his staff. Defending his decision, Rauner said his staff were hired from the private sector, and were actually taking a pay cut to work for the Government.

With his vow not to raise taxes, Rauner faces a tough task in reducing the state's deficit. Although he has proposed several ideas to do this, including putting Illinois on the road toward becoming a right-to-work state. He is encouraging local governmental units to decide whether workers will be required to join unions to get work, as is currently the case statewide in Illinois. The idea is to attract businesses to the state with the more relaxed labor laws.

Right-to-work plans have come under fire from pro-union critics, as they reduce union bargaining power, and their ability to fight for workers who may be being treated poorly. Other pro-business ideas Rauner has floated include making cuts to employee unemployment insurance and compensation costs.

The freshmen governor has also proposed expanding state sales tax to include the service industry as is the case in other states, claiming the state isn't competitive in this respect. Being a flat-tax, sales tax increases often face criticism because of its disproportionate negative effect on those of lower socioeconomic status, taking a larger chunk of their income than it does the wealthy.

President's thoughts on proposed right-to-work legislation

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

Right-to-work legislative proposals often are met with strong opposition from Democrats.

“We still need laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give American workers a voice,” President Obama has said during his State of the Union address. “But things like child care and sick leave and equal pay; things like lower mortgage premiums and a higher minimum wage -- these ideas will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of families. That is a fact. And that's what all of us -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- were sent here to do.”

According to Labornotes.org, Right-to-work laws are currently in place in 25 of the 50 U.S. states. Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act says that “no person should be compelled, as a condition of employment, to join or not to join” unions.

This means that union dues would not be necessary. Both union members and non-members would benefit from union contracts without all employees paying dues. The union dues are used to support all union activity

Some states have been pushing for a change to have all workers, unionized or not, pay dues to unions because all workers benefit from the unions' collective bargaining

Katy Perry makes audience see fireworks



Katy Perry's entrance during Super Bowl XLIX atop a giant mechanical lion

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

The 2015 Super Bowl Halftime Show began with Katy Perry riding in on a metal lion while singing “Roar”. The phones of the crowd created a starry atmosphere fit for a party. Next, Perry segued into “Dark Horse” alongside dancing chess pieces atop a chess board. Additionally, “I Kissed a Girl” became an immediate duet between Perry and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz added a great layer of funk rock to Perry's already rocking show. The stage then transformed into a beach setting with every tropical item you can imagine for “Teenage Dream.”

There were singing palm trees with dancing surf boards, sharks, and beach balls.

Perry included rapper Missy Elliott in on the action as well. Elliott sang “Get Your Freak On”; “Take Control”; “Work It” and Lose;Control.” For Perry's concluding song, Firework, Perry was lifted in the air while fireworks sparkled on what looked like a cape on her back. Pyrotechnics were engulfing the stage. Perry concluded her halftime show with actual fireworks brightening University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Her parting words: “God Bless America!”

AUDITION NOTICE



Directed by
Dr. Patrick Santoro

Friday, April 24 & Saturday, April 25
at 8 p.m.

Preview performance
at the Gender Matters
conference on
Saturday, April 18

KIMBERLY AKIMBO
by David Lindsay-Abaire

Set in the wilds of suburban New Jersey, Kimberly Akimbo is a hilarious and heartrending play about a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. When she and her family flee Secaucus under dubious circumstances, Kimberly is forced to reevaluate her life while contending with a hypochondriac mother, a rarely sober father, a scam-artist aunt, her own mortality and, most terrifying of all, the possibility of first love.

To learn more or schedule an audition for Saturday, February 21, visit: www.wejoinin.com/sheets/exrnb

Casting the following roles:

- KIMBERLY:** a 16-year-old girl, played by a woman in her 60s or 70s
- BUDDY:** a man in his mid-30s, Kimberly's dad
- PATTIE:** a very pregnant woman in her mid-30s, Buddy's wife
- JEFF:** an awkward, unpopular 16-year-old boy
- DEBRA:** a woman in her early 30s, an ex-con, Pattie's sister

Please prepare a 1-minute comic monologue.

For further information on upcoming courses or productions, contact Dr. Patrick Santoro at psantoro@govst.edu or 708.235.2842.

The dos and dont's of social media for graduate students

By Matthew Gentry
Columnist

In the last decade, social media has become an inescapable and integral part of the way we communicate with each other. With nearly every millennial owning social media accounts with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and more, it is important to understand how those accounts affect our digital image. Although social media has only exploded in use in the last decade, a 2014 survey by Jobvite found that 93% of recruiters check social media when interviewing candidates! And not only are hiring managers looking at social media, they are using that information to make a decision. A different study discovered that 10% of young people were not offered a job due to content from their social media. With this information and remembering that nothing is truly private online, here are a few things to think about when using social media:

- Do make comments, tag photos, and build content that is true to your character and personality.
- Do be positive.
- Don't be an egomaniac. By all means post selfies and pics of your vacation cruise, but balance that with interests, research, passions, or people that you look up to.
- Don't allow photos or content showing you using drugs or excessive alcohol.
- Don't make vulgar, profane, sexist, racist, or ageist posts/comments.

