Conference Calls for Defense of Affirmative Action

Flanked by a panel of four other high level university administrators, including GSU President Paula Wolff, Southern Illinois University Chancellor Donald Beggs told the gathered audience he was addressing an occurrence in his past which helped to shape his feelings about affirmative action. Beggs described an incident early in his professional career in which a colleague who was of "moderate intelligence" sounded off against affirmative action, claiming that opportunity should be earned and that giving someone preferential treatment was unfair. This colleague was reminded that he himself had been admitted to Harvard University because of family connections, had been given a coveted position in a prestigious management training program based also on those connections and the Harvard degree he had obtained, and was destined to a profitable and distinguished career which he might not have otherwise attained without the "preferential treatment" he had received.

Of course, Beggs noted, this Harvard graduate failed to recognize the parallel, but the anecdote served as a prime example of the theme of the recent conference on affirmative action held at GSU on Friday, March 21. The conference's theme was "The Myth of Individual Achievement," and the anecdote reflected that theme; everyone, minority or not, needs guidance, mentorship and access to opportunities to be able to succeed.

The conference was part of the professional development activities of the Illinois Council for College Attendance, a not-for-profit organization made up primarily of admissions and guidance counselors and administrators at both the high school and college/university level whose stated mission is to provide access to educational opportunities for those students traditionally under-represented on our state's and our nation's college campuses. The conference was co-sponsored by the GSU

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Conference

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Division of Student Life and by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, a grant-supported community organizing initiative of GSU. GSU’s Center for Training and Educational Development, or the TED Center, assisted in facilitating the conference.

"This conference was important because it gets us talking about the devastating effects that recent cut-backs in affirmative action programs for college students might have," stated Dr. Michael Toney, GSU executive director of enrollment services and ICCA’s co-chairman of the conference organizing committee. "We hope that the attendees take the information and insight that they have gained at the conference back to their respective campuses and push for the institutions to continue or expand their efforts to provide opportunities for minority students."

"The conference was a big success," added GSU’s affirmative action officer Glen Abbott, who also co-chaired the ICCA conference organizing committee. "Today we had a chance to share invaluable information on a most important topic, and we had a chance to recognize several others addressed the affirmative action debate from their own unique viewpoints as they strived to gain new insight on how to address these issues on their own campuses or in their own communities."

The lunch program included an awards ceremony paying tribute to several individuals who have been leaders in pushing for opportunities for minorities, both as students and as faculty and administrators, on college and university campuses throughout Illinois and beyond.

The conference concluded with an impassioned presentation from the conference’s keynote speaker, noted author, orator and psychologist Dr. Na’im Akbar. Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Na’im Akbar.

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3rd World Conference Examines Global Issues

"Connecting Theory and Practice for the Emerging Global Changes into the 21st Century" was the theme for the 23rd Annual Third World Conference, held at the Swissotel in Chicago on March 19-22.

Speakers representing universities from the four corners of the United States, the United Nations, the NAACP, the American Council on Education, and the countries of Taiwan, India, Canada, Nova Scotia, Australia, China, Mexico, Cuba, and St. Thomas Island all were represented. The Ghana Ambassador to the United States, ambassador, Federal Republic of Nigeria, consul general of India and the ambassador of the Republic of Sudan also made presentations.

In addition, speakers representing U.S. universities were from every continent in the world, giving a truly global perspective on issues.

This year’s theme examines the complexity of economic, socio-cultural, political and technological changes in a rapidly changing world. Theoretical and practical issues such as development, poverty, education and health that affect the entire spectrum of Third World/Diaspora societies were the broad issues, and subthemes included the leadership role of women, population issues, culture and creative expression, the environment and ecology and urban/community development.

The conference, presented in cooperation with GSU, had the following faculty members presenting papers or chairing various sessions: Clementine Coleman, Neva Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, Teresa Barrios-Aulet, Milan Panic, Rashida Jaami Muhammad, Arthur Durant, Jon Mendelson, John Yunger, Richard Bradberry, Anthony P. Andrews, Larry Levinson, Joseph Addison, Zalmay Gulzad, Zhang Lei, O.W. Goldenstein and Jagan Lingamneni.

Dean Roger K. Oden (left), conference founder

Dean Roger K. Oden Leads Annual Conference

Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at GSU, is one of the founders of the Annual Third World Conference and the Third World Conference Foundation. He’s also a man who would rather talk about other topics than himself.

