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The University Grieves

A GSU student, Seshadri Sekar Gorantla, was killed one week ago. He was fatally shot in the head as he left a gas station in Gary, Indiana early in the morning of June 15. The University Community grieves this tragic and senseless act. In a letter to the University Community, President Stuart Fagan said, “We are deeply saddened by the loss of Seshadri. He was a delightful and intelligent young man who embraced life fully.” Later, Fagan told GSUniverse, “The world is becoming unwrapped – so much bigotry, hatred, and violence. Unfortunately, all of that has hit close to home.”

Setting the Record Straight

The university has appealed the decision of the Crete-Monee School Board to revoke the charter of the university’s charter school. At a hearing held by the staff of the Illinois State Board of Education on June 21, university representatives argued forcefully that the university has met all obligations of the charter, that the students have outperformed students in other schools in the district, that the dissemination of best practices identified in the school benefit other schools in the district and the region, and that the children would be injured if the charter is revoked. The team representing the university included President Fagan, Provost Paul Keys, Diane Alexander, Dean of the College of Education, and Susan Kinsey, Director of the Charter School. Curtis McMullen, a parent, and Terry Lewis, a teacher and member of the school’s operating advisory board, also represented GSU. Alvin R. McCowan, Village President of University Park, wrote a letter to ISBE supporting the Charter School. In the letter, he said, “The Village Board and residents of the Village of University Park have a strong interest in the charter school and support the University’s efforts to provide this level of education to our community. Therefore, it is our desire that the school remains at Governors State University.”

Setting Standards

Governors State has developed a new accreditation template for programs without national accrediting bodies. The self-assessment tool was presented at a workshop sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on June 18. “The template mirrors the review processes used to evaluate programs with specialized accreditations. However, it is flexible and may be used by a wide-range of programs for quality-assurance purposes,” said Eric Martin, Assistant Provost. Professor Ralph Bell (CHP) took the lead in developing the template In addition to Dr. Bell, others who participated in the IBHE presentation: Provost Paul Keys, Dr. Martin and Professors Beth Cada (CHP), Becky Wojcik (CHP) and Bruce Wilson (CAS).
GSU ScholarSHIP Sails On

Dr. Mercedes Graf (CE) joins the list of leading national scholars who have written introductions for publications of Humanity Books. She will write the introduction for *Hit*, a book written in 1870 by Dr. Mary E. Walker, the country’s first female Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Dr. Graf is also the author of an article about nurses in the Spanish American War, which will be published in the Winter 2002-03 edition of *Prologue*, a quarterly publication of the National Archives. It is considered the most prestigious historical scholarly journal in the country.

Grad Student Makes a Difference

The Coalition of African American Nurses, headed by Carol Alexander, a graduate student in nursing, is featured in the current edition of *Nursing Spectrum*. Alexander appears on the cover. The accompanying article describes how members work locally to educate African Americans about prevention, early detection, and treatment of health care problems.

Road Warriors

The temperature hovered around 85 degrees, and the sun blazed down. That didn’t discourage more than 50 GSU employees who participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 18. The group walked, ran and jogged 2 1/2 miles on the GSU relay stretch. At the Speedway Gas Station (located off Stuenkel and Governors Highway), the group handed off the torch to another relay team. The GSU team ended the race with an outdoor picnic of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and plenty of road warrior tales. GSU employees have contributed more than $8,000 to the Special Olympics Torch Run this year. The goal is $10,000. The university’s Department of Public Safety is still accepting donations. For more information, contact Sgt. Debbie Boyd on extension 4900.

Construction Update

Construction of the Family Development Center is on target for an August 2002 completion date. Interior framing is nearly complete and installation of drywall has begun. Roofing work is in its final phase and at the end of this month or the beginning of July the rooftop units will be delivered, most likely by helicopter. Additionally, installation of the aluminum framework for a greenhouse will begin next week and vinyl siding work will start in July.

The Faculty Office Center is approximately 40 percent complete. The weather conditions have been favorable so all concrete pouring work should be completed by the end of July. The contractor will conduct onsite investigations this week for the construction of a bridge to connect the new facility to the D, E and F wings. Concrete will be poured for the piers supporting the bridge next week. The project is on time and scheduled for completion by April 2003.

Pardon the Interruption

The University Library announces that borrowing books on ILLINET Online will stop until further notice. The library's online catalog is migrating to a new and easier-to-use interface over the summer. To borrow books during this transition, please complete the long forms located near the reference desk.