- Don't complain or whine in posts/comments, especially about a boss or workplace.
- Don't share "TMI". Do not share with the world what most people consider personal or private.

Suggested Action Items for Graduate Students:

1. Google your name and see what pops up with a combination of search phrases (e.g. add "governors state university" to your name). If there is any content that does not cast you in positive light, work to remove it.
2. Consider changing your Facebook name to your first and middle name instead of your last name to make you less searchable. Many professionals working with clients/patients prefer to keep a barrier between their personal and professional life.
3. Review your Facebook settings to see what privacy restrictions you have in place and choose a level that restricts content. Even severely restricted settings may not be bullet-proof. Facebook has "Graph Search" which allows unfriended people to see your pictures/comments/posts. Your best bet? Delete or un-tag those party pictures of you double-fisting tequila shots.
4. Remember that Twitter and Instagram are public forums so anything that you post will be public. Do not let 140 characters ruin your chances at getting your dream job.
5. LinkedIn is a great social media tool that can enhance your professional image so update your profile and use an appropriate profile picture. Furthermore, as many as 94% of recruiters use LinkedIn to seek out potential candidates making it one of the best ways to market yourself.

Gunmen attack Charlie Hebdo leaving 12 dead, 11 wounded



Small Memorial in remembrance of those killed by gunmen. Jan. 7, 2015

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

On January 7, 2015, two gunmen ambushed the headquarters of the French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo. According to BBC News, Twelve people were killed, including five staff cartoonists, and economist Bernard Maris. Eleven people were wounded. The next day, the surviving Charlie Hebdo staff announced that publication would continue as planned. The French Government donated €1 million in support of Charlie Hebdo. The Guardian Media Group donated €100,000 and the Digital Innovation Press Fund, as well as the French Press and Pluralism Fund, both gave €250,000 each.

A manhunt ensued for the gunmen, later identified as Saïd and Chérif Kouachi. The two brothers

were killed in a raid at a Paris printing plant by police on January 9th. The brothers were in the midst of a hostage situation. A friend of the brothers was also killed that same day after he conducted a separate hostage situation at a Paris Kosher deli supermarket, near the printing plant.

Since the Charlie Hebdo attack, the phrase "Je suis Charlie", which translates to, "I am Charlie", has been used on social media, and the public in general, to show support to the fallen members of the Charlie Hebdo staff, in addition to embracing self-expression and freedom of speech.

Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma volunteer outing a success



Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma cleaning up for Adopt-A-Road program

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

The Criminal Justice Student Society and Alpha Phi Sigma Adopt-A-Road Program had its first community service outing this fall and owes its success to its many dedicated volunteers.

This ongoing program is open to assistance from all, civic organizations and schools groups. It is an easy program to implement, not overly time-consuming, and there are

no fees or costs involved. The group's only obligation is to remove litter from their adopted section of roadway four times a year. TheClub provides the necessary safety equipment and identifying signs are installed to recognize the group's community contribution.

Anyone who is interested in future Criminal Justice Student Society events may contact Lrichmond@govst.edu or for more information or assistance, at 708.534.4570.

Upcoming Hogtown screenings

9:23 FILMS INCORPORATED
PRESENTS
THE FIRST TWO FILMS IN THE PETIT MONDE TRILOGY

HOGTOWN & CHICAGO HEIGHTS

"HOGTOWN expands into a multilayered, multicultural tapestry of a city and a century... epic in its scope and ravishingly photographed, designed, and scored."
—Marty Rubin,
The Gene Siskel Film Center

"Brilliant... a beautiful book has inspired this beautiful film."
—Roger Ebert,
Review of CHICAGO HEIGHTS
Chicago Sun-Times
List of Best Art Films of 2010

MON FEB 9 @ 1:15
HOGTOWN
BERLINALE / EUROPEAN FILM MARKET
ZOO PALAST THEATRE

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER SCREENINGS / EVENT:

FRI FEB 20 @ 8:00
SAT FEB 21 @ 6:30
SAT FEB 21 @ 8:15
SUN FEB 22 @ 6:00
MON FEB 23 @ 8:00
WED FEB 25 @ 8:00

HOGTOWN
CHICAGO HEIGHTS
HOGTOWN
HOLLYWOOD ON STATE
HOGTOWN
HOGTOWN

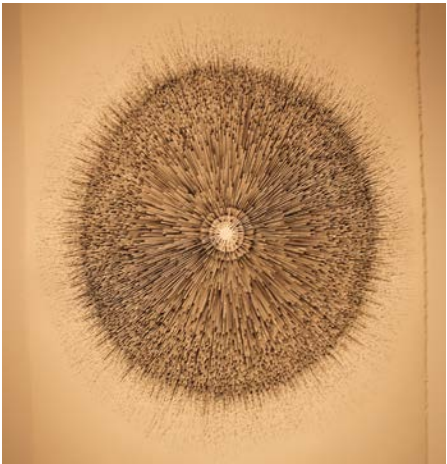
9:23
FILMS

SISKELFILMCENTER.ORG

Campus The Art Walk



"A Snowy Day in January" by Eric Tucker. Steel and Glass.



