Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, GSU professor of English recently chaired a panel discussion at the 23rd Annual Third World Conference in Chicago in May. The title of the panel, "Official English: Educational Ramifications," had panelists Elaine Richardson, assistant professor of English at the University of Minnesota presenting her paper on "Official English: Recognizing Black English;" Denise Troutman, assistant professor of English, Michigan State University, presenting her paper on "The Fight Against Linguistic Intolerance," and Dr. Muhammad, presenting her paper on "Official English: Its Impact on Multicultural Education in the 21st Century." The often lively discussion drew a standing-room only crowd, most of whom did not know much about Ebonics. The majority of audience members thought that it was another language, to be taught like Spanish or French, taught in high schools.

What is Ebonics? Coined from the words "Ebony" and "phonics," this one word has triggered a heated debate since the Oakland school district ruling in December, 1996.

Ebonics is a bridge to standard English," said Dr. Muhammad. "If we take a really deep look at our language that we use, which we term in linguistic circles as the language of "wider communication," rather than standard English, because once you say something is stan-

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'The Exploding Myths About Ebonics''

Faculty Salon
3 - 5 p.m. May 28, 1997
Engbretson Hall

A Presentation by Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, University Professor of English

All are welcome to attend.
R.S.V.P. at (708) 534-4567.
GSU Honors Major Donors to Scholarship Funds, its Directors and Scholarship Recipients

A reception was held recently at Governors State University honoring the major donors to the GSU Foundation and Alumni Association, 1996-97 scholarship recipients and directors of the Foundation. Guests were invited to a reception in the Hall of Honors followed by a performance by Doc Severinson and his Big Band in The Center for Performing Arts.

GSU President Paula Wolff said “We take great pleasure in commending these generous donors and GSUscholars at this celebratory occasion. Through their dedication to rewarding the endeavors of serious students, the donors not only provide educational opportunities for these particular students but also raise the quality of the local, regional, national and global workforce.”

Major contributors are those donating more than $500 to the Alumni Association or more than $1,000 to the Foundation. Those donors may direct the use of their funds to general funds and other gifts, endowed scholarships or the LEAP Fund (Learning Excellence Award for Persisters). An endowed scholarship uses the interest only on an account in providing scholarship dollars. while the LEAP Fund offers scholarship dollars to students not ordinarily eligible for scholarships or grants because they are taking less than six credit hours per semester.

Those major donors contributing to general funds and other gifts are Allied Tube and Conduit Co., Harvey; David R. Barr; Beverly Bank, Charles E. Ofenloch, executive vice president; Bimba Manufacturing Co., Patrick J. Ormsby, president, University Park; Century Steel, James Reid, president, Chicago Heights; Firstar Bank, Lingamneni Scholarship in Criminal Justice; Dr. Melvin Muchnik; Kathleen Orr; Anthony R. Pasquinelli, Pasquinelli Construction Co., Homewood; Psi iota Xi Sorority Scholarship in Communication Disorders; John Rogers, CEO Ariel Capital Management, Inc.; Dan Ryan, Suburban Federal Savings, Harvey; Bettylu K. Saltzman; Brandon Senter; Robert I. Solomon; South End Savings, Bruce G. Hillstrom, president; Southwest Beer Distributor/Dribeck Importers, Kurt and Arline Karlson; Star Newspapers, Lester Sons, former editor; Dr. Churl Soo Suk; Dr. Jordan Tsalokides; GSU president Paula Wolff and Pamela Addison Woodward.

