Open Space Congress – Shaping the Future of Our Environment

Governors State University President Paula Wolff addressed The Second Annual Open Space Congress held at GSU by congratulating the participants. “You represent those working on the overarching issue for the world for this generation,” she said.

“The overriding event that pervaded every facet of my parents’ lives was the Depression. In my own life, it was the threat of nuclear war from 1950 through the ’70s. Today, the issue,” she said, “is how do we survive our own potentially self-inflicted destruction through degradation of the global environment.”

More than 140 leaders, organization representatives and individuals from Cook, Will and Kankakee Counties came out on a cold, cold Saturday to participate in the Open Space Congress. These will be the initiators of the partnerships and collaborations needed to move beyond our destruction to the completion of the projects on the 1997 agenda.

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From the President

Dear Friends of GSU:

Greetings and welcome to our fourth issue of .edu. Our cover story focuses on the success of the Second Annual Open Space Conference that was held at GSU on January 18. Again this year, it was sponsored by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center and the Regional Action Project/2000+, both generously funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust. Jon Mendelson and Bill Toner have offered extraordinary faculty guidance to the project.

The conference was attended by more than 200 dedicated and environmentally concerned people from throughout the RAP/2000+ region, an area that includes more pristine, but threatened, green space than any other region in northeast Illinois. Our cover story reveals their concerns and the spirited actions they will take to preserve and conserve these treasured areas.

Other stories focus on the expansive evidence of excellence of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and special friends of GSU. Read on, enjoy and respond. We are eager to get your thoughts to be included in future issues of .edu.

Sincerely,

Paula Wolff
President

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Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Celebrated at GSU

John H. Stroger Jr., president of the Cook County Board, was the keynote speaker at GSU’s commemoration program for the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wed., Jan. 22.

Stroger, born to impoverished parents in eastern Arkansas during the Depression, worked his way through Xavier University in Louisiana. Ten years later, having started a family, he completed law school at DePaul University in Chicago.

Stroger was first elected as commissioner of the Cook County Board in 1970 and has chaired every major committee. President Clinton appointed Stroger as a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

With a theme of “Make Real the Dream: Frame the Vision for the 21st Century,” the commemoration included presentations by poet Leonard Lucas and a performance by the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago.

Also included in the program festivities were the Crete-Monee Middle School Choir and the Rich Central High School Choral Department. The program concluded with a candlelighting ceremony performed by GSU international students.

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Icons

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Technology  Diversity

@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.

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Governors State University

February 1997

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Detmer Wells
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Denise Graham Zahn
Candice Sexton, graduate assit.

.edu Committee Members

Dick Burd
Suzanne Oliver
Jacquie Hemingway

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Open Space Alliance
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The message was clear throughout the Congress. It came from every speaker. It came from each of the four breakout sessions: build partnerships and create collaborations. Legislators and government representatives must listen to organizations. You must be sure your organization is involved in the beginning stages of planning, or its interests won’t be served.

For the participants in the Congress the contacts made there will likely be a significant outcome of the day. That’s what everyone wanted, names and phone numbers, in order to work with others having similar goals or common interests.

Rep. John “Phil” Novak (D-85), who led a panel of notable regional leaders, said that the northern and western suburbs have seen the ramifications of haphazard growth in increased congestion and crime. “Our area must be prepared to deal with the growth that is coming,” and it is coming “because we have the most open space,” he said. “Development should be carefully planned.”

After a presentation by Julie Disney of the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center on the 17 projects currently on the open space and environmental agenda for 1997, the panel members discussed the issues of the region within their authority.

The panel consisted of Herbert Schumann Jr, Commissioner of the Cook County Board and a graduate of GSU; Marcy DeMauro-Roth, superintendent of planning and development, Forest Preserve District of Will County; Charles Smead, Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District commissioner; Sandor Brattstrom, congressional liaison, Office of Congressman Jerry Weller (R-11) and Ron Hallberg, chief, Division of Grant Administration, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Hallberg said that about $13 million in grant money is available for projects. The DNR receives about 150 grant applications, and about 85 of those get funded. A governmental body must sponsor an application, he said, and the application must meet the objectives of the grant. Again, building networks and collaborations with a common interest was emphasized and approaching a governmental sponsor with strength and purpose.

