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Save Our Sculptures: Park Needs Our Help

One of the unique experiences GSU offers its faculty, students, staff and surrounding communities – the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park – needs our help. The sculptures are in need of repair and maintenance – from a simple paint job to complicated restorative work.

Just throw some paint on it or take a sander to it, you may say. It’s not that easy. Funds for maintenance and restoration have been exhausted for some time, and efforts to raise new funds are underway. In addition, complicated contractual obligations prevent most of the sculptures from being touched without permission and guidance from the artists, who still own many of the sculptures that reside in the sculpture park.

The idea for the park began as the vision of Nathan Manilow, the founding developer of Park Forest South (now University Park) and Park Forest, the first planned post-World War II community in the country.

Manilow, a voracious art collector, died in 1971, and the legacy was passed on to his son, Lewis. Concerned that Park Forest South enjoy a future rich in culture and art, the Park Forest South Cultural Foundation was formed, its original purpose to commission works for a sculpture park planned for the civic center of the town.

Also in 1971, Governors State University was established, receiving a land donation from a group including Lewis Manilow, stipulating that the proceeds from the land sale be used “to honor the name of Nathan Manilow in the cultural arts.”

In the 70s, GSU and Park Forest South became an informal gathering place for Chicago sculptors; many were university lecturers in the first days of GSU. During this period, the univer-

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From the President

We invite you to enjoy the second issue of our newly reformatted, freshly designed newsletter, now nicknamed "Dot edu." The full name, "@govst.edu," is intended to illustrate GSU's intent to be out ahead of the pack, our dedication to technology and to provide students with quality accessible and affordable higher education.

GSU's magnificent and internationally renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is the subject of "Dot edu's" cover story. The 22 majestic pieces grandly sited throughout our 750 acre campus require painstaking and costly upkeep and repairs. As winter settles in, exposure to the elements takes its toll each year. We suggest that you consider contributing in some manner to the park's use and renewal. The sculpture park is everybody's - and yours as a source of solace, serenity and serious thinking.

Other stories attest to our diligence in constantly pursuing GSU's dream and mission. Teaching, diversity, technology, service - I hope you will enjoy learning of GSU's progress in each domain.

Sincerely,

Paula Wolff
President

Save Our Sculptures
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University acquired its first sculpture, "Phoenix" by Edvins Strautmanis.

William Engbrethin, GSU's first university president, announced a major sculpture exhibition for August of 1976. To the amazement of the university community, giant sculptures from across the United States appeared across campus almost daily, carted in by flatbed trucks and assembled by giant cranes. "The Sculptor, the Campus, and the Prairie," the exhibit's name, was heralded as one of the most impressive outdoor sculpture collections of its kind - the site and its art were born.

The park is one of only three sculpture parks on its scale in the country. In 1993, director of the University of Chicago's Renaissance Society, Suzanne Ghez, said "This sculpture park was planned with intelligence, courage and vision."

The list of participating artists is clearly an A-list of national and international names. Martin Puryear, considered one of the best sculptors alive, has his piece "Bodark Arc" located just northwest of the small pond at GSU. "Isis," by Mark di Suvero, is on loan from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and is located on the east side of campus at University Parkway, the east entrance to campus. "Illinois Landscapes No. 5" by John Henry, the best known of the sculptures, is often referred to as "The French Fries," and greets visitors at the entrance to "F" wing.

All ages enjoy the park, especially children. Grade school through college students participate in frequent field trips. An example of the impact the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park can have is demonstrated by a 2nd grade student from Park Forest. He was so taken with the sculptures after a field trip that he went home and began building his own sculpture from cardboard and wire.

For various reasons, many conventional sculpture funding sources are not available to the Manilow park. Consequently, private funds are needed.

Donations are being accepted by the Foundation Board. Donations are fully tax-deductible, and donors are issued a receipt for tax purposes. Call Beverly Goldberg at (708) 534-6360 for more information and information on donating.