Founded by GSU professors Oden, Bob Press (University professor of education, CE) and T. Way Ediswa Kofele-Kale, a law professor no longer at GSU, the conference started as a Saturday workshop, addressing job opportunities in third world studies. The workshop grew into the conference, which grew into the foundation.

"The conference is known as an unencumbered conference," said Dean Oden. "It looks at key educational policies."

The conference also "offers education, viewpoints and perspectives on an international and global level," said Oden.

A unique aspect of the conference was the opportunity local college students had to receive course credit for attending the conference. More than 90 students from GSU, Kennedy-King College, Dominican University and Chicago State University participated in the course.

April Brings Top Performers to The Center for Performing Arts

Entertainment and fun for all ages abounds in April at The Center for Performing Arts at GSU.

Well-known to national audiences for his 25 years as musical director of "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson, trumpeter Doc Severinsen brings his Big Band to GSU.

Doc Severinsen and His Big Band lets audiences experience big band music on Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m., and tickets are $38.

The world-renowned Joffrey Ballet of Chicago will grace the stage on April 18 at 8 p.m. Admired for its richness and variety, the Joffrey Ballet has become an American classic, heralded by the New York Times as "one of the country's most glorious cultural institutions...and a repertory that includes the great ballets of all time." Founded by Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, this cutting-edge company has toured the country for more than 40 years, moving to Chicago in 1995. Tickets are $38.

The Especially for Kids series grants wishes for children by presenting the magical tale of Aladdin, the legendary tale of a boy and a magic lamp, on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m.

This unique and original production created by the children's theatre company Alphabetsoup Productions, is a one-of-a-kind performance adapted from the children's tale. Tickets are $6, and discounted tickets can be purchased through the Student Life Box Office for students, faculty and staff of GSU.

The Chicago Baroque Ensemble will perform on Sunday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m., as part of the Sunday Brunch concert series.

The ensemble will transport you with a mixture of vocal and instrumental period works and informal commentary on its repertoire.

Only $17 per person, the optional pre-performance Sunday Brunch Buffet is held in The Center Atrium. Reserve your space now.

Call the Box Office at (708) 235-2222 to purchase tickets to these exciting shows.
Happenings

Panel to Discuss Bridging the Gap to the 21st Century Using Communications

GSU’s Public Relations and Communications (COMS 550) class will host a panel discussion entitled “Using Communications to Bridge the Gap to the 21st Century” on April 22 in the Student Commons at 7 p.m.

The discussion will focus on various topics in the communications field. Speakers include Reginald Montgomery of Chicago, who will discuss customer relations; and Tammy Lenord of Joliet, who will discuss non-profit fund-raising and image building. Other topics include journalism and public relations.

For more information, call Dr. Joyce Kennedy-Hayes at (708) 534-4085.

Multiple Sclerosis Walk on April 13

GSU’s Physical Therapy Student Association (PTSA) is sponsoring the first annual walk to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis. The walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 13, at 8 a.m. along the scenic Chicago lakefront.

PTSA has set a goal of raising $2,500 for MS research, as well as for services to benefit suburban residents with MS.

If you can’t participate by walking, you may sponsor a walker or simply donate to the cause. To participate or donate, contact Terry Verbeeren at (708) 258-3611 or GSU’s Student Life Office at (708) 534-4550.

How to Stand out from the Competition: A 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.” It will be held at Governors State University on Thursday, April 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Marketing Communications Management at GSU, this workshop teaches participants the art of “guerrilla marketing.”

The workshop is limited to six participants.

New GSU WEB Site On-Line

GSU put on a new “cyber-face” recently as the university debuted its newly designed Internet site on the World Wide Web. On April 1, 1997, the new GSU home page was introduced on-line, replacing the page that had served as GSU’s Internet information resource since 1994.

“I think people will find the new site easier to get around in and find the information they are looking for,” says GSU webmaster Tom Liska who designed the site with the guidance of a committee made up of faculty and staff representing many segments of the university community. “The site was designed for quick and easy access to information from just about anywhere in the site.”

The home page, the first set of images a visitor comes to when at the GSU site, includes a brief welcome and explanation of the contents of the web site. In addition, three categories are listed; one for those new to GSU, including a “Virtual Tour” of the campus; one for those who are interested in applying to the university; and one linking resource information available to students, faculty and members of the community.