Major contributors to the endowed scholarships are American Logistics Association Scholarship in Business; Lawrence and Stephanie Ball (Katie Ball Memorial Scholarship); Polly Bernd (Dr. Daniel Bernd Scholarship in English Literature); Mr. and Mrs. George Bernstein (David Bernstein Scholarship in English); Karen Brown (Dr. Wayne Hamilton Scholarship for Adult Learners); CBPA Student Advisory Board Scholarship in Business; Civil Service Scholarship for Civil Service Employees and their families; Donald Dolan Scholarship in Business; Mr. and Mrs. James Edwards (Kimberly Edwards Scholarship in Nursing); Dr. William E. Engbrehtson Sculpture Scholarship; Beverly Goldberg (Dr. Lowell Goldberg Health or Community Service Award); Dr. Sonny Goldenstein (Katie Ball Memorial Scholarship); Leo and Margaret Goodman-Malamuth Scholarship in Media Communications Technology; Alyce Grabe (Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Distinguished Service Award); Michael Lewis Family Scholarship in Prevention; Lewis Manilow Scholarship for Exceptional Students in All Colleges; Colette McHale (Harry P. McHale Scholarship in Mathematics); Donald and Helen Morrison Scholarship in Business; Donald Pizza (Virginia M. Pizza Scholarship in Geriatric Care); Ursula Sklan (Dr. Basil Sklan Scholarship in Mental Health); Peg Smith (Dr. Keith W. Smith Scholarship for Careers in Higher Education); Delores Turner (Ralph R. Turner Scholarship in Political or Social Science) and Percy and Elizabeth Wagner Scholarship in Finance.

Major donors to the LEAP Fund are Chicago Heights Steel, Frank L. Corral, president; First Midwest Bank, John Racich, president, Joliet; Ford Motor Company, Chicagostamping Plant, Fred Weber, plant manager; William and Patricia Gilmartin; Warren Harrison, Rich Township; Carney Barr; Herme O. Sylora; Cynthia White and Richard T. Wojcik, Heritage Bank chairman, Blue Island.

The directors of the GSU Foundation are Carney Barr, Sterling M. Burke, David N. Carvalho, Aldo DeAngelis, Judge Henry X. Dietch, Peter Flemister, Beverly Goldberg, Ed Jancauskas, Diane Kessler, James Kiley, Dr. Roy Lacey, Michael Lowenthal, Christopher Melvin, Lewis Manilow, Charles E. Ofenloch, Patrick J. Ormsby, Kathleen Orr, Billie J. Paige, Patrick E. Rea, Bettylu K. Saltzman, John Saphir, Robert I. Solomon, Jeffrey Thrall and Dr. Jordan Tsalokides.

For information on donating to any of these scholarships contact Beverly Goldberg at (708) 534-4105. —Denise Graham Zahn
Workshop on Starting Your Own Business Scheduled at GSU

A one day seminar titled "How to Start Your Own Business" will be held Friday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at GSU. It will cover preparing a business plan, obtaining financing, the legal aspects of organizing a business, advertising and marketing, record keeping and taxes.

The cost of the workshop, sponsored by the Small Business Development Center at GSU, is $50 for one person or $75 for two. Lunch and materials are included.

To register or for more information call (708) 534-4929.

Position Open

GSU is accepting applications for the position of Director of Budget Planning. The Director reports to the President of the University and is a member of the President’s Administrative Team.

The successful candidate will be responsible for all internal and external budget and planning processes for the university, among other responsibilities.

A master’s degree, doctorate preferred and experience in budget and planning and relevant financial management in higher education.

The position is available July 1, 1997. Applicants should contact the office of Glen Abbott, Office of the President, GSU, University Park, Ill. 60466 or call (708) 534-5000.

GSU Retirees to Meet

Any GSU retirees wishing to enjoy lunch and conversation may do so on the 1st Tuesday of each month, May 6, June 3, July 1 and August 5 respectively, at the Urban Hills Country Club in University Park at 11 a.m. Please call Virginia Bixby at (708) 798-1266 for information.

"Women & Investing" Program Scheduled

Women... mark you calendars! On May 8, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., the program "Women & Investing," sponsored by state-of-the-art breakthroughs in technology. Approximately 500 programs are presented annually by leading academic, industrial and government experts from around the world.

GSU will deliver these programs via satellite.

For more information, e-mail Lou White at l-white@govst.edu or call (708) 534-3198.

— Denise Graham Zahn
Enrollment Up Again at GSU

The number of students enrolled for credit at Governors State University for the Winter 1997 trimester was up sharply from the levels of last year, reaching an all time high for all previous winter trimesters.

According to Dr. William Kryspin, GSU’s director of Institutional Research, the total head count for Winter 1997 is 6,261 students. Total credit hours are 39,855, and student full time equivalency (FTE) is 2,931. While headcount was up 3.5 percent, full-time equivalency (FTE) increased by 5.8 percent.