Governors State University

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Connie Zonka, Director
Detmer Wells
Virginia Eysenbach
Denise Graham Zahn
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Dick Burd
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Public Affairs Department

December 1996
Racial, Ethnic and Religious Polarizations Explored at Teach-In

In an effort to get the GSU community and the region talking about issues of diversity and racial tolerance, Governors State University recently hosted a daylong conference on racism. "A Response to Church Burning: A Teach-In on Racism" was the creation of CAS professor Dr. Harriet Gross who developed the event to, "...bring to light the social problems which fuel our growing racial, ethnic and religious polarization." More than 150 people, including students, GSU faculty and staff, community leaders and several area clergy, packed Engbretson Hall on November 22 to participate in this inspirational and exciting event.

Conference participants first were addressed by a distinguished panel which helped to present a regional and national framework for the day's discussions. Included on the panel were Dr. Manuel Barbosa, chairman of the Illinois Human Rights Commission since 1980; Bernadine Dohrn, director of Northwestern University School of Law's Children and Family Justice Center and a long-standing civil rights activist; Aaron Freeman, host of WBEZ radio's popular talk show "Metropolis" and a noted comedian and political satirist; and Salim Muwakkil, senior editor of In These Times magazine and a contributing columnist with the Chicago Sun-Times. The panelists provided a sociological and historical background from which to study the current trends in racism, and engaged in a lively debate with each other and the audience on the need for community based action to initiate social change.

The program then shifted to two workshops on prejudice and intolerance, sandwiched around a working lunch. In the first workshop, Dr. Winifred Scott, a cultural diversity consultant to several Fortune 500 companies, focused on ways to respond to racism in institutional settings. The second workshop, conducted by GSU professors Mary Arnold and Judith Lewis, helped people understand the consequences of prejudice and gave strategies on how to "unlearn" such beliefs. Conference participants were challenged to work in groups of 10 to 15 during lunch to develop suggestions on how to address the problem of racism in our community. The day finished with reports from the several working lunch groups and a pledge from everyone to keep the momentum of the day moving forward.

"I think [November 22] was an important day for both the university and others in attendance in that we were able to engage in serious reflection concerning the ongoing issues of race," noted South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center director Dr. Larry McClellan, whose organization cosponsored the event. "The stark reality is that racism and other forms of prejudice continue and appear to periodically gain strength. This kind of conversation and the creative activity that will follow it, I hope, will be helpful in addressing the ongoing dilemmas."

LEAP Grant Allows Recipient to Achieve Education

Linda Kehres, an undergraduate student at GSU, is achieving her education with the assistance of a unique grant project called The Learning and Excellence Award for Persisters (LEAP).

Kehres is one of six GSU undergraduate students to have utilized the grant for at least three consecutive trimesters. This $402,000 grant by the Illinois Board of Education was awarded to GSU and four other institutions in the Chicago area.

Most grants and scholarships apply only to part-time or full-time students. LEAP is for students who take less than six credit hours because of employment, family responsibilities or lack of funds. These students are not eligible for state or federal financial aid.

Kehres said that she feels very fortunate to have been awarded a LEAP grant to help with her tuition and course fees at GSU. "When I first returned to college to achieve my bachelor of arts degree after a 20 year absence, I tried taking several classes each trimester to finish up quickly," she said. Kehres soon found that option created an overload, as she works and has two teenage sons. "Work, school and family life were all beginning to suffer with the stress," she said. "The LEAP grant has been a tremendous help to my family," said Kehres.

Kehres hopes to receive her bachelor of arts degree in June 1997 through GSU's Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts program. She then intends to continue her education at GSU in the field of accounting.

"I will always be grateful for the assistance I have been given through the LEAP grant program when it was needed most," Kehres concluded.

A similar program exists for graduate level students, which is funded by the GSU Foundation.
Happenings

Donations Accepted at Trustee’s Holiday Celebration

GSU’s Board of Trustees invite all faculty, staff, students and alumni to a holiday season reception to be held December 13, 1996, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Donations of adult and children’s coats, scarves, boots, mittens and/or school supplies will go to the Ford Heights Learning in Context Program.
R.S.V.P. by Dec. 6, (708) 534-6364.