“We view this as an organic Web page, one which will evolve as more and more uses are considered,” notes GSU director of public affairs Connie Zonka, whose department will oversee much of the content of the Web site. Already planned for inclusion in the near future are an on-line version of the GSU catalog, class schedules, a calendar of events and happenings at GSU, and selected stories from The Innovator and .edu.

GSU Alumni Phonathon Raises More Than $100,000

The annual Alumni Phonathon, this year held March 2 - 26, 1997, in Engbretson Hall, launched the annual fund drive for Governors State’s Alumni Association.

According to Rosemary Hulett, the new director of alumni relations, this year’s fundraising goal of $125,000 is off to a great start. “I’m extremely confident that we will not only reach our goal, but will surpass it,” said Hulett. The phonathon generated more than $100,500 in pledges.

The student workers received special training to guide the them through a very detailed three-page script. “We were able to call more alumni this year because the students filled in the void where there was a shortage of volunteers,” stated Hulett.

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.

If you wish to still donate to the Alumni Fund, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (708) 534-4128.
With the implementation of the CARS Information System, a common database has been established for all student and employee information at Governors State University.

"This will allow us to track a student from prospect to graduate, to alumnus and on to employee," said Janice Schultz, associate director for academic personnel, "without duplication of information. Certain sites will have the ability to change or add information, while others will have read-only capability and still others no access. Security is paramount," she said.

GSU purchased the system after Governor Jim Edgar disbanded the Board of Governors in 1996. Before the board was eliminated, it was decided that the computer center that supported the three Chicago-area universities under the governance of the board would also be eliminated. At GSU this meant that CCC, the Cooperative Computing Center, which housed all the software and hardware for administrative computing, would shut down.

Each university was charged with inaugurating its own system for handling administrative computing, Schultz said. After a proposal and bidding process, GSU purchased CARS Information System software and the hardware to support it. "It is on the leading edge of technology," said Schultz. CARS, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, deals only in higher education computing software.

"The big difference," said Schultz, "is the common database. Previously we had a variety of software for different administrative applications. Student systems were on one, business systems on another. Alumni and Development and Financial Aid each had separate systems, and none of the systems ‘talked’ to each other. The CARS system," she said, "is a totally integrated system, so information is shared."

Schultz said that having one system also makes technical support easier. Technical support staff find it difficult to learn and support numerous administrative computing systems. Now they can concentrate on support for one. "The integrity of the information increases," Schultz said, "because everyone is sharing the same information, and because it works on our local network, we can use our PCs to access it."

The system operates in "real time." In other words, users can input the information themselves (if they have access), and the information is accessible immediately. Users will take charge of their own data, rather than having a central location (CCC) manage all information via batch processing. Users also have the option of retrieving information in different formats by doing an on-line query or printing reports, Schultz said. Technical support is minimized.

Not all of the departments are up and running yet. Alumni and Development have not been implemented, and Human Resources and the payroll system are currently under development.

Schultz said that while the system offers a major advantage because of the common database, there has been some level of stress for those "in the throes of making those changes."

Also, a very basic package was purchased "so it may not have all of the things we were used to seeing on the old system. That difficulty will be addressed as we make choices as to how to customize in the future, or change our mode of operation so that the system works better for us," Schultz added.

The vice-president of administration and planning at GSU, Jim Alexander, has established a joint implementation team, "JIT," with representatives from the various areas of the university to deal with the process of getting the system up and running.

Office of Economic Education to Hold Summer Class

The Office of Economic Education at GSU has announced three classes to be offered during the summer trimester.

Economics Is Elementary, Economics 520E, is scheduled for July 14 through 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Money, Banking and the Federal Reserve Bank, Economics 65A, is scheduled for July 21 to 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Role of Labor in a Changing Economy, Economics 705, is scheduled for June 16 to June 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The classes are held at the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago at 230 S. LaSalle St. and may be taken free as a workshop or for one graduate credit hour through GSU for $99.

For further information or to pre-register for any of these classes, call (708) 534-4926 or 4925.

Native American Pow-Wow to be Held at GSU

A bit of American history in the form of a Native American Pow-Wow will be held at GSU on Saturday, April 12 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This cultural experience includes Native American dancing, singing and drumming and vendors selling Native American arts and crafts.

The cost of this event is $3 for adults and $1 for children under six and seniors over 55. Admission is free to GSU students with valid identification.