Senior advisor to Governor Jim Edgar, Allen Grosboll, who was instrumental in getting the former Joliet Arsenal converted to the Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie, said that The Open Space Congress needs to talk about how it wants the world to be and then set a realistic agenda on how to get there. He offered ten points to remember. Among them are building partnerships, sometimes making strange bedfellows, but having a common interest. Your elected officials do listen. Learn the dynamics of how issues evolve. Be willing to grow and try different ideas, understanding when new strategies are needed. Develop credibility. Express appreciation to your elected officials when they help. They usually only hear when citizens are not happy. Finally, he said, appreciate your own successes. “Don’t be afraid to say, ‘We did a good thing, and we won.’”

Larry McClellan, executive director of the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, said that “practical wisdom” will be the legacy of the Congress. Building on the partnership theme will likely result in the formation of committees to tackle each of the four major categories on the agenda, watersheds, trails/transportation, macrosites and education.

“We must gather resources to make projects happen,” said Al Sturges, chair of the Open Space Alliance Steering Committee, and that is the task for 1997.

Beverly Bank Sponsors Winter/Spring Season at Center for Performing Arts

Jeffrey Ortmann, acting executive director of The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University announced that in donating $25,000, Beverly Bank has undertaken sole sponsorship of The Center’s winter/spring season.

Performances scheduled for the season are the Verve Jazzfest, River North Dance Company, Colorado String Quartet, Jerry Vale, Doc Severinsen and his Big Band, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Chicago Baroque Ensemble, Trinity Irish Dance Company and, especially for kids performances, Merlin and the Color of Magic and Aladdin.

In accepting the check for the Center, Ortmann, said “On behalf of the The Center for Performing Arts, we extend our sincere gratitude to the Beverly Bank. They have displayed proven leadership in support of community activities in Chicago’s Southland. This sponsorship enables The Center to bring world class performing artists to the Chicago Southland at accessible prices. We are extremely grateful.”

Beverly Bank has 15 locations in the Chicago area. Three are in Chicago. Others are located in Aurora’s Fox Valley Mall, Blue Island, Braidwood, Homewood, Lockport, Matteson, Oaklawn, Orland Hills, Orland Park, Richton Park, Westmont and Wilmington. One Chicago facility, the Fox Valley Mall, and the Westmont locations are oriented to business development.
Happenings

Coming Soon to The Center for Performing Arts

"River North Dance Company" comes to The Center for Performing Arts at GSU on Saturday, February 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $25. In addition, the "Especially for Kids" program, Merlin and the Color of Magic, will appear on Saturday, March 1 at 11 a.m. and tickets are only $6.

On Sunday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m., the Colorado String Quartet will perform as part of the Sunday Brunch Concert Series. Tickets are $15.

Call the box office at (708) 235-2222 to purchase tickets for all performances.

GSU to Provide Transportation to Dick Gregory's Performance

Legendary comedian, social activist and nutritionist Dick Gregory will perform at Elmhurst College on Tuesday, February 18 at 7 p.m as part of a month-long celebration of African-American history.

Sponsored in part by the GSU Student Life Division, the performance is free and round-trip transportation is provided. Transportation is free to GSU students and $2 for all others.

The final registration date for the performance is Thursday, February 13. To register or for more information, contact the Student Life Division, Student Affairs and Services at (708) 534-4550.

One Day Marketing Workshop

Write your marketing plan in one day at a hands-on marketing workshop called "How to Stand Out from the Competition," held at GSU on Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Marketing Communications Manage-

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Four New Programs at GSU Approved by State

Four academic programs presented to the Illinois Board of Higher Education last September by Governors State University have received approval. They are expected to be offered in the Fall 1997 trimester.

GSU programs receiving approval are a master's of social work, a bachelor of arts in integrative studies and both a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in early childhood education.

Each proposed program is reviewed for consistency with the university's focus statements and immediate priorities identified in its 1996 priorities statement. Approval of proposed programs is also tied to state-level priorities and ongoing planning, program review and resource allocation processes.

The master of arts in social work was developed collaboratively to address the continuing need for qualified social workers. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reports that there are insufficient numbers of individuals with the M.S.W. to meet the needs of public and private social services providers in Illinois, and there is a shortage of professionals with the M.S.W. in several other health and human service agencies throughout the state.

Sixty percent of the DCFS caseload is in Chicago and the Chicago metropolitan areas serviced by Chicago State University and Governors State University. The caseload in the southern suburbs is increasing at substantial rates. A master of social work program was also approved for Chicago State University. It is expected that each program will award 25 degrees annually after the fifth year.

