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Candidates' Forum

Candidates for the office of Governor and Lt. Governor of the state of Illinois participated in a candidates forum on Tuesday, March 3, 1998, at Governors State University at 2 p.m. in the university’s Center for Performing Arts. The event was sponsored by the Chicago Southland, Will County, Joliet and Kankakee River Valley Chambers of Commerce.

Before a live audience estimated at just over 200 people, the four most prominent candidates vying for the democratic party's nomination for the office of governor squared off in a question and answer session with press representatives from newspapers serving the Chicago Southland region.

First, former Illinois Comptroller and Attorney General Roland Burris, former Deputy U.S. Attorney General John Schmidt, former U.S. Attorney Jim Burns, and U.S. Rep. Glen Poshard each had an opportunity to give three minute opening statements. This was followed by questions from political editors and/or columnists of the Star, the Chicago Tribune, the Daily Southtown, the Joliet Herald-News, and the Kankakee Daily Journal.

Dr. Paul Green, director of GSU’s Institute for Public Policy and Administration, moderated the program and, as he stated, "exercise[d] moderator privileges" to ask some of the questions as well. Candidates took turns answering each question, with the candidate who first faced the question getting 90 seconds to respond, followed by 60 second replies from each of the other three candidates.

During the forum, each candidate outlined his qualifications for the governor's seat, and provided insight on his agenda and campaign platform.

Schmidt noted his endorsements from both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times and claimed to have the strongest proposals for addressing gang violence and the educational system.

Poshard spoke of his 14 years in government leadership, including his current stint as a U.S. Congressman, and spoke of the principles of trust, a balanced budget, protecting the vulnerable, and quality education.

Burns pointed out his 20 years in state government and his ability to stick to campaign promises. He claimed to be the only Democratic candidate with enough state-wide name recognition to be able to defeat Republican George Ryan in the general election in the Fall.

Burris painted himself as a political outsider who is beholden to no one. He stated that he is best suited to tackle the education and crime problems in the state because he has no outside interests to consider in developing effective programs.

All four candidates had

Pictured (from left): Burns, Burris, Poshard, and Schmidt
plenty to say about the education system in the state. All four more or less agreed that there is too great a reliance on property taxes to support education. Most suggested property tax relief as a companion to any school funding proposal. Burns and Burris both questioned current spending practices among school administrators, with Burns promising that 90% of all education funding would go into the classroom under his administration.

The other issue which seemed to spark the most heated discussion was the building of a third regional airport. Burris promised a south suburban airport would be built if he is elected, noting that this region's commuters travel farther to work than most any other set of commuters in the country. He stated that an airport would bring the jobs to the region instead of area workers having to travel to get to their jobs.

The others seemed much less committal. All three pointed out the lack of major airline support for the proposed Peotone site, noting that building a regional airport will rely on backing from the airlines. Burns stated that perhaps focus should be shifted to expansion of O'Hare, Midway and perhaps Rockford airports, while Poshard felt a regional airport was important but thought that Peotone may not be the right place for it.

All four candidates expressed confidence that the Republicans could be defeated in the November general elections, ending 22 years of Republican control of the governor's mansion.

The Republican gubernatorial candidates, Secretary of State George Ryan and political newcomer Chad Koppie, chose not to participate in the event. However, before the Democrats hit the stage, Corinne Wood, who is running unopposed for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor as Ryan's running mate, answered questions from the press panel for approximately twenty minutes. Wood spoke to the qualifications of both herself and Ryan to assume the top two leadership roles in Illinois government.

Regarding questions related to education, Wood also spoke of cutting bureaucracy and funneling more money directly into the classroom, and also supported the recent discussions about limiting grade promotion of students who do not show grade level proficiency. She also noted the need for property tax relief in relation to school funding, but was hesitant to support a swap to an income tax for fear that property taxes would remain high anyway. She did express optimism for immediate property tax relief for seniors, farmers and small business owners.

