You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements – Norman Douglas (Suggested by Virginia Eysenbach)

"Watching Things In Springfield Literally Deteriorating"

That's how Alexis Tate of the University of Illinois described the current budget situation. Both UIC and U of I at Urbana-Champaign are anticipating cuts of nearly 11 percent in state appropriated funds for fiscal year 2003. SIU increased tuition 18% and said it would also layoff staff to cover the budget deficit. “From everything we’ve been told, a 10 to 11 percent reduction is in the ballpark for all the state universities, including Governors State,” said Budget Director Jeff Slovak. President Stuart Fagan and the cabinet have been meeting to review options, develop contingency plans, and set priorities for the university. “We have no choice but to look at ways to reorganize, restructure, and reduce costs,” Fagan said. “We have a freeze on hiring for all but essential positions. We have drastically cut non-personal-service spending. We have deferred maintenance. But when you’re forced to find ways to cut an appropriated budget of $28 million by 11 percent, you have to do more. So we are weighing all possibilities involving a combination of cost reductions and revenue enhancement. At the same time, we’re going to invest prudently in ways to grow our income revenue stream over the long term.” Fagan added, “This is the most difficult period GSU and the other state universities have faced in at least a decade. But we’ll emerge from these troubled times stronger and more resolved than ever.”

No Accounting For Some People’s Behavior

The School Board of Crete-Monee District 201-U voted to revoke the charter of the Governors State Charter School. The university will appeal the decision. The Board took the action despite the outstanding success of the school. “As a group, Charter School students in all categories except for writing performed as well as, and in most cases much better than, their counterparts in their neighborhoods schools,” the State Board of Education said of the performance of charter school students on the 2001 ISAT tests. The Crete-Monee Board said it revoked the charter because an independent board responsible for overseeing the school’s operation (three representatives from the university, two from the district) was replaced with an advisory board (three members from the university, two from the district). The Governors State University Board of Trustees became the official governing body. The university has said it is baffled by the school board’s action because the governance change was requested by the Crete-Monee School Superintendent and the president of the operating board, as well as GSU president Stuart Fagan. The change was approved in August 2000 by the Illinois State Board of Education. “Reporters ask me why the Board did what they did,” said Chuck Connolly, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication. “I tell them I don’t know, especially when the children are doing so well and their parents are generally satisfied. The reporters clearly don’t understand the
motivation either,” Connolly continued, “but some have speculated to me that the school board does not want to continue diverting some of their funds to the charter school.” Under state law, a portion of the district’s funds are diverted to the charter school.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Wins SOS! Assessment Award
A private organization, Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!), with support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), has awarded the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park a SOS!/NEA Assessment Award. The funds will be used to hire a conservation professional with experience with outdoor sculpture to conduct on-site condition assessments, recommend treatment and maintenance, and provide estimates of treatment costs. Three sculptures, “For Lady Day” by Mark di Suvero, “Falling Meteor” by Jerry Peart, and “Icarus” by Charles Ginnever will be assessed this summer. “It’s extremely important that we are good stewards of these fantastic sculptures,” said park director Beverly Goldberg.

Keep Them Coming
With some minor fluctuations, the student enrollment figures for Spring-Summer 2002 seem to be leveling off at about a 2% shortfall at this time. There have been significant increases in enrollment numbers for graduate programs overall and for the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts Degree Program. On the plus side of the column, the graduate programs in accounting, business administration and management information science are experiencing growth rates that range from 29% to 157%. The arrow also points up for enrollment in the masters programs in counseling and psychology.

A Springfield Story That’s Not About The Budget
Larry Polselli and Sylvia Wilson definitely made a good impression at the annual conference for college admissions counselors held in Springfield earlier this month. Wilson, a systems analyst in Admissions, earned kudos for her e-mail marketing presentation at the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling conference. Polselli led members of the group’s Government Relations Committee on a tour of the Capitol. “The presentation and the tour were well received,” said Polselli, who is executive director of enrollment services at GSU and a member of the IACAC Government Relations Committee.

The Provost Is Back For A Return Engagement
If you missed him the last time, here’s your chance. Provost Keys is moving his office again to the Hall of Governors on Thursday, May 16, 2002. Office hours will be from 11 am until noon.

Welcome Aboard
The GSU community welcomes Linda Samson as the new dean of the College of Health Professions. Dr. Samson will join the GSU community officially on Thursday, May 16, 2002. She comes to GSU from Clayton State College in Morrow, Georgia, where she was dean of the School of Health Sciences.