Artist Linda Emmerman's collected "Ink Drawing" series utilizes nontraditional mediums, such as paperclips.



"Stellated Dodecahedron" by Brian Hofmeister. Oil and ink on birch plywood.



Chieften's door panel, a representation of the Yaka artistic artifacts.



Palm Spathe painting from men's house from the Iatmul people of Papua New Guinea. From the S. Rodolitz collection loan.



"Swept Away" by Lisa Goesling. Black scratchboard and metal pointed stylus.



Library Dean Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Art Gallery Director Jeff Stevenson and Dr. Arthur Bourgeois mingle among the Skylight Gallery's indigenous art.



"Polyhedral Croissant" by Brian Hofmeister. Oil and ink on birch plywood.



Lisa Goesling's "Oregano". Sketchboard with colored inks and black copic multiliner.



"Babel (Self-Portrait)" by Charles Rowling. Oil on Canvas.

Campus

GSU cuts down on trash for Recycle Mania contest

By Brian Bock
Associate Editor

Starting this week and extending through March, GSU students and faculty will be asked to recycle more and reduce their waste. The heightened focus on waste management during this period is due to GSU entering the annual Recycle Mania competition.

Recycle Mania's website describes the event as an 8-week competition, with 256 schools from the United States and Canada collecting data on the amount of recycling and trash. Using this data, it is determined which school recycles the most on a per capita basis. The per capita data is used to award schools in nine different categories.

This year, the GSU Sustainability Club is taking the lead on Recycle Mania, and hoping to increase recycling and sustainability on campus.

"I feel privileged to have the Sustainability Club represent Governors State University in this year's competition of Recycle Mania in an effort to help promote waste reduction and promote sustainability efforts around the campus community," said Sustainability Club President Marie Penny.

The Sustainability Club and volunteers will check the waste management receptacles on a weekly basis, and use that data to report back to Recycle Mania. There are 10 receptacles on campus, some being emptied twice a week.

Governors State has been involved with Recycle Mania since 2009. Last year, GSU took the top spot

in the waste minimization division for Illinois schools. Within the entire, larger grand champion division, GSU ranks 187 out of 256.

In the past, Facilities

our recycling system, GSU also has battery-recycling stations, utilizes LED lighting and has solar thermal panels.

Not just a Facilities



Development and Management handled Recycle Mania. Margaret Schiesher, Building Service Supervisor, hopes changing the focus on Recycle Mania will help students get involved.

"We're hoping that...students will be more involved, that you can reach out better to students, get more student involvement, get housing involvement," said Schiesher.

GSU has already does a number of sustainable measures to help reduce its waste. In addition to

Development and Management issue, GSU is also incorporating sustainability into learning by promoting the sustainably themed The Story of Stuff for the Intellectual Life's One Book, One University. Furthering a commitment to the reduction of waste, the Friends of the GSU Library book drive, going on now, aims to reuse old books in an effort to reduce waste and help expand knowledge.

Even with these sustainable efforts, GSU still has room for improvement.

The biggest object of waste on campus: the plastic bottle.

"When custodians empty the trash in classrooms, over half of it is plastic bottles", said Kevin Barto, Director of Campus Services.

Students bringing reusable bottles to campus, instead of plastic water bottles, can easily remedy this problem. Reusing water bottles not only is efficient, but is also cost friendly.

"There's so many people that can not only help save the environment, but save money by using a reusable mug," said Barto.

The GSU community is encouraged to recycle during these 8 weeks, and to document their efforts as well. Recycle Mania is encouraging competition schools to use social media to help spread awareness. Participants are encouraged to take a recycling selfie and tweet it to @recyclemaniacs.

Students are encouraged to be more mindful of their own waste, properly dispose of trash and recyclables in their proper bins and use reusable materials and objects as much as possible. For more information on Recycle Mania, visit Recyclemaniacs.org.

The winners of Recycle Mania will be announced in April. Until then, the Sustainability Club and the campus at large is doing their best to make sure that it has a lasting impact.

"I am hopeful this event will continue to be a campus wide initiative throughout the upcoming years," said Penny.

Are criminal justice careers influenced by criminal justice television dramas?

