Technology has made information of all kinds more accessible than ever before. Access to the World Wide Web and other forms of information technology have changed the way we do business, study and even communicate.

Innovative uses of this technology are a significant part of the work of the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at Governors State University, a grant supported initiative whose goal is to foster greater cooperation and communication across the vast and diverse region south and southwest of downtown Chicago. The Regional Leadership Center works at this goal through the coordination of a variety of community networks and interest groups, and through the development of computer and telephone based information systems which serve the region. These two systems, the LincolnNet and the Lincoln InfoLine, are providing a wealth of information to the citizens of Chicago’s Southland and beyond.

The LincolnNet is actually a site on the World Wide Web with links to a variety of other useful web sites. From the LincolnNet home page, visitors can access the web sites of a number of villages, towns and communities in the South Metropolitan region, information on a number of social service agencies, a listing of area schools and libraries, and a number of other useful and interesting web sites. Also, visitors to the LincolnNet home page can find out about the community organizing initiatives of the Regional Leadership Center.

The Lincoln InfoLine is a telephone companion to the LincolnNet. This system integrates computer technology with the existing telephone system, using highly interactive voice-mail and voice messaging applications to provide information similar to that found on the computer based LincolnNet for those without access to computer or Internet technology. The Lincoln InfoLine includes components such as crisis hotlines, referrals to a variety of service agencies, and general information on the region and on the

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From the President

Dear Friends of GSU:

Welcome to the third issue of @govst.edu, and I wish you all the best of good fortune for 1997. At GSU we are poised to begin the winter trimester, and are working on our three 1996 top priorities: the final implementation of CARS, the degree-based Student Outcome Assessment Processes and the development and enrollment plans for each college.

Our cover story is devoted to another part of our mission—service to the region. We focus on the growing linkage taking place as a result of LincolnNet and Lincoln InfoLine. In a short time, we have hooked up libraries, service groups, government agencies, schools and individuals in the south metropolitan region. We have just begun our efforts to offer user-friendly technology to benefit all people in our region.

Sadly, we mourn the death of William Engbretson, GSU's founding president. He gave us a vision for GSU which defined the early years of the institution and had substantial impact on the reformulated mission which we continue to pursue and which will be reflected in the pages of each issue of @govst.edu.

Sincerely,

Paula Wolff
President

Memorial Service Held for Founding President of GSU
Dr. William E. Engbretson

Dr. William E. Engbretson, age 70, founding president of Governors State University, passed away on Thursday, December 5 and was laid to rest Sunday, December 8 in Mill Valley, Calif.

GSU president Dr. Paula Wolff, who was on staff at GSU while Engbretson served as president, said, "Bill was an innovative educator. He was committed to educational excellence for non-traditional students, to the use of technology in learning and to promoting a multicultural community. GSU continues in those pursuits today."

In 1969, Engbretson was appointed president of the newly created university by the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities. At that time nothing had been constructed.

In retrospect, Engbretson was a visionary. "I have a hunch," he said at that time, "we will encourage a lot of independent study, individualized instruction and self-paced learning to draw commuters into the college life."

Engbretson said, "Our faculty members will have to constantly retrain themselves, to keep related to the rapidly changing technology of our society. Technology is a primary reason for the constant change that the university will reflect."

"Governors State," Engbretson said, "will be unusually responsive to the needs of both its young students and of the possibly larger numbers of adults who will retrain for new careers in its junior, senior and graduate classes."

Engbretson served as president until 1976. The community conference center was renamed "William E. Engbretson Hall" in his honor at the time of his resignation. A painting of Engbretson by Steven J. Heiser of Lake Forest hangs in the hall. Engbretson was the longest serving president in years of service of the 10 state universities in Illinois at the time of his resignation.

Engbretson received a B.A. degree from Western Michigan University, an M.A. from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in counseling and guidance, educational psychology and elementary education.

At the time of his death, Engbretson was serving as president of Senior University in Richmond, B.C., and Evanston, Wyo.