Undergraduate enrollment increased by two percent while graduate headcount increased by 4.8 percent. FTE’s increased two percent at the undergraduate level and 10.6 percent for graduate students. Average credit hour loads also increased slightly.

The percentage of minority students increased 2.7 percentage points to 31.3 percent, the highest in the past 15 years, said Kryspin. Overall, the number of minority students rose from 1,731 in 1996 to 1,959 in 1997.

Females constitute 69 percent of the student population, up .4 percent from a year ago. The average age of a GSU student remained at 34.6 years.

Three colleges attained all-time highs for winter enrollments. The College of Arts and Sciences now has 1,008 degree-seeking majors, up 4 percent from last year. Programs showing double digit growth in either graduate or undergraduate categories include graduate Analytical Chemistry, graduate Computer Science, undergraduate Chemistry, both undergraduate and graduate Art and graduate Political and Justice Studies.

The College of Education is also at an all-time high for winter enrollments. While growth has steadily increased for the seventh consecutive year, enrollment was up 9 percent over last year. Enrollment is now just under 1,700. Programs experiencing double-digit growth were led by graduate Educational Administration, graduate Education and graduate Multicategorical Special Education.

The College of Health Professions continued its fourth consecutive year of growth, up 12.7 percent over last year. This increase was led by sharp rises in graduate Addictions Studies, graduate Health Administration and graduate Communication Disorders.

Dr. Paula Wolff, president of GSU, said “We are very pleased that enrollment continues to increase. We are particularly proud that GSU responds to the needs of today’s students, as well as the business and corporate worlds, by offering specific educational programs necessary to produce a quality work force.”

GSU will be offering four new programs this fall in response to those needs: a master of arts in Social Work, bachelor and master of arts programs in Early Childhood Education and a bachelor of arts in Integrative Studies.

“Because of the quality of our programs and because we are responsive to student and employer needs of the communities we serve.” said President Wolff, “we expect continued growth.”

“We are very pleased that enrollment continues to increase.”

Dr. Paula Wolff, president of GSU

Technology Workshop for Health and Human Services Providers Held at GSU

On Friday, April 4, an Introduction to Information Technology: A Workshop for Health and Human Services Providers was held at GSU. Sponsored by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at GSU in conjunction with the Regional Health and Human Services Working Group, the workshop introduced participants to the Internet, World Wide Web, LincolnNet’s "All Kinds of Help" sites, the Lincoln InfoLine and other activities in Illinois.

For more information on any of the programs sponsored by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, call (708) 534-5000, ext. 5264. — Candice Sexton

Happenings continued from previous page

by The Department of Human Resource will be held in Engbretson Hall at GSU.

Topics to be covered include: special needs women face for retirement; how do you make sure you do not outlive your income; what is a mutual fund and are they right for me; and how do I "Inflation Protect" my investments.

Reservations are required and refreshments will be served. Contact Loretta Jones in the Dept. of Human Resources at (708) 534-5000, ext. 4108 to register and for further information.

Summer Enhancement Camp Offered at GSU

GSU’s College of Education is sponsoring a Summer Enhancement Camp for students currently in grades five through seven.

The day camp, scheduled for July 21 through August 1 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays at GSU, is designed to increase students’ writing, reading and organizational skills and their ability to work with others.

Students in the camp will engage in a variety of hands-on activities and will use GSU’s library technology (including the Internet) for research and preparation. They will also have time to swim in the GSU pool twice a week.

Cost of the camp is $150. Parents are responsible for their child’s transportation and lunch. Registration deadline is June 15 and is limited to 30 students.

To register or for more information, call Sherry at (708) 534-5000 extension 5146.

GSU Looking for Leap Scholarship Sponsors

GSU is looking for donors for its LEAP Fund Scholarships.

The LEAP Fund (Learning Excellence Award for Persisters) is a scholarship program to benefit students enrolled for fewer than six credit hours per semester.

Eighty-six percent of the GSU student body attends school part time.

For more information on how you can donate, contact Beverly Goldberg at (708) 534-4105. — Candice Sexton
GSU/Alumni News

GSU Provides Free Community Counseling

Do you, your family or someone in your family need counseling but can’t afford it? Then contact GSU’s community counseling laboratory for free counseling service.