By Brenda Torres
Online Editor

The Phoenix conducted research with faculty and students to see if criminal justice majors were influenced by criminal justice television dramas. On January 30, Professor Caron Jacobson, a professor in the Criminal Justice department at GSU and Criminal Justice Student Society Advisor was asked this question.

"Perhaps not so much the choice to get into the criminal justice field, but how the professions work. Too many times I have had students tell me that, 'It did not happen that way on CSI', to which I have responded that television shows are for entertainment and are under no obligation to be factually correct. In fact, too often the shows are far from the reality of the job. It makes my job harder as we have to push past all the myths and legends fueled by criminal justice TV dramas," said Jacobson.

A scholarly article, Perceptions Of The Criminal Justice System: Television Imagery and Public Knowledge in the United States, by Connie McNeely, was also



Natasha Lyn Dillard, Correction Officer for the State of Illinois-Department of Juvenile Justice the president of the Criminal Justice Student Society and of Alpha Phi Sigma- the Honor Society for Criminal Justice.

utilized. According to the article:

"Research has suggested that a majority of people in the United States receive much of their impressions and knowledge of the criminal justice system through the media, especially through entertainment television viewing."

Furthermore, statistics from the study conducted by Barthe, Leone, and Lateanob, in Commercializing Success: The Impact of Popular Media on the Career Decisions and Perceptual Accuracy of Criminal Justice Students states that 32% of federal law enforcement orientated people were influenced by police

shows. As well as 26% forensic orientated people were influenced by forensics shows.

Now the question becomes, why are criminal careers influenced by criminal justice television dramas? One would probably think because it looks moving. Yes, according to Jacobson,

"Television shows make criminal justice professions seem a lot more exciting on a daily basis than they are in real life. Of course, you would not see all the paperwork a police officer has to fill out, or the fact that the majority of cases are settled by plea bargaining rather than trial.

The mentality that most people who violate only get 'a slap on the wrist' is promoted in the entertainment shows while in real life the United States is the most punitive democracy in the world," said Jacobson.

"The media does bring to life to some degree, the programs that are offered here at Governors State," said student NaTasha LynDillard.

Dillard, a student who has a B.A. in Criminal Justice and is seeking a masters in counseling-consideration in clinical mental health. Also is the president is of the Criminal Justice Student Society and of Alpha Phi Sigma- the Honor Society for Criminal Justice.

Dillard decide to major in criminal justice because of the career she has now, Correction Officer for the State of Illinois, Department of Juvenile Justice. She will be completing 15 years in the department. Therefore, her influence was her career not television dramas. Dillard stated that the media has a great deal with people majoring in criminal justice.



Panoramic of Chicago Skyline from John Hancock Building, Photographed by Kyle H. Horn Editor in Chief

The artistic voice

By Ashieka Daniels
Art Columnist

Are you curious about the many pieces of art work that exist on the campus of GSU? Are you a Fine Art, Communications, or Graphic Design major? Maybe you appreciate the beauty and history that artwork has. If so, great! If not, don't jump ship just yet.

My name is Ashieka Daniels, and I am a contributing writer, and newest member for The GSU Phoenix. The Phoenix has just created a "new" position that is dedicated solely to the arts! I will cover topics that include, but are not limited to, The Visual Arts Gallery, The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Visiting Artists, and local art exhibitions. My hope is to bring awareness of the arts to the student body and faculty of GSU. I hope to enrich the academic

experience through the exposure to art. As you walk throughout our campus, I encourage you to take a moment and notice a piece of artwork, whether it be a painting, photograph, sculpture or pottery.

While you're at it, find one which you appreciate, and take a selfie with it. Upload your picture to our Facebook Fan page. I would love to see what interests you. By the way, did I mention there will be a giveaway for the best and most creative selfie? (Selfie must contain artwork on the grounds of GSU). Your options are almost limitless.

Our campus sits on 105 acres of prairie. One place to start is the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park that holds 29 sculptures. Another great place to try is the Visual Arts Gallery in the E Lounge, which currently is exhibiting "Ways of Making Line". Lastly, you have the option of viewing

"Art of the Yaka" which can be found in the GSU Library Skylight Gallery. Whatever the choice, you can't go wrong!

GSU hosts some amazing artists. One of which is Ted Sitting Crow Garner who created a sculpture in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Entitled "Throne," the wood and painted steel tubing work is located on the grounds of the Manilow Sculpture Park. It is on loan courtesy of the artist and can be viewed 365 days a year from dawn till dusk. I hope the journey of visiting artwork on our campus causes conversations among your peers and awakens your interest in art. I am honored to have this position, and look forward to bringing you the most interesting and engaging topics. Until your eyes hit the next issue of The Phoenix "may your life be immersed in art and your mind filled with creativity."