For more information, call (708) 534-4550.
New Integrative Studies Degree Program Offered at GSU

One of the new programs to be offered in the Fall 1997 trimester at GSU is a bachelor of arts degree program in integrative studies.

To anyone outside the mainstream of higher education “integrative studies” is probably an unfamiliar and confusing term. Dr. Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, a GSU professor of English and the coordinator of the integrative studies program, gives a brief explanation: “Integrative studies is different ways of looking at things.”

For instance, she said, in studying the country of Mexico, a student in an integrative studies course might be taught by a historian, a biologist, an archaeologist, a linguist and an anthropologist. Each would talk about Mexico but from the perspective of their particular teaching discipline. In an integrative studies program then, the various aspects of Mexico would be “integrated” into one cross-disciplinary course.

The central goal of the program is to teach concepts and techniques that will generate new knowledge — teaching students to think and analyze. Students will be required to do a great deal of writing as a way of learning and realizing what they already know.

A bachelor of arts degree in integrative studies will prepare students for leadership in a rapidly changing intercultural, global environment. Students will be offered opportunities to obtain experience “in the field” through educational travel, community service, internships and mentor relationships with leaders in various fields of endeavor.

The program curriculum illustrates how society-connected this degree program is. Some first year courses included in the core program are Approaches and Interconnections: Scientific Research and Knowledge Production; Perspectives on the Physical and Natural Sciences; Humanity and Human Dynamics: A Comparative Study; Examining the Barriers: Studies in Race, Class and Gender and Environmental Studies: A Case Studies Approach. The second year includes a senior project.

Dr. Gabriele Rico, a professor of English at San Jose University, San Jose, Calif., who has been a proponent of integrative studies for many years, said that “tomorrow’s literate will not be measured by their knowledge of the past or their university degree but more by their ability to process, interpret, package, and apply technology to creating new patterns of learning. Tomorrow’s literate will know how to marry tried and true knowledge with innovation — and not be overwhelmed.”

The integrative studies program is appropriate for individuals who have a strong interest in achieving an integrated education in the arts and sciences. It will address critical, contemporary issues and offers excellent preparation for a variety of academic or professional directions such as law, business, education, public administration, policy studies or international studies.

For more information on the program, call Dr. Jacquelyn Kilpatrick at (708) 534-6975.

GSU Forms Educational Partnership with Harold Washington College in Chicago

Governors State University and Harold Washington College, a junior college, have formed a partnership for students to pursue a bachelor’s degree through the Board of Governors program at GSU.

GSU President Paula Wolff (left) and Harold Washington College President Nancy DeSombré formalize the partnership.
15th Annual Conference on "The Economics of Crime" Sponsored by GSU

“The Economics of Crime,” a conference on the issues of crime from a variety of vantage points, will take place on Friday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St. in Chicago.

Sponsored by the Economics America Office of Economic Education at GSU, the conference is in its 15th year.

Morning discussions will range from the economic burden of crime, incarceration, and the social and economic factors that lead to crime to insurance and telemarketing fraud and Internet scams.

Legal system demonstrations and classroom lessons developed by the Circuit Court of Cook County are also to be covered, and an opportunity to observe a trial and a mock jury trial will be offered.

Participants will walk away with helpful teaching materials and information on important economic and legal issues.

Included in the line up of speakers is Dr. David A. Anderson, who will address the economic burden of crime and how it is calculated. Dr. Jess Maghan will talk about how economic and social conditions can provide a culture for criminal growth. Another speaker, Rodney P. Fisher, superintendent of the Metro Chicago Fire Special Investigation Unit, will discuss the cost of insurance fraud and auto theft to society and the individual consumer. Russell Damtoft, assistant regional director of the Federal Trade Commission in the Chicago Regional Office, will focus on crime that attacks us where we live and work — on our phones and computers.

The registration fee of $25 includes materials and a breakfast buffet. IASET (Illinois Association of School Economics Teachers) members’ fee is $20. Conference fee and IASET 1996-’97 membership is $40. To register or for more information, call Sheryl Szot Gallaher by April 18 at (708) 534-4926.

Belinda A. Hudson March Employee of the Month

Belinda A. Hudson is an office supervisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. She was nominated for employee of the month by both a student and a professor for going that extra mile.

The student said that after three weeks of reporting to work as an assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences computer lab, he returned to work one day and was told he no longer had a job. He was directed to speak with Dean Roger K. Oden.