Regarding a regional airport, Wood suggested that the project should start small, with one runway and a small terminal, to indicate that regional support does exist for the Peotone site. She felt the project could grow from such a modest start.

Wood was also asked by one of the panelists about the lack of minority participation among Illinois Republican leadership. Wood noted the lack of minority participation among Republican ranks, and stated that the party is always looking for good people of any racial or ethnic background to join their ranks.

Governors State University’s Communications Services Department videotaped the forum for tape-delayed broadcast on its education access channel, carried in several south suburban communities by Jones Intercable on channel 26. The program aired Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 6 - 8, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and again from 9 to 10:30 p.m. It also ran on Wednesday, March 11 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The program was also sent to the Kankakee River Valley chamber of commerce which planned to air the program on its local community access channel.
GSU's Web Page Debuts

After much excitement, anticipation and hard work, GSU debuted its new World Wide Web site on February 16. The site, which can be found at www.govst.edu, replaces a simple table of contents of active GSU links and a notice that the GSU site was being redeveloped. The debut of the new site was the result of the concentrated efforts of several people from throughout the GSU community.

A team of three has been instrumental in coordinating the development of the new Web site. Adalma Stevens and Catherine Cox of ITS and Vince Donahue Jr. from the office of Extended Learning have spearheaded the efforts that just four months ago seemed somewhat bogged down.

Stevens points out that a great deal of work had been done by several interested people throughout the university to redesign the Web site, but progress was slow. It seems as if money was the catalyst to get things moving. "[Vice President of Administration and Planning] Jim Alexander said, "Here's $3,000; now go out and get a Web site,'" explains Stevens. "After that first donation, the money came quickly. Our true excitement was seeing how people were willing to commit money, which indicated their commitment to the Web site. It finally hit home that this is where people get information."

With that first contribution in hand, Stevens was able to raise an additional $11,200 towards development of the site. Other contributions came from the Provost's Office, the Center for Technology and Information (CTI), the Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services (CELCS), the Board of Governors (BOG) degree program and the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA).

Armed with these financial commitments, the three arranged for presentations by several professional Web designers to an impromptu committee of interested people from just about every faction of the university. With input from the entire committee, Cyberworks Studios was ultimately chosen to develop the GSU site.

The next step of the process was the development of design concepts, or the "look," of the new Web site. Cox was very encouraged by the "democratic" nature of developing that look. "I was so impressed when 20 people showed up for a meeting during Christmas break to review the preliminary concepts from Cyberworks," says Cox, who set up a list serve e-mail group to respond to further alterations to the original design concepts. The final site was developed based on the ongoing cyber-discussion of people, places and activities on campus surrounded by choices for visitors to find detailed information. These links lead to such things as home pages for each of the colleges, a schedule of upcoming events on campus, a list of recent GSU press releases, admissions and financial aid information, the home page for the alumni association, access to research searches through the library, and several other useful, and often entertaining, information and services.

"The unveiling of the new site is not an event; it is part of a process," notes Cox, who has been assigned exclusively to coordinating the development of the new Web site for more than four months. "Now that the site is up, it will require ongoing maintenance, refinement and improvement." To accomplish this, 35 departmental "Webmasters" have been identified by all units with pages on the Web site. These individuals will be responsible for the upkeep of their individual pages, including making sure that all information is current and correct. Donahue and Cox will provide individualized training to the department Webmasters, and Donahue will develop a manual for everyone involved in maintaining info on the GSU site.

In addition, groups like CTI and ITS will continue to review the GSU Web site and explore future developments, designs and technological innovations, such as on-line applications and registration or an interactive class schedule which indicates which classes are open or closed.

Phone-A-Thon for Alumni Association

It's not too late! The GSU Alumni Association will be conducting its annual alumni phonathon from March 16 through April 9. 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.