Visit the GSU art Gallery and E lounge for an open house on Feb. 7th starting at 10a.m. till 2p.m. and explore the art and culture of a community and people.

The Interview



By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

The Interview featuring James Franco and Seth Rogan received the scorn of a nation as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened the U.S. with attack were the film to be made public. It is the belief of The United States that an act of cybervandalism was committed by North Korea in a hack of Sony's data network.

In response to the to the hack and subsequent threats, Sony, to the dismay of many Americans including President Barack Obama, chose to postpone the release of the film in theaters. Sony's decision was not well received and was viewed as giving in to hostile nations demands. Ultimately, The Interview was released online with prices around six dollars to rent and all North Korea had managed to

accomplish was provide film with, possibly, the best free advertisement it could have gotten.

According to Money.cnn.com, in the few theaters across the U.S. that chose to screen The Interview initial earnings were around 10% less than a full release would have been, which is not including earning from the online release.

The Interview received a 7/10 rating on IMDB and a score of 54% on RottenTomatoes. Despite the low to mediocre critic reviews, general consensus online is that the movie is worth the six-dollar rental. For those with Netflix, the film is free, as it has been put up for screening there as well.

American Sniper

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

American Sniper featuring Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle, portrays the life, trials, and tribulations of an American Sniper in Iraq. From an entertainment standpoint, there is little controversy over the quality of the movie. American Sniper was gripping and immersive with action of every kind from beginning to end. As it covered Kyle's life and story as the self-proclaimed greatest sniper in American military history, it also

explored the challenges of all veterans returning from war. Focusing on Kyle's struggles to cope with what he had seen and done over his four tours.

American Sniper will have you gripping the armrests, wiping away tears, and with your jaw on the floor from opening credits to close. The film received a rating of 7.7/10 on IMDB and a score of 73% on rotten tomatoes, and is certainly worth the ticket price.



The State of the Union address

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

President Obama focused his final State of the Union Address on the economic progress the nation has made – pointing out that the United States economy is growing and unemployment is lower than before the 2008 recession.

According to whitehouse.gov, transcript of the address, President's address included statements related to economic prosperity.

"The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong. At this moment -- with a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production -- we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come," Obama said.

Obama turned to the story of Rebekah and Ben Erler. Ben worked long hours at any job Ben could find, and they sacrificed college for Rebekah seven years ago. After the birth of her son, Rebekah got a better job than what she had before, and Ben was able to go back into construction as well as maintain fair hours to be home for his family.

"They represent the millions who have worked hard, and scrimped, and sacrificed, and retooled. You are the reason I ran for this office," he told them. "You're the people I was thinking of six years ago today, in the darkest months of the crisis, when I stood on the steps of this Capitol and promised we would rebuild our economy on a new foundation. And it's been your effort and resilience that has made it possible for our country to emerge stronger."

Turning to business, Obama cited the 11 million jobs created in the U.S. by not outsourcing them. He hailed the notion that families should save \$750 dollars annually because the United States is first in oil and gas production. Obama then pointed out that more Americans are finishing college than ever before. The President stressed the importance of having more opportunities as a result of hard work when talking about the need for higher wages.

President Obama went on to say that his budget will lower taxes and help



President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union Address. Jan. 20th, 2015

Americans afford a home, education, healthcare, and other necessities. The President revealed the fact that 43 million people don't have paid sick or maternity leave because the U.S. does not require it.

He urged Congress to "pass a law that makes sure a woman is paid the same as a man for doing the same work."

Obama continued with a Congressional challenge: "And to everyone in this Congress who still refuses to raise the minimum wage, I say this: If you truly believe you could work full-time and support a family on less than \$15,000 a year, go try it. If not, vote to give millions of the hardest-working people in America a raise."

The president then outlined an initiative to make community college free. He pointed out that community colleges are connecting with employers to train future workers. He also emphasized the hard work veterans do for our country and the importance of giving them better opportunities.

"Understand, you've got to earn it -- you've got to keep your grades up and graduate on time. Tennessee, a state with Republican leadership, and Chicago, a city with Democratic leadership, are showing that free community college is possible," he said. "I want to spread that idea all across America, so that two years of college becomes as free and universal in America as high school is today. And I want to work with this Congress, to make sure Americans already burdened with student loans can reduce their monthly payments, so that student debt doesn't derail anyone's dreams."

Obama followed that up by making known once more the need for higher wage jobs for Americans. Obama also wants Congress to pass a bill that empowers modern technology, employs more people, and makes the country stronger.

"No one knows for certain which industries will generate the jobs of the future. But we do know we want them here in America. That's why the third part of middle-class economics is about building the most competitive economy anywhere, the place where businesses want to locate and hire", said Obama.

Furthermore, Obama spoke of launching a Precision Medicine Initiative "to bring us closer to curing diseases like cancer and diabetes -- and to give all of us access to the personalized information we need to keep ourselves and our families healthier."