Transfer Day at GSU

Tours of GSU’s many facilities, workshops on financial aid/financing an education, student activities, nontraditional ways to earn a degree and meeting representatives from the different colleges including the BOG/B.A. program are part of Transfer Day at GSU. To be held on December 6, 1996, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., those wanting to attend or needing more information should call Lisa Hendrickson, Office of Admissions, at (708) 534-4490.

Institute’s Irish Coffee Holiday Party

The Institute’s 18th Annual Irish Coffee Holiday Party is the traditional gathering of faculty, staff and alumni from GSU, elected officials, community leaders, former Grand Marshals and friends from the community. Held in the Hall of Governors on December 6, 1996, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., there will be plenty of Irish coffee and soda bread served. And as always, expect a "mystery" Grand Marshal and lots of good cheer!

"Worlds of Art" Internet Course Offered Again

GSU is again offering the Internet art history course "Worlds of Art" to be taught by Dr. Arthur Bourgeois, the winter trimester. Beginning January 13, 1997, students will meet once a week online for the three-credit-hour course.

For more information, contact Sally Petrilli at (708) 534-4088.

FIPSE Grant Provides Access to Education

Receiving a grant for a quarter of a million dollars provides a very exciting opportunity for Governors State University to be involved in creating partnerships with community colleges and corporations throughout the country in expanding the Board of Governors Bachelors of Arts (BOG/B.A.) degree program.

This grant is from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) of the United States Department of Education.

The BOG/B.A. program enables mature adults not adequately served by four-year institutions because of job and family commitments to complete a bachelor's degree. It is a learner-centered degree that allows students maximum flexibility to select and tailor courses to their individual career goals.

BOG/B.A. students may receive credit towards their degree for prior learning from courses taken at regionally accredited higher education institutions, proficiency examinations and/or portfolios that document college-level learning from work and life experience. Students take the remaining courses required for their degrees on GSU’s campus, at GSU’s off-campus sites in the Chicago area, through telecourses, or at four other state universities in Illinois. GSU currently offers 53 media-based courses, and expects that number to increase.

Partially funded by the FIPSE grant, the "ABE:LINC" project will enable GSU to take the program to a national level. ABE:LINC, stands for Adult Bachelor's Education: Learning Institutions Networking and Collaborating.

GSU has served adult part-time students through new technologies for more than 25 years. The ABE:LINC project is an extension of that historical emphasis and is part of the university’s strategic plan.

The object of ABE:LINC is to offer adult learners across the country greater access to GSU’s flexible baccalaureate degree completion program through their local community colleges. Based anywhere in the United States, students can earn credits toward the BOG/B.A. This can be accomplished by taking classroom courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in their community, by enrolling in media-based courses from GSU or any other accredited provider of distance education, or by developing a portfolio based on life/work experience.

Much of the innovative work in higher education today is at the community college level. Significant growth is expected in community colleges due to mid-career changes and corporate downsizing. The community colleges are often more responsive to adult students and corporate needs than four-year or graduate institutions. Through the ABE:LINC project, adult students can continue the education they started without leaving home, utilizing distance education courses.

Upon the conclusion of the three-year pilot program, GSU and its ABE:LINC partners will have built several cost-effective, collaborative models that enable students to obtain a bachelor’s degree through distance education. During that period the project will address the issues of access to, retention in and completion of baccalaureate programs by adult learners. The enrichment and diversification of the U.S. workforce at all levels through increased career advancement opportunities for employees who lack college degrees will also be addressed.

ABE:LINC, born in the Land of Lincoln, bears some of Abraham Lincoln’s qualities. Lincoln was a great innovator in education. In 1863 he passed the Morrill Act, which established the land grant university system. Today, technology is the new frontier for higher education.
14 Faculty Excellence Awards Presented

Fourteen Faculty Excellence Awards were presented to GSU faculty at fall Convocation on October 30.