Volunteers are needed to help work the phones during the first two weeks, Monday through Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free pizza will be served at 5:30 p.m. during the week and 4 p.m. on Sunday.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile cause, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (708) 534-4128.
Happenings

Diversity, Human Rights and the World Wide Web Workshop Scheduled

"Diversity, Human Rights and the World Wide Web, Connections through Innovative Technology" is an introductory workshop that will explore the resources and ways in which the Internet and World Wide Web can be used to advance the common efforts to build and support racial diversity and human rights in the region, the nation and the world.

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at GSU in the OTC Conference Room (one story building west of parking lot A). Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m.

This is a beginners workshop, from which "hands-on" training programs will be developed. Space is limited, and registrations must be made by March 9. The registration fee is $10. Checks should be made out to Governors State University and mailed to Nancy Kolanowski, Community Relations Department, Village of Matteson, 3625 W. 215th Street, Matteson, IL 60443.

For more information, contact Larry McClellan at the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at GSU at (708) 534-3086 or Nancy Kolanowski at the Matteson Village Hall at (708) 748-1821.

Free Conference to Prepare Younger Students for College

On Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Illinois Council for College Attendance (ICCA) will hold its Ninth Annual Pre-College Student Academic and Career Conference. It will be held in the Illinois Room at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago Circle Center, 750 Halsted in Chicago. Registration will be open from 8 until 9 a.m.

ICCA is a not-for-profit organization committed to equal opportunity. Its mission is to assist traditionally underrepresented students in their preparation for and access to post-secondary education and career opportunities, said ICCA President Glen Abbott. Abbott is the assistant to the president/affirmative

Beliefs & Believers Telecourse to be Updated

Recently, Communication Services traveled to Israel and Egypt to collect footage for an update of the telecourse Beliefs and Believers. Professor John Simmons of Western Illinois University, the instructor for the course, conducted several interviews and toured several monuments of religious significance.

The crew on location in Israel

Simmons studies Egyptian hieroglyphics

The great monuments of Egypt

The crew prepares for a shoot on location
GSU Participates in ADA Teleconference

On Thursday, February 26, 1998, a teleconference presentation was made by GSU legal counsel Nancy A. McKeating entitled "The Americans with Disabilities Act and Reasonable Accommodation in Higher Education." This teleconference was made possible through the Distance Learning Link of The Learning Disabilities Center at The University of Georgia.

Additional teleconference speakers were Noel Gregg Ph.D., Distance Learning Link, The University of Georgia; Jeanne Kincaid, Esq., of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and JoAnne Simon, Esq., of Brooklyn, New York.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by Congress on July 26, 1990 and became effective one year later. Its purpose was to create a new class of individuals covered by civil rights legislation. It was estimated at that time that 43 million individuals suffered from some form of disability and were often discriminated against and were without redress in order to deal with the discrimination they faced.

Although almost all colleges and universities are governed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, it was not until the ADA was passed that the significance of this new civil rights legislation became apparent and was applied to institutions and businesses which did not receive Federal monies.

Institutions of higher education across the nation are groping for clarity on exactly what is expected of them under Title III of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Some issues are clearer than others. What remains unclear are troubling questions of what will be deemed "a reasonable accommodation." It will be necessary for the institutions to review each case on an individual basis and attempt to apply standards previously created and subsequent court opinions which interpret these standards.

Potential Leaders Identified for Training at Leadership Institute

To ensure that new leadership committed to shaping the south metropolitan region is continuously added to the community, the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center (SMRLC) at Governors State University and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Services have scheduled the second Leadership Institute to train candidates exhibiting leadership potential. Training will take place at Faith United Protestant Church in Park Forest.

Through nominations by businesses, civic organizations, churches, schools and other organizations, a dozen individuals have been identified for this session. The Institute consists of 10 training sessions which began March 10. The program will review the history and relevance of the region; examine practical leadership skills; focus on understanding units of government and promote racial awareness and issues in business and economic development.