Engbretson is survived by four children—Greg, Karen, Chris and Jan; six grandchildren and three great-grand-children.

A memorial service was held in Engbretson Hall at GSU at 10 a.m. on Thurs., Dec. 19.

Icons

@govst.edu will always report accomplishments that help GSU meet its mission statement. Look for these icons which will indicate stories that directly relate to GSU's four goals.

Governors State University

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Public Affairs Department

Connie Zonka, Director
Detmer Wells
Virginia Eysenbach
Denise Graham Zahn
Candice Sexton, Intern

.edu Committee Members

Dick Burd
Suzanne Oliver
Jacquie Hemingway

Governors State University

January 1997
LincolnNet, InfoLine

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activities of the Lincoln project.

"We believe that one of the things that sets the Lincoln Project apart from other technology based developments is its grounding in grass roots activity," says Regional Leadership Center Director Larry McClellan. He sees the LincolnNet and the Lincoln InfoLine as tools of the Center to help bring together a number of groups to discuss, and hopefully address, the various concerns facing the region.

For example, the Center recently hosted a luncheon at GSU for a group of approximately 30 people who work in job development and placement related fields. This group is meeting once a month to develop ways they can share information on their various services with one another via the LincolnNet. The group discussed several strategies for cooperation, including establishing an e-mail network and Internet chat-rooms amongst themselves to share information and resources.

Similar activity is in various stages of development for groups centered around several other areas of interest or concern, including health and human services, open space restoration and preservation, economic and social diversity, regional communication and image, education and training, and transportation, land use and regional planning. Some recent noteworthy achievements of these groups include co-sponsorship of the recent "Teach-in on Racism," the development of a regional Marketing and Public Relations Council, the calling of an Open Space Congress to present an environmental agenda to state legislators, the establishment of a group of the city and village planners of many of the communities in the region to develop regional signs and public artwork, and the production of teleconferences regarding public school funding and tax reform, and the suggested Illinois school standards.

Each group is developing and moving forward based on what McClellan says are the three vital components of the Regional Leadership Center's work, bringing interested parties together, identifying common needs and work to be done, and finding ways to use technology to address those needs. Up to the minute reports on the work and the planned events of each group can be found on the LincolnNet home page, as well as the information and services each group feels would be useful to people in the region who might access the LincolnNet.

While the Regional Leadership Center's work always centers around these three components, efforts are not strictly limited to the interest groups. The Center is also directly involved with several area communities in an effort to promote more regional cooperation amongst the many distinct and diverse neighborhoods throughout Chicago's Southland. The Center will provide agencies and services available in Park Forest.

The Regional Leadership Center uses the Lincoln InfoLine to create similar community linkages for those communities with limited resources. For example, the Voices of Phoenix project on the Lincoln InfoLine provides residents of the Village of Phoenix a telephone based information system tailored specifically to their community. It includes linkages to schools, service agencies, and various other services in the village, and also provides a voice messaging system for many community residents. The InfoLine was recently used by the Coolidge School in Phoenix to hold an oral essay contest in which the winner received a home computer.

Both the Lincoln InfoLine and the LincolnNet are rapidly expanding and changing. As more and more communities and area organizations buy into regional cooperation which the Regional Leadership Center is promoting, both networks continue to grow and evolve. The LincolnNet is planning to unveil a newly designed home page by the end of January, largely in response to comments and suggestions from the ever-increasing number of people making use of these systems.

Those interested in visiting the LincolnNet home page on the Internet can do so at http://www.LincolnNet.net. Those interested in calling the Lincoln InfoLine can dial (708) 235-4132. For further information on either system, or on the many regional initiatives of the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, contact the Center at (708) 534-4487.
School Funding and Tax Reform Discussed at Largest Ever GSU Teleconference

For the past several years, education and government leaders throughout the state have wrestled with the controversial issues of public school funding inequities and related tax reforms, adequacy of education and a prepared workforce. These and several other vital issues were discussed in a powerful teleconference hosted by GSU which included a distinguished panel of leaders who may play a key role in the way Illinois schools are funded for years to come.