Counselors are available 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. most days by appointment. Counselors meet with clients for six to 12 sessions for 50 minutes per week. The sessions are taped for supervisory purposes, and all tapes are rendered anonymous to ensure confidentiality and privacy. Referrals are made for addictions issues.

Services that are offered include individual, vocational, couple and family counseling. Individual counseling may deal with personal growth, interpersonal issues, stress reductions, depression, childhood issues, life transitions, grief and mourning, anger or other issues.

There are no restrictions for gender, race or financial situation.

Children are included in family counseling only. Clients 16 years of age and older are qualified for vocational counseling, and clients 18 years of age and older are eligible for individual counseling.

To participate in the counseling program, call the counseling laboratory at (708) 534-4545.

If you are receiving more than one copy of @gsu.ede, we’ll remove your name from multiple mailing lists.
Call Denise Graham Zahn at (708) 534-6366.

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Former GSU Vice President of Administration Honored with Endowed Professorship

On Friday, April 25 the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) kicked off its fund-raising activities for an endowed professorship named after GSU’s retired vice president of administration, Virgilio L. Piucci.

“The endowed professorship will bring resources into the college to increase the interaction among students, faculty and the business community in a variety of ways,” said Mary Howes, interim dean of CBPA.

The intent to create the CBPA’s Virgilio L. Piucci Professorship in Administrative Studies was announced when Piucci retired from GSU in 1992. One of the founding vice presidents of GSU, Piucci “faced the heavy task of helping to build an entire campus and curriculum,” said Donna Tuttle in the State University of New York Observer, a publication produced by Piucci’s alma mater.

Piucci began researching and discovered a proposal for a grant to study college planning. “In the early ‘70s he received a $750,000 federal grant to develop a University Strategic Planning Process. His work on that grant did more than build a strong foundation at GSU, it earned him international acclaim as an expert on university planning and problem solving,” Tuttle said. His planning process became a model for other institutions, and ultimately the model that emerged was cited by the American Association of State Colleges and University.

Their description of GSU’s system was that its “planning process is a comprehensive and continuous process that integrates program review, development and budgeting, and allows all parties in the university to participate in university priorities.”

Some of his accomplishments at GSU include overseeing a complete remodeling of the main campus building and remodeling a farmhouse to become the Development and Alumni building. (Wagner House still houses Alumni Relations and Development offices.)

Piucci’s philosophy translated to “You should train people for the education professions the same way you train them to fly airplanes: show them how to navigate and handle a plane, take off and land. In any profession, once you’ve come up with a training plan,” he said, “there should be provisions for observation, participation, organization, presentation, dissemination and evaluation.”

In addition to the Piucci Professorship, Piucci has received several honors. In 1992 he was awarded the American Association of University Administrators’ Torsney Award for leadership and service to national and international higher education. In 1986 he received the University of Sassari’s University Medallion for service to international higher education and was a University Fellow at the University of Florida in 1955.

Tim Arr, director of the business office at GSU, who worked with Piucci for many years said, “Virg had a very broad perspective. He thought anything was possible and particularly enjoyed tackling tough issues. He thought the university, what he always called ‘the academy,’ was where the toughest issues were supposed to be addressed.”

Another long-time associate of Piucci’s is David Curtis, GSU professor of management. Curtis was Piucci’s assistant for several years and was the Provost for 10 years that Piucci was at GSU. Curtis said, “It is fitting that Dr. Piucci should be honored with the university’s first endowed professorship. He held two vice president positions and was responsible for many of the very positivethings we currently take for granted. Virg’s first question was always ‘What would be best for the students?’" It remains the most important question.”

Piucci himself commented that he had his “day in the sun,” and that his “heart and soul” remain at GSU. “There is much to be proud of,” he said. GSU has a “tremendous reputation,” which extends as far as England, France, Ireland, Italy and Austria.

To contribute to or for more information on the Virgilio Piucci Endowed Professorship in Administrative Studies, contact Beverly Goldberg at (708) 534-6360. —Denise Graham Zahn
A pioneering effort to train technology managers to aid teachers in their efforts to integrate technology into instruction is underway at GSU.