Each class will have the subject matter presented as a lecture, case study or field trip. The objective is to present firsthand experiences that will broaden the horizons of the participants and develop and/or enhance their leadership skills.

Graduates of the program will receive a certificate of completion. It is anticipated that alumni will then serve as members of future program and selection committees and will be excellent candidates to serve on local boards, committees and task forces.

Candidate nominations are being accepted for a third Leadership Institute scheduled for fall 1998. For more information or to nominate a candidate, call the SMRLC at (708) 534-6970.

Happenings

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action officer at GSU.

In addition to specific programs, a pre-college program and high school fair and a college fair with representation from more than 50 colleges and universities will be held.

For more information, contact Glen Abbott at (708) 534-534-4132.

Third Annual Open Space Congress to Discuss Macrosites

The Third Annual Open Space Congress is set for March 21, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors at GSU. Last year more than 140 leaders, organization representatives and individuals from Cook, Will and Kankakee Counties participated. Seventeen action items were set as priorities. Progress on these projects will be addressed by Al Sturges, chairman of the Open Space Alliance (OSA) Steering Committee.

The focus this year will be on macrosites and bi-state issues.

Five specific macrosites will be discussed from four points of view. Congressman Jerry Weller (R-11th) will address the federal level issues; Brian Anderson of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will address the state level issues; Ders Anderson of the Openlands Resources will discuss the regional level issues and various speakers will address issues on the local level.

Cost of registration is $10 in advance or $15 at the door. Lunch and materials are included in the cost. Space is available for group or organization displays.

For more information or to register, email lxosa@lincolnnet.net or call (708) 534-4487 by Monday, March 16.

GSU Annual Student Art Exhibition Scheduled for March 9 through 27

The public is invited to attend GSU’s Annual Student Art Exhibition from March 9 through 27. The Art Gallery, located next to E-Lounge, will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Professor James Schietinger of
Happenings
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Millikin University will critique student exhibitions.

Critiques and awards will be presented at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, followed by an artists’ reception from 6 to 7 p.m. in E-Lounge. The public is invited.

Prospective undergraduate or graduate students of the GSU art program are invited to bring their portfolio on Friday, March 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. to be reviewed by all GSU art faculty.

For more information, contact Professor Joyce Morišhita at (708) 534-4017.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Third World Conference Scheduled for March 18-21 in Chicago

The 24th Annual Third World Conference, an interdisciplinary and intercultural conference conducted in collaboration with GSU, is scheduled for March 18-21 at the SWISSOTEL on Wacker Drive in Chicago.

This year’s theme is “Visioning the 21st Century: Globalization, Transformation and Opportunity.”

“Conference presentations, panels and special events contribute to the formation of intercultural and interdisciplinary understanding concerning the key issues and problems confronting the emerging global system and Third World and Diaspora societies,” said GSU College of Arts and Sciences Dean Roger Oden, who is co-chair of the program committee. “The conference will feature a series of four tracks: “Globalization: A Relentless and Dynamic Process,” “Social Transformation: Pursuit for a Balanced Development,” “Human Rights and the Environment: Inextricable Linkages” and “Education: Opportunity for Change.”

Fees are as follows: TWCF members, $150; non-members, $175; student TWCF members, $125; student non-members, $140. The fee includes admission to all conference activities and one luncheon on each day of the conference.

Visit the Third World Conference Web Site at www.twcf.org, or contact program committee co-chairs Dr. Roger K. Oden or Dr. Winberg Chai at (773) 241-6688 for more information.

New Director and Assistant Director of Purchases at GSU

Tracy Sullivan of Orland Park has been appointed director of purchases for Governors State University, and LouElla Rozier of Country Club Hills has been promoted to assistant director of purchases.

Sullivan received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from St. Mary’s of Notre Dame in Indiana and a master’s degree in business administration from Loyola University in Chicago.