The B.A. and M.A. programs in early childhood education build upon existing early childhood options within the elementary education programs. The programs are expected to enroll more than 350 students by the fifth year of operation. They are consistent with GSU and statewide priorities that early childhood education programs be separate programs rather than options within elementary education programs. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has been applied to for certification.

The B.A. in integrative studies program is designed to provide students with a foundation in the arts and sciences and to integrate the concepts and methods of various fields in addressing issues and problems. It does not prepare students for a specific occupation but prepares them for many positions and for graduate or professional education. It is expected to enroll about 150 students by the fifth year.

For information on the master of social work program, contact the Dean's Office in the College of Health Professions at (708) 534-4387. For information on the Early Childhood Education programs call (708) 534-5000 and ask for an education advisor. For information on the integrative studies program contact Jacqueline Kilpatrick at (708) 534-6975.

Volunteers Needed for Alumni Phonathon

Once again, the GSU Alumni Association will be conducting its annual alumni phonathon during the month of March. Monies raised by the Alumni Association provide supplemental funding for the university's library, support student scholarships, assist with faculty development projects and much more.

Volunteers are needed to help man the phones during the first two weeks of March, Mondays through Thursdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile cause, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (708) 534-4128.
Gail L. McGrady-Lutz Appointed Director of Human Resources

The Office of Administration and Planning at GSU recently welcomed Gail L. McGrady-Lutz as director of human resources.

McGrady-Lutz comes to GSU from John A. Logan College in Carterville, Ill., where she was director of personnel, human resources and affirmative action officer from 1991-1997.

At GSU she will direct functions and services such as employee benefits, placement and recruitment, wage administration, civil service labor contract negotiation, development of personnel policies/procedures, civil service/ administrative training, employee discipline and employee assistance programs.

McGrady-Lutz earned a B.A. in business and management from DePaul University and an M.A. in human resources management and communications from the University of Illinois in Springfield.

Her background reflects 26 years of experience in employee and labor relations in the private and educational sectors. Among her many accomplishments, McGrady-Lutz has served on the board of directors of the Springfield Urban League.

Jon Mendelson: Someone You Should Know

Typically, professors like to talk about themselves. Jon Mendelson, professor of environmental science, will only talk about other people, his work or the environment. He doesn’t want to talk about himself—at all.

That in itself says a great deal about him.

Mendelson, having taught at GSU for more than 24 years and one of a handful of “old timers,” has a wealth of information on the natural habitat of the campus and the surrounding areas.

Mendelson claims that one of the joys of working at GSU is that the university is always playing a role in the environment. He points out that it’s a very nice campus with five lakes on its property and that it serves as a wildlife habitat.

In his quiet way, Mendelson has been instrumental in building a strong environmental program at GSU. As testament to the program’s success, two graduates of the master of science in environmental biology program are now teaching classes here.

The respect for the environment is shared by Mendelson’s entire family. His wife, Judith, is also an environmentalist, and was assistant director of the Will County Forest Preserve and currently sits on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. Together, they market organic foods grown on their property. Of his three children, one daughter is an attorney with the Justice Department on environmental policy.

There is much to admire about this quiet, unassuming professor.

Happenings continued from previous page

ment at GSU, this workshop teaches participants the art of “guerrilla marketing.”

The workshop is limited to six participants per session due to intensive, one-on-one training.

The cost of the seminar is $90. For more information or to register, call the SBDC at (708) 534-4929.

Annual Carnation Sale Celebrates Valentine’s Day

The Civil Service Senate is sponsoring their annual Carnation Sale now through Feb. 4 in the Hall of Governors.

Red, pink or white carnations can be purchased for $1.50 each, 6 for $6.50 or one dozen for $12. A limited amount will be available for purchase on Valentine’s Day.

Order pick-up on Feb. 14 is in the Hall of Governors from 8-9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

W.E.B. DuBois, Founder of the NAACP, Comes to Life at GSU

Founder of the NAACP, Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois, will come to life at GSU on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in a video presentation at The Center for Performing Arts.

Born in 1868, DuBois was an author, political activist, father of the original civil rights movement and founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Political activists revere him as the man who lobbied for the liberation of Africa.