On the evening of Wednesday, December 11, Power to the Children - School Funding and Tax Reform: Finding the Common Ground was broadcast via satellite to a wide array of schools, government agencies and public television stations throughout the nation. The teleconference brought together several community leaders, education specialists and legislators to discuss the thorny issues surrounding the disparity of funding for public schools in Illinois.

"I think if we asked people throughout the state if there is a funding problem with education, there would be overwhelming agreement that there is," claimed Fred Giertz of the Institute of Government and Public Policy at the University of Illinois. "What we have to do is more than just condemn the system; we have to come up with a system to replace it."

According to GSU education professor Ken Peterson, the disparity in education funding stems from the state's heavy reliance on property taxes. This results in property rich districts, such as those in which high priced real estate, a shopping center or a power plant are located, having ample funds to devote to education while property poor districts suffer. Education funding in Illinois ranges from a low of just under $3,000 per pupil to over $17,000.

The teleconference was co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Planning Council, The South Metro Regional Leadership Center and Governors State University. It was moderated by radio personality Mara Tapp, who frequently discusses the issue of school funding on her talk radio program which airs on WBEZ-FM. Peterson co-moderated the event and provided expert commentary and analysis for the teleconference which will be broadcast to the largest audience ever to receive a single program originating from GSU. The program was carried live or will appear on tape delay on seven Public Broadcast System (PBS) stations, and will also be carried by 85 cable systems throughout the Midwest.

Richard Van Pelt
Employee of the Year

The tabulations are in and Richard Van Pelt is the 1996 GSU employee of the year. A university-wide ballot was distributed listing the employees of the month from October 1995 through September 1996. The employee receiving the most votes is the 1996 overall winner.

In casting votes for Van Pelt, one person said that, "Learning has many teachers. Though charged with maintenance operations, Van Pelt also acts as a guide and teacher to the faculty, students and others on campus." Others agree that Van Pelt makes suggestions on better ways to get things done. He makes things happen, doing so with a friendly demeanor.

In addition to the honor of being selected, the employee of the year receives a check for $500.

Stephanie Wenzel
December
Employee of the Month

Stephanie Wenzel, program administrative assistant in the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA), is December’s employee of the month.

Wenzel was nominated by the entire GSU student chapter of APICS (The American Production and Inventory Control Society). Joyce Monahan, current GSU adjunct professor said, "Stephanie was directly responsible for the success of the APICS Student Conference in March of 1996." Wenzel planned catering for two days, reserved the conference rooms and oversaw the mechanics of the entire conference at the last minute.

Wenzel was commended as being enthusiastic and intelligent, always finding a way to get done what needs to be done.

Happenings
Winter 1997
Recreation Courses Offered

Community members and GSU faculty, staff and students may register now for winter 1997 recreational courses offered by GSU’s Student Life Division.

Classes are open to the public, and most programs run January 27 through April 21, 1997. Membership is required, and most courses have a fee. To register or for membership fee inquiries call (708) 534-7057.

GSU students receive a $5 discount per course.

Courses include:
- Low-impact aqua-aerobics, to strengthen the cardiovascular system and aid in weight loss, recreational volleyball, three swimming courses;Adult Level 1, 2, and 3; children’s swimming classes, and a CPR class. In addition, programs specifically designed for seniors include exercise and aqua-aerobics programs.

Katie R. Ball and Laurese Perkins
Memorial Scholarships Accepting Donations

Scholarship funds have been set up in honor of a GSU staff

continued on next page
“Issues & Impact” Leads Local Community Television

The lights in Studio A illuminate the “newsy” yet comfortable looking set. The expert panelists and the moderator are lightly chatting about what they will discuss during this segment. The director calls out, “Fade up on Camera 1. Cue the host.”

And so begins the taping of an in-studio interview segment of GSU’s public affairs television program, Issues & Impact. The program, which airs at various times on the GSU cable television channel carried by Jones Intercable, is a forum to discuss important issues facing the community, the region and the nation.