She had been the director of purchasing at Moraine Valley Community College and is still an adjunct faculty member in the marketing department there.

Sullivan said “I enjoy working in education. Purchasing is a fast-paced environment, where I can be resourceful and solve problems. Teaching keeps me focused on the reason we are here, the students. I look forward to the new challenges of GSU.”

Rozier completed a bachelor’s degree in public administration and a master’s degree in communication studies at GSU. She has been employed in the purchasing department since 1991, most recently as a purchasing assistant. II.

“I am looking forward to my new position as the assistant director,” said Rozier. “I have worked hard to prepare myself both academically and professionally.”

Before coming to GSU, Rozier was assistant to the office manager at the State Court Reporters Office and before that she worked for the Maywood Police Department for nine years as supervisor of records.

Don Gotsos
February Employee of the Month

Don Gotsos of Steger is GSU’s February 1998 Employee of the Month.

Gotsos has been employed at GSU for more than two years, working in the Cooperative Computer Center (CCC) until its closure in December 1996. Since then he has worked in the Registrar’s Office as a computer aide.

Gotsos said he was shocked but pleased that his work with the students is appreciated. Gotsos is also an undergraduate student in the College of Business and Public Administration.

A nominator said of Gotsos that “His exceptional personality and ability to deal with students and co-workers is a great plus. He assumes responsibility beyond what is expected. His position as a transcript processor is very demanding. He handles all work excellently.” He also is said to assist co-workers whenever needed.

Gotsos’ wife, Mary, works at the HELP Desk at GSU. They have a dog named “Penny.”
Israeli & Canadian Performances Highlight March at The Center for Performing Arts

March brings three world-renowned performances to The Center for Performing Arts at GSU.

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Ensemble makes its Chicago debut with two performances. Now in their 25th year, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Ensemble will premier a spectacular new full-length work, Aide Memoire, on March 15 at 3 p.m. A bolt of lightning from Quebec, Canada, Cirque Eloize hits the CPA for two performances Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 29 at 3 p.m.

The modern style circus has dazzled audiences from New York to Taiwan with its eclectic style incorporating circus skills, dance and music. The Velveteen Rabbit comes to life on Saturday, March 21 at 11 a.m. It brings to the stage the story of a young boy and his toy rabbit that magically comes to life and is part of the “Especially For Kids” series.

Recently, at the sold out Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert, the Chicago Tribune and The Center for Performing Arts entertained the winners of a Tribune sponsored essay contest on racial healing at Chicago area fifth through ninth graders. Winners and their parents received free tickets to the concert and attended a special lecture and luncheon with members of the South African a capella singing group.

GSU Student Glenn Swierkosz Gains Life Experience in Japan

Last December, GSU student Glenn Swierkosz of Park Forest had what he called “a life-changing experience.” This experience was a trip to Japan to attend a three day student leadership conference in Tokyo at the National Youth Olympic Stadium.

When the opportunity to attend The Keio International Student Symposium arose, Swierkosz said he knew it would be a great opportunity to apply everything he had learned at GSU, so he pursued it with the help of Student Life and the Office of International Services at GSU.

Swierkosz, an undergraduate student in the nursing program at GSU since 1995, started working for the university’s Office of International Services through the work-study program. The trip, said Swierkosz, was an “ultimate life experience. It is hard for me to put into words,” but he said he would encourage any student interested in other cultures to find an opportunity while in school to study abroad.

Swierkosz stayed with three different families in Japan. In Fukuoka, he stayed with student Kazuya Naito’s family; in Sendai, GSU Professor Nami Ogata’s family and in Toyahashi, Miki Takeo’s family. Miki Takeo, a GSU student whose family lives in Japan, also attended the conference.

Swierkosz stayed in touch with people at home via the Internet. While staying at Naito’s family, he sent sound files and digital pictures via e-mail to GSU addresses and other sites back home. He also had access to e-mail when staying with GSU Professor Nami Ogata’s family.