Winners are selected by the Faculty Excellence Awards Committee based on outstanding achievement in teaching or performance of primary duties, research and creative activities, proficiency in use of technology, promotion of diversity and services to the community.

The following are the 1995-1996 winners: Jay Boersma, professor of photography, College of Arts and Sciences — utilizing new technology. Dr. Arthur Bourgeois, professor of art history — creative and effective delivery of instruction. Dr. Ronald Brubaker, professor of computer science — adoption of technology for excellence in teaching. Dr. Jon Carlson, professor of counseling — excellence in teaching and writing. Barbara M. Conant, librarian and professor of library science — outstanding service and performance of primary duties. Dr. Judith Cooney, professor of psychology and counseling — outstanding service. Dr. Jagdish Dave’, professor of psychology and counseling — excellence in teaching and his commitment to cultural diversity. Dr. Arthur Durant, professor of health administration — excellence in teaching and research. Dr. Deborah Holdstein, professor of English and rhetoric — excellence in teaching, research and service. Dr. Marsha Katz, professor of management — excellence in research and teaching. Dr. Phyllis Klingensmith, professor of animal physiology — exceptional program development and service. Dr. Jagan Lingamneni, professor of criminal justice — excellence in teaching and primary duties, research and service. Dr. David Matteson, professor of psychology and counseling — excellence in teaching and research. Dr. Suzanne Prescott, professor of human development — outstanding service to the university.

This year’s award winners will receive a maximum of $1,300 with half added to the faculty member’s base salary in 1996-97.

Dave Erickson & Paul Schwellenbach: Employees of the Month for October & November

Dave Erickson of the mailroom was selected employee of the month for October because he goes above and beyond in the service he provides, his nominator said. He goes out of his way to find an answer for a question or problem and quickly responds.

“Dave’s good attitude toward his work and the other GSU employees should be bottled,” the nominator noted. “We were recently in a time crunch and needed materials from the print shop and could not wait for normal delivery. Dave immediately volunteered, and we got our materials via Dave’s special delivery.”

November’s employee of the month was Paul Schwellenbach, who is said to be a “behind-the-scenes, terrific associate.” Paul, the mailroom supervisor, maintains a cheerful attitude even when on deadline. He catches incorrect assembly postings and assists in reassembling, if necessary. He is relied upon for efficiency and guidance in postal regulation interpretation.

The employee of the month receives a monetary prize of $150.

Happenings

13th Annual Civil Service Day

Civil Service employees of GSU are recognized for their contributions on Civil Service Day, held on Tuesday, December 10, 1996, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in The Center for the Performing Arts and Hall of Governors. Employees of the Month and Year will be recognized and awards will be given. Lunch is provided. Line dancing and bingo are planned for the afternoon.

New Hires

New Hires to GSU are as follows:

- Ronald Bailey, CELCS, Research Assoc.
- Luke Helm Jr., CELCS, Chief Clerk
- Vreni Mendoza, CAS, Research Assoc.
- Kevin Milward, CELCS, Research Assoc.
- Ellyn Robinson, Fin. Aid, Sec. IV Trans.
- Donald Bennett, PPO, Buildg Services
- Elizabeth O’Hara, CELCS, Sec. IV Trans.
- Manual Buckner, PPO, Bldg. Services
- Linda Sirmer, Library, Library Clerk III

Job Change

- Vince Donahue, CELCS, Special Project Mgr.

Retirement/Resigned

- Esthel Allen, Dean, CBPA, retired
- Willette Shambly, Benefits Coord., HR, resigned

Positions Open

- Dean, CBPA: Available July 1, 1997; application review begins Feb. 1, 1997.
- Professor of Reading/Language Arts Education: Available Sept. 1, 1997; application review begins Dec. 1, 1996.
- Faculty Positions in Occupational & Physical Therapies and Nursing: Available July 1, 1997; application review begins Feb. 1, 1997.