DuBois was a poet and an educator, the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard and one of the first black Americans to embrace Africa. At age 93, two years before his death, he was exiled to Africa.

This free program is sponsored by the Student Life Division, Student Affairs and Services. For more information, call (708) 534-4550.
Wedding Bells

Congratulations to David Blood, professor of education and Melanie Gasperec, adjunct education faculty member, on their recent wedding on December 24, 1996.

"Urban Landscapes" Artwork by Gerald Griffin on Display

A series of art pieces titled "Urban Landscapes" by Gerald Griffin will be on display in the Visual Arts Gallery, E Lounge, at GSU from Feb. 5 to Feb. 28.

"Urban Landscapes" is a series featuring oil frescos and drawings that examine and observe the laws of nature.

Griffin is a young African-American artist, known locally and nationally for his art work. He is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his works are collected throughout the country. President Ointon has one piece in the permanent collection in the White House.

The gallery is open week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call (708) 534-4018.

Anita Werner
January Employee of the Month

The new year has an auspicious beginning for Anita Werner. She is GSU’s employee of the month for January 1997, which in addition to the honor, puts $150 in her pocket!

Werner is a Secretary IV in the College of Business and Public Administration. One nominator said she is “highly motivated – successfully accepting large, challenging and complex special projects, such as faculty searches, accreditation self-study reports and articulation agreements.”

Werner’s work, said a nominator, “shows a high level of skill, knowledge, competence and judgment. Her flexible, calm and supportive attitude are essential to her service to faculty and students, and her ability to effectively ‘cover the front desk’ of the College of Business and Public Administration Dean’s Office.

As employee of the month, Werner becomes eligible for employee of the year. Congratulations, Anita Werner!

1995-1996 Employees of the Month

Congratulations to all GSU employees selected as employees of the month, culminating with Richard Van Pelt’s selection as Employee of the Year.

Oct. 95 Susan Inman, CAS
Nov. 95 William Kelly, PPO
Dec. 95 Richard Van Pelt, PPO
Jan. 96 Barbara Stapleton, UL
Feb. 96 Edward Herman, Print shop
Mar. 96 Leora Pedric, Registrar’s Office
Apr. 96 Richard Kara, PPO
May 96 Jacqueline Hemingway, CELCS
June 96 Norbert Iwinski, PPO
July 96 Neal Schlosberg, PPO
Aug. 96 Ralph “Tom” Oldenburg, SL
Sept. 96 Marilyn Molyneaux, Jane Siefer & Ellen Zalewski, Business Operations

Nominations Now Being Accepted for Employee of the Month

The Human Resources Office at GSU is asking for help in getting nominations for employee of the month on a regular basis. The Employee of the Month award is a program to recognize GSU Civil Service employees who demonstrate exemplary performance. Anyone - student, faculty, staff or visitor - can nominate an employee they deem worthy of the award. The employee must have worked at GSU at least 12 months.

Each monthly winner receives the award itself, $150, a preferred parking spot for the month and eligibility for the Employee of the Year award with its accompanying $500 monetary award.

Forms are available in the Human Resources Office and outside the library and the administration offices. Deadline each month is the 20th.

A committee selects the winners based on the supporting evidence supplied with the nominations. More than one person may sign a nomination, but at least one signature must be on the nomination form.

For further information, contact Jennifer Blaeser in the Human Resources Department at (708) 534-5306.
CELCS Moves to New Site

With the addition of the new Occupational and Physical Therapy degree programs to the College of Health Professions, the Center for Extended Learning & Communications Services (CELCS) began consolidating all its units for a move to the Information Technology Services (ITS) building on campus.

After careful space analysis, the move began in January 1997. The move brings together units that were formerly spread throughout campus: not all, but most of the off-campus programs, media based instruction, Center for Training and Educational Development, Contract Services, the dean's office, and the Regional Higher Education Consortium.

Square footage won't change much, however; the space will now be consolidated in one location.

Side benefits include proximity to ITS which services all computer systems and phone systems for the university. "That will be advantageous in terms of the joint programming," said Leon Zaborowski, dean of CELCS. The building has been perceptually isolated, and I think because of our presence there, along with Rap/2000+, this move will perceptually expand the campus. There will be more activity there. It will become a new focus for meetings, discussions and educational activities."

GSU/Alumni News
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Student Donna J. Rehm
Receives Lincoln Laureate Award

GSU student Donna J. Rehm of Orland Park received the Lincoln Laureate Award during the 22nd Annual Student Laureate Award Ceremony.

