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Senator Richard Durbin Promotes GSU Grant

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin included Governors State University in his proposal for a $3 million project for a teacher training initiative that helps educators incorporate the Library of Congress’ digital collections into school curricula. Governors State is slated to receive $600,000 in the project called Joining Hands Across America. It was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 11 and requires final Senate approval.

A New GSU Web Site Put on the Front Burner

After several months of discussion and deliberation, the President’s Cabinet and the university’s Board of Trustees have authorized John Tuohy, Vice President, Administration, and Chuck Connolly, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications, to move full speed ahead on developing a new web site for the university. Funds have been appropriated for the web initiative. Larry Polselli, Executive Director, Enrollment and Admissions, said “Studies show that 60 percent of prospects make their initial contact with a university on the web. Approximately 70 percent apply for admission on the web. And I’m told that a large percentage of students make their decision on which school to attend, in part, by the quality of the school’s web site.” President Stuart Fagan said, “I’ve said all along that we need to invest for growth. This is one of the best investments we can make.”

www.at.your.service.com

On July 15, Governors State will take a flying leap into the virtual world. That’s the day when GSU will pilot test an online registration system. Students from the College of Business and Public Administration will be the first to try out the new system. They’ve already previewed a feature allowing web access to academic records. “They responded with rave reviews telling us of their excitement and appreciation of having the convenience of accessing their records without having to make a telephone call on coming on campus,” said Dora Smith, GSU’s Registrar. After reviewing the results from the pilot tests, the university will make the on-line system available to all GSU students. When the system is up and running, it will also allow students on line access to fee information and account balances.

Hold that Tiger – and that E-mail, too

The university does not screen e-mails coming onto our server. The principle of academic freedom requires that there be a free flow of information regardless of how politically incorrect or insensitive the material may be. However, Pete Mizera, Executive Director, Information Technology Services (ITS), says that screens can be installed on individual pc’s. “Anyone who would like certain types of unsolicited e-mails to be blocked should call the Help Desk at extension 4357,” Mizera said, “and we’ll take care of it.” ITS staff is also developing written procedures on how to filter content that will be distributed to the university community.
Get Smart!
The Library is offering Microsoft Office software on computers in the public area. Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are available for use. Library staff will offer help to students, faculty, administrative employees, and others in the university community on how to use this software effectively.

The China-GSU Connection
Bill Craig finished grading the last term paper for his American Society and Culture class at China Youth University on July 3rd, turned in a grade report for the 261 students who were enrolled in this course, and then started the process of packing to return to Illinois and GSU. “It was a trip and an experience of a lifetime,” said Craig about his four-month stay in China. He returned to his duties as Admissions Counselor and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at GSU on Thursday, July 11. Governors State has made additional headway in establishing fruitful relations with China. Deans William A. Nowlin and Roger K. Oden also recently completed meetings with educational officials in China for offering a joint associate and GSU bachelor Internet degrees in Business and Technology and Integrative Studies. In addition, Nowlin, Oden and Craig were invited to make a well-received recruitment presentation to a standing room only group of prospective students about the joint GSU Internet degrees and their value to China students.

Southland Power Players Meet At GSU
GSU Trustee Kristi DeLaurentiis is a key player in the Economic Development Roundtable, a consortium of business and civic organizations dedicated to promoting economic growth in the south and southwest suburbs. The group met at Governors State recently to talk about a range of projects, including development of a database of planning, economic and community development organizations and a marketing program to improve the region’s overall competitiveness. The program includes identifying the potential for a major cultural venue in the area. One high priority item: developing a strategy to engage Illinois’ next Governor in reform measures impacting educational funding and tax policies.

Rather Spectacular
On Friday, July 12 at noon, Governors State University took possession of two 18-foot sculptured totem-like poles and various tribal masks that will be exhibited later in the year. The Iatmul people of Papua New Guinea carved the poles as part of a ritual house for the village of Angerman before the 1930s. The poles feature images of a male and female figure, founders of the village, together with a crocodile and python. Dr. Arthur Bourgeois, professor of Art History at GSU, arranged for the donation of artifacts to the University for a planned Multicultural Museum that will be developed by the College of Arts and Sciences. “The carved poles are spectacular,” said Dr. Bourgeois, who added: “This is just the beginning of the donations that are coming for a new exhibit space.” A team of GSU art students and Dr. Bourgeois unloaded the sculptured poles and transported them to the university’s E-lounge, opposite the Art Gallery, where carpenters assisted in setting them up.

Take Me Out To The Ball Game
Join the GSU Alumni Association at Comiskey Park as the White Sox battle Kansas on Saturday, July 27. The ticket price of $26 includes admission into the park and reserved seating on the club level, third base side of the park. Game time is 6:05 p.m. A fireworks show will follow the game. For those who don’t want to drive, bus transportation will be provided for an additional cost of $15. For more information or to reserve your seat, call Pat Matthews on extension 4128.