It is also an opportunity to feature GSU programs, faculty, staff, alumni and other friends of the university, providing service and knowledge to the region and beyond. Each month’s program is moderated by a GSU faculty or staff member, as well as expert panelists.

The show has a loose format which allows for interesting coverage of a wide variety of topics. GSU President Paula Wolff provides an introduction and conclusion for each 30 minute program. Most shows then move on to a “trigger” segment which introduces the issue to be discussed. Filmed outside the studio, it takes a close-up look at real world examples or an interesting facet of program topics. Programs then focus on interview segments with one or more expert panelists who share their insight on the show subject. In addition, information is always provided at the end of each program so that interested viewers can become involved with the topic featured or receive additional information.

Recent show topics have ranged from racism, to women with AIDS, to natural prairie preservation and restoration, to prison boot-camps. The show also provides an opportunity to pick the brains of influential and knowledgeable people who may visit the GSU campus from time to time, such as a recently produced panel interview of Dee Hock, the founder and creator of the VISA credit card.

“I think the program gives us an opportunity to discuss things and do things that you can’t see on broadcast television,” says show director Tony Labriola, who oversees all of the television production projects at GSU. “We can take a unique, and perhaps even controversial, look at some interesting topics which the broadcast stations are unable to do.”

This is an outstanding promotional vehicle for the university,” says GSU Coordinator of Marketing D.J. Wells, who also produces the show. “It demonstrates to the community that GSU is interested in the vital issues facing us all, and it gives people a reason to be interested in GSU beyond the traditional classroom environment.”

Issues & Impact airs at various times on GSU’s cable television station, channel 29, which is available in ten communities surrounding GSU serviced by Jones Intercable. Wells is currently in negotiations with several other cable television providers to increase the distribution of the program and the station.

Rosemary Hulett
New Alumni Relations Director

GSU welcomes back Rosemary Hulett as the new director of Alumni Relations. Hulett, who brings with her more than thirteen years experience in alumni administration, fund-raising and special event coordination, previously served as associate director of Alumni Relations at GSU from 1991-1993.

“I really enjoyed my experience at GSU and I’m looking forward to working with the Alumni Board as we develop outreach programs and services that will attract and involve more alumni,” stated Hulett.

Before returning to GSU, Hulett was an administrator in the Alumni Office at Roosevelt University, where she was responsible for working with the Alumni Board of Governors, overseeing alumni clubs, alumni special events and coordinating a quarterly alumni newsletter.

Happenings
continued from previous page

member Katie Ball and GSU alumna Laurese Perkins.

Ball, former special projects manager for the Addictions Training Center, passed away last spring.

Perkins, a student in the Addictions Studies program, was aboard the ValuJet flight that crashed in the Florida Everglades this past May.

Donations may be made to the GSU Foundation office at (708) 534-4105 or mail to the GSU Foundation, Wagner House, University Park, IL 60466.

Specifications for distribution of the scholarship’s funds have not been established.

GSU Retirees to Meet

GSU retirees meet for conversation the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Governor’s Cafe.

The next two meetings are January 7 and February 4.

New Baby

Please join us in congratulating Raquel Rios, Registrar’s Office, on the recent birth of her baby girl. Born November 26, Lydia Noemi weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and measured 21 inches long.
GSU Takes Significant Strides in Cultural Diversity

“Over the past three years GSU has achieved an outstanding record in creating a culturally diverse university community,” said Glen Abbott, assistant to the president for affirmative action and cultural diversity at GSU.

The university’s success is both in hiring women and ethnic/racial minorities for full-time administrative/staff and tenure-track faculty positions, Abbott said.

Abbott attributes the achievement in diversity in hiring to several factors. Most importantly, he said, is President Paula Wolff’s insistence on results in improving representation of women and ethnic/racial minorities within each unit of the university.

In addition, success in achieving diversity in student enrollment is attributed to the implementation of new recruitment and retention programs. “GSU,” said Abbott, “is being recognized as an institution that not only talks cultural diversity, but walks it as well.”