"There is an emerging national consensus that class room instruction must be conducted differently in American schools," said Larry Freeman, interim dean of the College of Education.

In response to this critical issue, GSU is in the process of creating a program for training information technology managers geared to supporting classroom teachers as they engaged in the challenging process of linking technology and learning meaningfully.

Under the auspices of the Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services (CELCs) at GSU, Freeman, in collaboration with Dr. Frank Nardine, a GSU consultant, is training and supervising eight interns placed in various Chicago schools.

As paid interns they work 17.5 hours a week. In partnership with Chicago Public Schools' Department of Learning Technologies and its director, Richard White, four interns are working in high schools and four in elementary schools. Three of the interns who received their degrees in December were subsequently hired by the school principals to work additional hours because their contributions were deemed essential.

"Technology must be incorporated into the instruction process to nurture and encourage critical thinking skills," Freeman stated.

"The response to these ITM trainees has been overwhelming," said Nardine. He added, "Far too many schools don't have a trained staff person on board with the technological expertise either to keep the technology functional or to master and maneuver the complex information highways."

The interns have assisted in activities ranging from finding educational Web sites that are interesting to students and installing software, to instructing teachers how to use software, troubleshooting, finding sample technology plans and setting up computer labs.

One school principal commented, "Having a technology manager in the school has proved an invaluable resource. I am not sure how we got along before our technology manager arrived."

Both Drs. Freeman and Nardine agree that providing youngsters with technological competencies is essential preparation to meet the known and unknown challenges of the 21st century. GSU's Information Technology Manager Internship program will undoubtedly make a substantial contribution in the lives of many Illinois students.

—Denise Graham Zahn

Sherry Kohl
April Employee of the Month

Sherry Kohl of Peotone, word processing operator in the Deans Office in the College of Education, is GSU's Employee of the Month for April 1997.

Kohl is said to have been very helpful in assisting students with late registration due to problems with the new CARS system. She also helped organize the Alumni Association phonathon for the College of Education division and was an aggressive participant in the event, having achieved commitments for more than $700.

Most recently, she organized all of the material for the facilitators to use in the security meetings.

One nominator had this to say about her: "Her cheerfulness and willingness to help others is greatly appreciated. Time and time again she has set her own individual needs aside for that of the whole."

"She is professional, competent and a team player. She truly extends herself for the benefit of GSU," adds a nominator.

"She is a strong asset to the college," concluded another nominator.

In acknowledging this asset, congratulations to Sherry Kohl. She will receive $150, a special parking spot for the month and an opportunity to be selected employee of the year. — Jane Hawkins
Meet... Maria D'Amezcua

Maria D'Amezcua, an insurance executive and consultant, has been involved for over 20 years in issues affecting the Hispanic community, especially in the field of education.

D'Amezcua, a member of the Board of Trustees at GSU, began her insurance business in Mexico after completing a bachelor's degree in social studies in Coahuila, Mexico. Asked about how she was able to go to college, D'Amezcua said, "I was fortunate that my mother believed that all her children, boys as well as girls, should be educated. That was unusual for that time."

In 1975, when she began in the insurance business in this country, her boss said she may have problems because of her strong accent. "He said to me, 'Maria, you have three strikes against you - you are a female, a minority and English is your second language.' This guy liked to talk baseball terms, so I told him, 'wait until I have a hit.'" She did, selling to the Mexican-American community.

Most of her clients became her friends. "When they want to buy a house or celebrate something, they will call me," she said. "I have a very good sense of humor."

This self-assurance and candidness in confronting her accent has propelled D'Amezcua to the top of her field. She says, "I tell people, 'don't listen to the accent, listen to me, what I am saying.'"

In addition to her career, D'Amezcua believes in giving back to her community. She has done that through activism in her community's educational system.

Her educational concern turned to action when her son entered public school as a freshman. "The principal said to the gathered parents, 'Welcome to this school. I am sorry to tell you that 85 percent of you are not going to graduate.' I told him, 'You are destroying them, telling them they are failures.' I decided I'm not going to be idle. I was able to support my activism."

D'Amezcua is now involved in the Chicago Public School system as a consultant to the home-based early childhood program, PATF - Parents as Teachers First. "Education is the most important thing," she said.