Obama also urged Congress to close the loopholes that lobbyists and corporations use to get a tax breaks and deny workers of their own breaks. The President urged Congress to help families make ends meet and have the United States provide what is needed for well paying jobs.

He went on to outline his policies on the military and foreign affairs. Obama explained how America has always led with solutions in mind. This was his transition into talking about ending the impasse with Cuba, citing his hope that the end of the Cuban embargo is near.

"I believe in a smarter kind of American leadership. We lead best when we combine military power with strong diplomacy; when we leverage

our power with coalition building; when we don't let our fears blind us to the opportunities that this new century presents. That's exactly what we're doing right now -- and around the globe, it is making a difference," said President Obama.

Later, the president cited progress to prevent climate change, touching on the monumental agreement made with China late last year.

"In Beijing, we made an historic announcement -- the United States will double the pace at which we cut carbon pollution, and China committed, for the first time, to limiting their emissions."

President Obama also for the first time in a State of the Union address mentioned the LGBT community, while also addressing discriminatory concerns of other minority groups in America.

"It's why we speak out against the deplorable anti-Semitism that has resurfaced in certain parts of the world. It's why we continue to reject offensive stereotypes of Muslims -- the vast majority of whom share our commitment to peace. That's why we defend free speech, and advocate for political prisoners, and condemn the persecution of women, or religious minorities, or people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. We do these things not only because they're right, but because they make us safer," Obama said.

Obama concluded by emphasizing the importance of our values, leading by example, and working together.

"I want this chamber, this city, to reflect the truth -- that for all our blind spots and shortcomings, we are a people with the strength and generosity of spirit to bridge divides, to unite in common effort, and help our neighbors, whether down the street or on the other side of the world," he said. "I want our actions to tell every child, in every neighborhood: your life matters, and we are as committed to improving your life chances as we are for our own kids. Fifteen years into this new century, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We've laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. Let's begin this new chapter -- together -- and let's start the work right now."

Secure your financial aid

By Phillip Allen
Senior Writer,
Communications Manager

If you haven't filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2015, NOW is the time to do it! The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal and state aid. Filling out the FAFSA as close as possible to January 1 will give you the best opportunity to receive aid. These are LIMITED funds and they WILL run out!

A misconception some students have is that they must have their taxes completed before they can

submit the FAFSA. This is not true! If you have not yet filed your Federal Tax Return, you should still get the FAFSA done as soon as possible. You may estimate your most recent income and taxes. Just remember that if you do estimate, you must file a correction to update the information.

Upon completion of the FAFSA the Federal Government will notify you that your FAFSA has been processed and an electronic confirmation will be sent to Governors State. In addition to federal funds, the State of Illinois also uses the FAFSA to determine your eligibility for state

aid programs like the Monetary Award Program (MAP Grant).

The FAFSA is free and has no processing fees. The easiest way to complete and submit your FAFSA is to go online at www.fafsa.gov. If you have trouble with the forms, help is readily available.

"You can also make an appointment with the Financial Aid Office and we will answer any questions students have concerning this crucial piece of financial aid documentation. Our Financial Aid staff is available to help you and answer your questions at 708.534.4480 or by

email at faid@govst.edu," he said.

If you filled out the FAFSA last year, remember you must apply yearly! You can fill out a renewal form, but you still must apply.

GSU financial Aid Director, John Perry offers some practical advice for students: "You want your financial aid in place. Don't complicate things for yourself. Get the FAFSA done now so you can concentrate on your classes and not on paying bills." Additional FAFSA information and resources are available in the Financial Aid section of the GSU website.

Stadium

NCTTA winter upper mid-west table tennis tournament

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

On Saturday February 7, 2015 GSU will host the winter upper mid-west NCTTA table tennis tournament. The GSU Jaguars are the defending mid-west college table tennis champions. The tournament will take place in the Athletic and Recreation Center gymnasium from 9 a.m. -5 p.m..

Purdue University, DePaul University and Northwestern University are just three of the schools that are anticipated to compete. This event is free to spectators, so come out and cheer the Jaguars on to another title.

With a proud heart we at GSU would like to congratulate all members of the GSU Women's and Men's Basketball Teams for

their participation in the 2014-2015 Basketball Season.

"All the players set the very best standard, they played well and on court in addition while off the court gave a high level of commitment and quality service to the university," said Coach Anthony Bates,

Stats proved Coach Bates was correct. The Men's team finished with an 23 wins and 1 loss. The Women's team finished 13 wins and 7 losses

The games were played this past season marked the activation of the GSU Basketball Program and to determine the future of the GSU Basketball acceptance of its application to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) conference.

Ticket Attendance for the season events averaged 150 to 300 people in attendance per game on the high side.