Swierkosz credits the realization of the conference trip to many people, including Pat Carter, Dean of Student Affairs and Services; Roger Oden, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Tommy Dascenzo, director of Student Life; Vreni Mendoza, coordinator of international students and the staffs working for them.

Swierkosz is attending GSU on a Community College Honors Scholarship from South Suburban College. Since enrolled at GSU he has been a Student Senator and a student representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). He anticipates graduating in the spring of 1998.

GSU/Alumni News

Experience Spain, Earn College Credit in an Educational Trip

GSU is offering a course this Spring/Summer trimester that will not only take you to Spain but will prepare you for the trip with seven weekly classes held in May and June.

Arriving in Barcelona on July 10, those participating will spend 16 days touring historical sites including Sierra Guadarrama, Madrid, Toledo, Seville and Granada.

The course title is Cultural Diversity in Spain, the course number is INST 501. The cost of the trip is $2,580 plus the cost of credit, if being taken to earn credit hours. For more information contact Professor Dick Burd at (708) 534-7271.

Free Counseling Offered at GSU

Do you, your family or you and your mate need counseling but can’t afford it?

GSU is offering free counseling by professional counselors in conjunction with its “Therapy with the Expert” video series.

Individual sessions are to be held on April 15. Family/couple sessions will be held on March 11 and April 8. All sessions take place at GSU between 5 and 9 p.m.

If interested, please call Dr. Diane Kjos at (708) 534-4904.

News about an alum or graduate of GSU? Send your information with the person’s full name, graduation date and accomplishments to: GSU, @gsu.edu, Public Affairs, University Park, IL 60466-0975.

The public is invited to participate in the tax forum “Overhauling the United States Tax Code… Flat Tax? Sales Tax?” at GSU on Saturday, March 14, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Congressional and presidential candidates have responded to taxpayers’ increasing dissatisfaction with the U.S. Tax Code, including a proposed flat tax on income and a national standardized sales tax.

Hosted by Jerry Weller, member of the U.S. House of Representatives’ tax writing Ways and Means Committees, the host and other speakers include Victor Krohn of the Citizens for an Alternative Tax System; Daniel J. Mitchell, senior fellow of the Heritage Foundation, and GSU professors in the College of Business and Public Administration, Brad R. Johnson and Paul O’Brien.

GSU President Paula Wolff will open the forum. “Overhauling the United States Tax Code… Flat Tax? Sales Tax?” is sponsored by GSU’s South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center (SMRLC), GSU and the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce.

Meet... Fran Grossman

Laughing, Frances Grossman’s sparkling personality comes to life over the phone. Grossman, a member of the Board of Trustees since 1995, instantly makes you her friend and leaves you wondering where she gets all her energy.

Grossman is a busy woman. As a Senior Vice President – Bank of America and President – Bank of America Illinois Community Development Corporation, Grossman heads the bank’s group that leads its community reinvestment activities, driving Chicago’s affordable housing market to innovation in lending. This includes the partnership to build 40 new single-family homes in the Austin community and 23 homes in the North Kenwood section of Chicago.

Due to her dedication and drive, she has been nominated by the Mayor of Chicago to serve on the Empowerment Zone Coordinating Council and serves on the boards of the Chicago Housing Partnership, City of Chicago Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders and the South East Chicago Commission. She is a life-long resident of the south side of Chicago.

Grossman’s background includes work as an early childhood education teacher for the Chicago Public schools. Married with three children and 1 grandchild, Grossman is honored to serve on GSU’s board. “GSU is a real leader. Institutions like GSU that provide program flexibility as well as high academic standards are looking towards the future. I’m very impressed with the quality of the faculty as well,” states Grossman.

Grossman’s role on the board is to head the finance committee, assuring sound fiscal management of the university and planning long-range fiscal policy. She states, “GSU’s degree is worth allot. I’m happy to be a part of GSU’s future.”