The ceremony, which took place on Nov. 23 in the House of Representatives at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., was attended by GSU President Paula Wolff. Awards were presented by Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar.

Wolff said that Rehm "is an excellent student and exemplifies the non-traditional student that makes up the majority of GSU's student body. She successfully balances a family, a full-time job and her academic goals."

Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is awarded the Student Lincoln Academy Medallion, becoming a student laureate. These students are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Rehm, a student in the nursing program, has maintained a straight “A” grade point average.

Notes: If you are receiving more than one copy of @govst.edu, please let us know and we'll remove your name from multiple mailing lists. Call Denise Graham Zahn at (708) 534-6366.

GSU/Alumni News
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topics to be discussed Fridays from February 7 to March 28.

Topics such as investment basics, poetry, government and literature are led by volunteer retired professionals.

The first class costs $55, and a second class in the same eight-week series is $15. For more information or to register for the winter learning groups, call Marianne Switt at (708) 799-7650.

Alumni in the News
Bloom High School science and social studies teacher John Wlsnewski, CAS '76 M.A., attended a four-week winter 1996 study program at Ithaca College in New York. The program was financed by the National Science Foundation Fellowship for psychology teachers.

Pat Pierre-Auguste, CAS '83 M.A., was appointed to the position of district manager for the Chicago sales office of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., the nation's third largest African-American owned and operated insurance company.

Karen Loichinger, CBPA '79 B.A., has been promoted to chief financial officer of Selz/Seabolt Communications.

Daniel Cekay, CE '90 M.A., is the newly appointed superintendent of LaMoille School District. Previously, Cekay was principal of Hall High School. He is completing his dissertation for a doctorate in educational administration.

For her contributions to the students of Malcolm X College and her service to her profession, the college named Dr. Wylmarle Nicholson-Sykes, CE '91 M.A., Distinguished Professor for 1995-96. Nicholson-Sykes is chair of the communication and fine arts department of the college.
African-American History Month to be Celebrated at GSU

Celebrate African-American History Month at Governors State University where a variety of presentations related to African-American culture are scheduled throughout February.

The celebration begins on Monday, Feb. 3 with the 8th National African-American Read-In Chain. Short passages from works by African-Americans will be read beginning at 7 p.m. in Engbretson Hall.

On Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble will perform a mixture of jazz, gospel, funk and rhythm and blues in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Storyteller Edith (Mama Edie) Armstrong will present "Tales and Songs of the African Diaspora" on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. in the student center commons.

A performance by comedian, social activist and nutritionist Dick Gregory is scheduled at Elmhurst College for Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. (see story page 4).

African-American History Month concludes at GSU with a video on W. E. B. DuBois, founder of the NAACP (see story page 5).

The African-American History Month presentations are free, except where indicated, and are sponsored by the Student Life Division, Student Affairs and Services. For more information on these events, call (708) 534-4550.

Meet...Pamela Woodward

Pamela Hilligoss Woodward, vice president of operations for the Governors State University Foundation Board, exudes confidence and trust - qualities not lost on her investment clientele. Her friendly, outgoing nature has driven this hard working woman to the position of vice president and branch manager, Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., in Matteson, Ill.

At Dean Witter since 1984 where she began as a stockbroker, Woodward rose in the ranks fast, becoming an officer in 1986 and vice president in 1990. Woodward attributes this quick rise to several reasons.

Woodward has always been connected in the community. After earning her M.A. in communications science (1977) and an M.A. in psychology from University of Illinois, Woodward taught psychology at Kankakee Community College and part-time at GSU. Tenure track positions in psychology were few and far between in the '80s, and Woodward felt she needed to earn more money for her efforts.

Enter financial sales. "A broker's job is to find investor clientele. I started fast with a big referral business, and gave a lot of seminars," said Woodward. "I help clients understand what they should be doing and put their plan into action." Woodward's teaching skills have helped her excel. "I enjoy helping people, teaching people," she said.

Woodward now manages a staff of 40, one satellite branch in Indiana and is opening a branch in Orland Park in 1997. However, she has always found time to be involved with GSU.

"I truly love the place," she said. Woodward is closely involved in fund raising on the board. "Small classes make it a truly unique place, and I enjoy the involvement."

GSU is lucky to count Woodward as part of its community.