Super Bowl XLIX

By Gregg Greer
Contributing Writer

By the time you read this article on February 1, 2015 Super Bowl XLIX will have been decided. The "Clash of Titans" at this years game is between the American Football Conference (AFC) champions The New England Patriots and National Football Conference (NFC) champions The Seattle Seahawks. The game will decide the National Football League (NFL) champion for the 2014 season. The game is to be played ,at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:30pm MST. The game will be broadcast in the United States by NBC.

The Patriots are lead by veteran quarterback Tom Brady, and quarterback Russell Wilson will have control of the Seattle offense. Adding to the suspense, is The NFL's investigation into the case known as Deflategate, which is ongoing. (?). Deflategate is the referring to the fact that it has been suggested someone on the Patriots' side cheated in a prior game, and broke NFL policy by deflating the game footballs to ensure easier handling.

This will also be the first time in a decade that an NFL team will play in consecutive Super Bowl games. The last such instance occurred was in 2004 and 2005, when the Patriots played in Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX.



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New year, new you

By Critisha Ashley
Romance Columnist

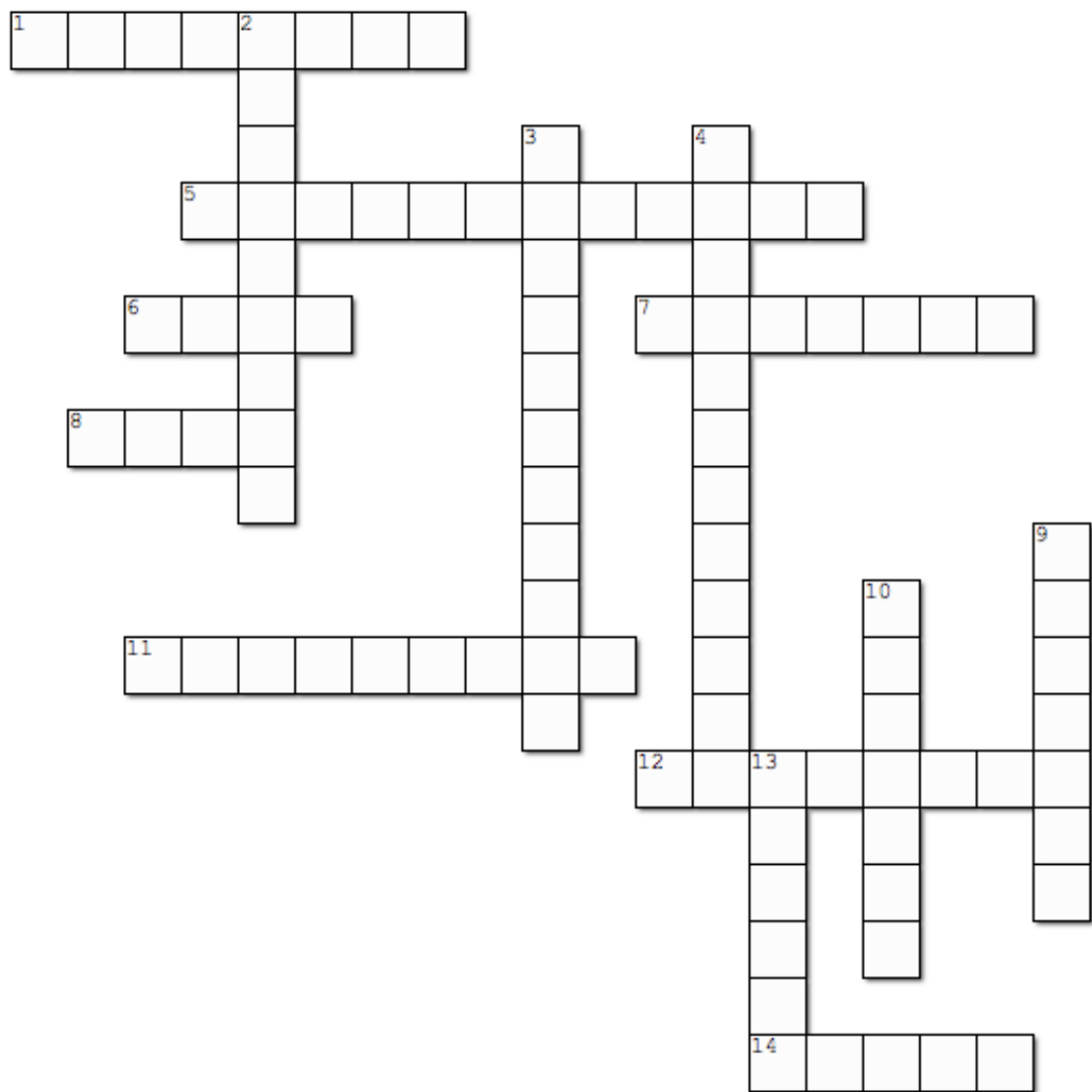
Every year we make New Year's resolutions. How many of us make realistic resolutions that can be achieved through hard work and dedication? How many set realistic goals that we know are achievable through having the capability and know-how to accomplish these goals? As part of my New Year's resolution, I want to thank all of the people who have made it possible for me to graduate this year, and working hard in my classes is how I show my gratitude. The last part of my resolution for this year is to make the honor roll as a graduate student and to remove the things in my life that are hindering me from prospering. Having prosperity and self-help with a dash of love being the focal point of our New Year's resolution will help us heal old wounds and open up doors to a prosperous year and successful relationships. As a part of our resolution, let us do the hard things people do not want to do; that is take out the trash in their life. The trash in our lives might be heavy and the walk might be long going to the dumpster, but think of all the trouble this junk has caused in your life, and this will help you throw it away never to return. Once you throw away the trash in your life, all those negative things that once burden you down will no longer have the control over your prosperity. This trash metaphor can be a symbol in different areas of your life that breeds negativity. Like negative friends that crush your dreams of doing something respectable with your life, negative family members who are unsupportive, and a negative work environments. We have to find a way to make these situations positive or take out the trash. Make your resolution mean something, and not just words being said out loud!