- Director of Child Care Center: Available March 1, 1997; application review begins Jan. 6, 1997.
Recycling Program a Success

A recycling "kick-off" was held November 13 and 14 in GSU's Hall of Governors to introduce a new mixed-paper recycling program on campus. Coffee mugs and water bottles were among items given away at the display.

The program is part of GSU's state mandated plan to reduce solid waste by 40 percent from 1987 levels by the year 2000. Physical Plant Operations' Ila Gallagher, GSU's project manager of the waste reduction program, says GSU is currently within two percent of that goal, and is soon expected to surpass it.

A new mixed-paper compactor was recently purchased to make the recycling program expansion possible. White, colored, computer and NCR paper, junk mail, glossy paper, magazines, envelopes, newspapers, telephone books, post-it notes and manila folders can now be recycled. In addition, more collection bins for aluminum cans and mixed paper have been acquired, and a natural gas burning truck has been purchased to be used to expand the recycling efforts to all of GSU's outpost buildings.

Gallagher is particularly pleased that the expansion of the recycling program did not cost the university any money. All of the recent acquisitions were made with grant funding, most notably from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) and Northern Illinois Gas.

Janel Clarke: Someone You Should Know

Janel Clarke is an individual who is not afraid to pursue her dreams.

The GSU graduate student is finally realizing her long-time dream of working with dolphins, though not in a way she ever envisioned.

A more traditional approach would have involved a science or biology degree, leading to work as an oceanographer. That wasn't possible for Clarke. The 44 year-old mother of two was a working mother and secretary for 15 years, taking classes when she could. When she decided to go back to school full-time, the science degree was out of the question.

With the help of GSU's Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts degree program, Clarke completed a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts.

The program allowed her to take classes in many disciplines, experience many subjects and narrow her choices. Clarke chose communications. "I'm a born communicator and a skilled listener. I really enjoyed working with dolphins. It creatively combines communications and her love of the marine environment she will observe interspecies interactions at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a non-profit educational marine center located in Clearwater, Florida.

"Adults are totally unconscious when they see the dolphins," she explains. "Dolphins and people just naturally want to connect with each other. Almost everyone has a smile on their face when they watch the dolphins."

Clarke has taken advantage of a lot that GSU has to offer students by participating in many extracurricular activities, including writing for student publications and student government activities. Recently, she was one of five recipients of the Chicago area "REACH Your Goals" Scholarship, among other awards.

Clarke has learned much from her experiences at GSU. She affirmed, "GSU has helped polish me."
New Master's Degree Programs in College of Health Professions

The College of Health Professions (CHP) at Governors State University has added two new degree programs. Students may now enroll in entry-level master's degree programs in Occupational and Physical Therapy.

According to Cecilia Rokusek, dean of the college, "These two programs signify the enhancing role of GSU's College of Health Professions in becoming a major educational institution for the allied health professions in the region. We now have seven programs in the college. We are becoming a full-service institution for health services education."

Ann Vendrely, co-director of the Physical Therapy program, said she is very excited about the program. "GSU's is the only state supported, entry-level master's degree program in Illinois, and GSU is well positioned to serve the increasing number of community-based providers in the region," she said. That includes more than 30 hospitals, home health agencies and major health care facilities.

"The direction that the profession is going," said Vendrely, "is increasing emphasis on research and education. Bachelor's degree programs in physical therapy will be phased out, so any new programs will be at the master's degree level, entry-level or advanced."

Plans are underway, said Dean Rokusek, for an advanced master's degree program in physical therapy geared toward practicing therapists currently holding a bachelor's degree in physical therapy or occupational therapy.

GSU's Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy programs are designed for adult students coming from a variety of backgrounds and experience. Admission requires a bachelor's degree in any field except physical therapy or occupational therapy.

Sixteen students are enrolled in the Physical Therapy program. The average student's age is 27.1 years, and all are Illinois residents. Four different ethnic groups are represented. The majority of the students hold their bachelor's degrees in science, but some have their bachelor's degree in fields such as business administration, fashion merchandising and psychology.