Figures show that from Jan. 1994 through Nov. 1996, 55 full-time administrative staff and tenure-track faculty were hired. Of those, there were 20 white females, 11 minority females, 10 white males and 14 minority males.

Total student enrollment increased from 5,708 in Fall 1994 to 6,168 in Fall 1996. The number of black, non-Hispanic students increased by 195 or 14.8 percent over that period. White, non-Hispanic students increased by 179 or 4.7 percent, and the number of Hispanic students increased by 113 or 79.6 percent.

The number of female students increased by 535 or 22.5 percent, while the number of male students decreased by 75 or 3.8 percent. Fifty-three percent of the students are at the undergraduate level.

Mural Heralding Diversity Unveiled

Three promising young artists from GSU united their diverse styles to create an 8-foot wide and 12-foot high mural depicting “Diversity Evolving from the Essence of a Unified Universe.”

The brilliantly colored mural is permanently displayed just inside GSU’s main entrance to welcome visitors and the family of GSU. The artists, international students at GSU, created the piece as part of the “Art in Public Places” program.

Sergio Gomez, age 25, who currently resides in Joliet, was born in Puebla, Mexico. Gomez created the center section of the mural.

Dereck P. Paul, age 24, now living in University Park, was born in the Bahamas. He designed the left portion of the mural, which he said depicts the sons and daughters of the soil.

The right portion of the mural was created by a 25-year-old resident of Joliet, Javier Chavira, also born in Mexico. His creation represents humanity co-existing with nature.

Joyce Morishita, faculty advisor for the project, said this was a challenging project for the students. “These are three gifted but very different artists, and they were able to merge their personal styles into a coherent whole,” she said.

Each of the artists has received numerous awards and each has participated in group and solo exhibitions. They will all be pursuing Master of Fine Arts degrees after completing their studies at GSU.
Fifty-Three Media Based Courses Offered this Winter

GSU will offer 53 media-based courses this winter. That schedule includes television courses, independent study by correspondence and one Internet course.

Media-based courses are designed for students who need or want to study and learn on their own time and at the location of their choice, free from classroom schedules.

Sally Petrilli, director of media-based instruction, said the following television courses are of particular interest this winter:

- ENGL 30B - Living Literature: The Classics and You
- SOSC 601 - Vietnam: A Television History
- SOSC 32A - Dealing with Diversity
- ANTH 35A - Beliefs and Believers

Correspondence courses of particular interest for the winter trimester are:

- ADDS 512 - Managing Health Behaviors; HIST 567 - Russia in the 20th Century
- SOSC 311 - Survey of Social Science; and ICS 540 - The Hispanic Experience in the United States

Students must have 60 hours of undergraduate credit to take GSU courses. For more information on media-based courses offered through GSU call (708) 534-4088.

Staff of New Occupational and Physical Therapy Programs Poised to Meet 21st Century Career Needs

GSU is positioning itself to become the premier college for the future with its new Occupational and Physical Therapy programs.

Poised to meet the 21st Century, GSU's two new entry-level master's degree programs will train people to fill what trend analysts predict will be the hot career choices in the rapidly evolving health professions for the next decade and beyond.

Both programs are in the College of Health Professions (CHP), and have added staff to meet the needs of the curriculum.

Phyllis Klingensmith is co-director of the Physical Therapy Program, along with Ann Vendrely. Klingensmith, a university professor of physiology, has a B.S. in animal sciences from Pennsylvania State University, an M.S. in immunology from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in animal physiology from Purdue University. She has been a GSU faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences since 1984. She is also a visiting faculty researcher at Argonne National Laboratory working on the biomedical effects of exposure to electric and magnetic fields.

Ann Vendrely, in addition to being co-director, is academic coordinator of clinical education and a professor of physical therapy. She received a B.A. in education from Goshen College and an M.S. in physical therapy from the University of Indianapolis. Before coming to GSU, she was a staff physical therapist and center manager with Caremark UC Center for Sports Medicine in Matteson, Ill. and a lead therapist for Rose Rehabilitation in Colorado Springs, Colo.