“Make your resolution mean something, and not just words being said out loud!”

We have to speak our destiny with power and manifest it with actions. I say, out with the old and in with the new! I always tell people, if something is hindering you from achieving your purpose on Earth, then it is not meant to be in your life. We have to surround ourselves with people and things that are going to move us in the direction that we are aiming for, or else we will never grow as individuals. If you are trying to be successful in life then surround yourself with resources that will help you reach success in all areas of your life. No more using “I can't”; because someone once told me excuses is a way of telling people you are inadequate! Remember that resolutions are for keeping, so if you have made a resolution or going to make one. Think hard, speak with power and manifest with actions.

Ludicrum

Complete the crossword below



Across

- Espresso topped Italian dessert
- Term given to taking up too much room on the subway
- _____ Perry, Super Bowl entertainer
- 3 Day music festival in Kentucky
- New movie starring Jennifer Aniston
- Tammy _____, Illinois congressperson
- Super Bowl victors
- Type of gas tracking produces

Down

- Paul _____, forms trio with Kanye and Rihanna
- Name given to Super Bowl scandal
- The power house of the cell
- Inventor of Cubism
- Animal named band that just released album titled 'Our Love'
- Famous London river

Horoscopes
By: Brian Bock
Staff Astrologer

Aries
Just in time for Valentine's Day, you are feeling a bit of an early boost in your love life. Your new feelings may come as a shock to you, but embrace them.

Taurus
Time for home improvement and hosting friends and family. This will make you very happy and leave you fulfilled.

Gemini
Now is a great time to build new partnerships and maintain the ones you already have. Try to focus on one-to-one interaction.

Cancer
Your ship is finally coming in! You're hard work is paying off, perhaps faster than you expected. Be sure to keep your eyes open for new opportunities.

Leo
You might be feeling a bit antsy lately. Now is the best time to travel or experience a new setting. It's the perfect way to get out of that slump.

Virgo
It's time to say goodbye to something that has been difficult in your life. You need to strategize on how you will leave this particular situation

Libra
You may be seeing your ego stifled as of lately. This may be a good thing. It's time to get back to center, as your usually used to.

Scorpio
Your career is making major headway. Put forth efforts in your professional life and it will pay off handsomely. This week opportunities will manifest themselves.

Sagittarius
You've been bottling up a lot of feelings lately. That is not good for you, it's time to let them go. Try to be direct, and also true to yourself.

Capricorn
A sultry attraction may catch your eye, right in time for Valentine's Day. This new admiration has the potential to develop into something real.

Aquarius
Buried issues may become unearthed. The best ways to deal with these situations is to face the music head on, and try to work through your issues.

Pisces
Your efficiency is at an all time high, and that's a good thing. Use this burst of new motivation to help you achieve a project you've been working on.

Celebration Of Our

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Vendor Expo

Friday, February 20, 2015

10am-4pm

Hall of Governors

Awards Show

Saturday, February 21, 2015

6:30pm

Center for Performing Arts



Governors State
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT LIFE



Upcoming events for Black History Month 2015

Thursday, Feb. 5th

*Impact of the Prison System
on the Black Community*
5p.m. in Engbretson Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 10th

The "N" Word
6p.m. in Sherman Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 11th

*Reflections of the Civil Rights
Movement*
3:30p.m. in Room A2150

Tuesday, Feb. 17th

*Teaching Black History Through
Primary Sources*
7:30p.m. in room D34011

Monday, Feb. 9th

Developing Cultural Competence
3:45p.m. in The Cube

Wednesday, Feb. 18th

Black Inventions
All day in the Hall of Governors