In that attempt he encountered Hudson, who was just leaving for lunch. She “stopped to hear my story,” the student said, and “to my surprise she put her lunch off for later and made the necessary calls to find out just what my situation was in the financial aid office.” The net result was that the student was reinstated in the position the very same day, thanks to Hudson.

A professor said that Hudson’s most important attribute is “as a worker willing to work until the job is done, under diverse conditions without complaining and with a good attitude.” Among other things she has accomplished, the professor said she “reorganized the Dean’s Office management structure by introducing advanced software and data management systems for the entire CAS personnel.”

Each EOM receives $150, a preferred parking spot for the month, and eligibility for the Employee of the Year award with its accompanying $500. Forms are available in Human Resources, outside the library and in the administration offices. Deadline for each month is the 20th.

Contact Jennifer Blaisor in Human Resources at (708) 534-5306 for further information.

GSU/Alumni News

GSU Staff Member Elected to Village Post

Denise Graham Zahn, GSU coordinator of public information in the Public Affairs Department, was recently elected Trustee to the Village of Matteson, Ill.

Zahn received more votes than any other candidate in all elected positions in the Matteson election.

GSU Professor Judith A. Lewis Receives Professional Development Award

Judith A. Lewis, professor of Addictions Studies in the College of Health Professions at GSU, is the recipient of the American Counseling Association’s Professional Development Award. Only one member out of 56,000 is chosen to receive this award.

The award honors outstanding professional service and the development of techniques and systems that have strengthened, expanded, enhanced and/or otherwise demonstrated a benefit to clients. Lewis is being recognized for strengthening the counseling profession in helping all individuals realize their full potential.

The award was presented at the American Counseling Association’s World Conference in Orlando, Fla., on Saturday, April 5.

If you are receiving more than one copy of gsu.edu, we’ll remove your name from multiple mailing lists. Call Denise Graham Zahn at (708) 534-6366.
GSU Hosts Eighth Annual Student Research Conference

GSU hosted the Eighth Annual Student Research Conference on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5.

The student research conference is a program involving science students from five universities: Northeastern, Western, Eastern, Chicago State and Governors State. It offers a forum for students to present their research to peers and faculty. GSU last hosted the conference in 1992, as it rotates among the five schools.

Dr. Shelly Kumar, GSU professor of chemistry and coordinator of this year’s conference, said the atmosphere of the student conference is identical to that of a professional conference, and exposes the students to new ideas in other areas of research.

Approximately 120 students from the five universities participated with 50 presentations. Twenty GSU students participated.

Dr. Robert H. Chang, professor of material science at Northwestern University, was the keynote speaker. GSU Dean Roger K. Oden opened the conference with a welcome and introduction, and GSU’s Provost Tobin Barrozo also addressed the conference.

Meet... Sterling Burke

Sterling “Stoney” Burke, member of the Foundation Board at Governors State University, is a man who has seen GSU grow from its cornfield roots.

“We used to live out the back entrance of GSU,” he said. “A number of people at GSU sort of grew up together; Chris Cochrane, Dan Bernd. We all lived in Park Forest South, now University Park.”

The Northwestern University graduate was recruited by the Chicago Bulls and also offered a position at IBM after graduation. He decided to try basketball, but IBM was in the shadows, waiting. It turned out that Burke was eliminated, and as fate would have it, Burke has been with IBM for almost 28 years.

His position at IBM and his skills fit right in to the future goals and mission of GSU, offering creative and insightful thinking to help guide GSU into the 21st century.

Burke holds the position of Manager of Human Capitol Development, for the eight state midwest region for IBM. He is the only one at IBM to hold this position, which was created and conceived to help the community we all live incompegeglobal economy.

“My job is to help people understand the shift in skills requirements,” said Burke. “My job gives me an opportunity to talk to people about systematic change needed in the workplace.”

Burke is promoting systematic change in the education system for grades K - 8. He has been involved with many planning sessions for the state of Illinois including the Flossmore school system.

Said Burke, “Our national school systems is back in the industrial age. We’re now in the informationage with no corporate structure anymore. Outsourcing and temporary workers are becoming common. The skill requirements for workers are changing rapidly. I try to get people to understand the shift in skills requirements.”

Continued Burke, “Look at who your customers are and what’s required by their customers. Understand how to serve them better.”

“Education is the next big change due to take place, and it’s driven by free enterprise,” said Burke.