University lecturers for the Physical Therapy program include Linda Ivers, Ann Wilborn Jackson, Judith Utz Arand, Craig Bolda, Joyce P. Sligar, Robert E. Druzinsky and Eileen Ruane.

Elizabeth A. Cada is director of the Occupational Therapy Program and a university professor of occupational therapy. She has a B.S. in occupational therapy from Colorado State University, an M.S. in organization behavior from George Williams College, is a certified/licensed occupational therapist in Illinois (OTR/L) and a Fellow of the American Therapy Association (F.A.O.T.A.).

Before coming to GSU, Cada held an adjunct faculty appointment at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Occupational Therapy Program, where she taught and participated in research activities. She is currently president of the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy.

University lecturers for the Occupational Therapy program include Cynthia Carr, Jessica Presperin Pederson and Patti Regan.

GSU/Alumni News

The following Alumni were recently honored:

- Kathleen Farrell, M.A., Media Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, 1976; awarded first prize for her painting "Si Podemos!" in the "Union Images: 100 Years of the Chicago Federation of Labor" competition. The painting can be seen in the State of Illinois Center.
- Roger Holloway, B.H.S., 1983, School of Health Professions, accepted the position of chief executive officer at Kewanee Hospital in Illinois.
- Sherry Trolke, B.A., 1984, College of Education, awarded the newly "Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 1996" for outstanding academic excellence and professional involvement in the counseling profession.
- Michelle Conover, M.H.A., 1993, College of Health Professions, accepted the position of senior vice president for managed care/physician services at Putham Hospital Center in Carmel, N.Y.
- Frankfort, Ill. Police Chief Darrell L. Sanders, M.A., 1984, Public Administration, College of Business and Public Administration, was installed as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Alumnus Honored

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GSU to Host Second Annual Open Space Alliance Congress in January

The South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center's Open Space Alliance (OSA) has scheduled its second annual Open Space Congress for Sat., Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Governors State University. Eighteen projects which comprise the OSA's Open Space and Environmental Agenda for the South Metropolitan Region will be presented, and strategies for 1997 will be discussed.

All open space/environmental agencies and organizations are invited to have a booth in the exhibit hall. The public is invited to attend the Congress. There is no fee, but reservations must be made by Fri., Jan 13. Those who register in advance will receive lunch and a copy of the agenda and other materials.

To register or reserve a booth, contact Julie Disney, (708) 534-5000, Ext. 5264, e-mail at lxdisney@lincolnnet.net or fax (708) 534-1165.

Meet... William McGee

Delivering a quality education is a difficult task for any school. Here at GSU, delivering an outstanding education to such a diverse group of individuals - older, returning students, many of them part time and juggling family and job responsibilities - cannot be easy. GSU is fortunate, however, to receive expert guidance and understanding from Board of Trustee member William McGee.

Combining more than 40 years of service to Illinois public schools has prepared McGee well for this position. In 1954, McGee began his career as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, transferring to the Ford Heights School District 169 in 1962. He served as an assistant superintendent to the Educational Service Region of Cook County in 1970, and later served as vice-principal and principal for Rich Central High School and Bloom Trail High School. Interestingly, he also retired for five years from 1980 to 1985. Apparently, this active man couldn't sit still, as he rose to the rank of superintendent in School District 170, Chicago Heights, by 1992.

McGee believes that he has much to offer GSU, and as a trustee member, helps set policy for the university. "The trustee's role is to keep the trust of the people and the governor, to cooperate and be a sounding board," stated McGee.

McGee believes this current Board of Trustee's differing backgrounds makes for a strong group. "I'm excited to be a part of GSU and Paula Wolff's administration - it's a pleasure to contribute."

McGee is the oldest trustee at age 69. His wife, Patricia, was also a teacher, and is retired from Rich Central High School. He has two children and two grandchildren, twins. His son has followed in his footsteps, and is an assistant principal in Richmond, Virginia.