The Occupational Therapy program will be accepting its first students for the Winter 1996 Trimester. Elizabeth Cada, director of the program, said "It is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a dynamic group of faculty that is invested in creating an occupational therapy program that will prepare therapists to provide high quality service in the rapidly evolving health care environment.

GSU is seeking accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

The faculty includes instructors with diverse clinical and academic experiences. Faculty for the basic science courses hold doctoral degrees. Instructors for the clinical science courses hold professional degrees appropriate to their course content.

GSU/Alumni News

Donald W. Hansen Memorial Endowed Scholarship Winners Selected

Two women, Karen Stuenkel of Park Forest and Phyllis Levy of Chicago, have been selected to receive a cash award in the amount of $1,200 each from the GSU Alumni Association.

Stuenkel will receive her B.A. degree in Business and Public Affairs in December. Levy received her B.H.S. degree in Communication Disorders in August of this year.

To win the award, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.8, be registered for at least six credit-hours, and have demonstrated leadership and community service. Nominations are made by the deans in each college.

Alumna Returns From Costa Rica

Bernadette Ruchala, B.A., Elementary Education, August, 1996, has recently returned from Costa Rica where she worked in the International Educational Exchange program.

Correction

Nancy McKeating's department was incorrectly listed in the November issue. McKeating is in the Administration department.
The Governors State University administration and University Professionals of Illinois, GSU Chapter reached tentative agreement on a contract settlement.

It includes a compensation package of three percent for all faculty retroactive to September, six tenths of a percent for MPDE (this component was negotiated last year and includes funds for minima adjustments, professional development, degree completion and excellence awards) and an additional one percent beginning in March for a total annualized salary package of 4.6 percent.

The contract, if ratified, falls within the funds available this year for salary increases and does not violate the university's budget process for FY97. An additional $15,000 was added to the compensation package to reach agreement. These funds are being provided by GSU's President Paula Wolff from her donations to the GSU Foundation for faculty development initiatives. Both sides agreed to language in the contract that deals with conflict of interest, workload, Unit B faculty, union release time and duration of the contract.

The faculty will vote on this tentative agreement next week. If ratified by the faculty, the contract will be presented to the GSU Board of Trustees for approval.

Meet... David Barr

"If you want a better community to live in, then you better work to make it a better community."

That statement, made by Charles Barr, hit home with his five children. David Barr and his four siblings - brothers Carney, elected to township office; Murray, member of park boards and an attorney; sisters Barbara Jo Barr, also an attorney and organizer of a local school referendum and member of various boards; and LuAnn Berning, active community member - have participated and driven community involvement in the south suburbs for more than 20 years. David Barr is the embodiment of community service.

Presently, Barr is president of GSU’s Foundation Board, having served on the board since he was 28 years old. His father, Charles, was also a member until his death in 1976. Charles Barr was instrumental in the early years of Foundation Board activities, and David has continued his legacy.

David Barr's resume is astonishing. An attorney engaged in a general law practice with emphasis on commercial, corporate, real estate and estate law, he works in Matteson, Ill. He is a lifelong resident of Rich Township and an honors graduate of Harvard University and a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.

In addition to his many community activities, Barr was selected to serve on the U.S. Secretary of State's Committee on Public Opinion.

Married to Barbara Jean Barr in 1972, he has a daughter, Sarah, and a son, Davidson.

The Foundation Board's primary focus is to provide resources to the university. While a member of the foundation, Barr has been instrumental in projects such as scholarship funding, new equipment purchases, funding for The Center for the Performing Arts and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park maintenance and promotion. Presently, under Barr's guidance as board president, the board has taken on the task of funding scholarships for part-time students.

Barr and the Foundation Board serve as one of GSU President Paula Wolff's links to the community, and as such, Barr is exactly what GSU needs - someone to help guide the university towards expansion and increasing enrollments.