Carpet rolls out as "changes" take the center stage at convocation

This year's convocation featured presentations from GSU Provost Tobin Barrozo, left, and President Paula Wolff, shown here wearing her favorite color, orange. While pointing out the very real achievements at GSU, Dr. Wolff also used an attention-getting technique to demonstrate the existence of change.

The Fall 1998 convocation theme of "Out With the Orange, in With the Blue" took on a double meaning for those in attendance at Sherman Music Recital Hall on October 14.

Governors State University President Paula Wolff used the departure of the antiquated rust-orange carpet as the key to her address: change.

Out with the orange, in with the blue... out with the old and in with the new," was reiterated by Dr. Wolff to demonstrate the importance of how change is crucial, both physically and psychologically within the university.

She was quick to point out several positive changes that have taken place within the confines of GSU's 750 acres. In the realm of student achievement, the numbers are impressive. The graduation rates among GSU students have increased 15 percent in the last six years, with enrollment jumping 19 percent within the same time frame.

And as student numbers continue an upward swing, faculty numbers are following suit with a 31 percent bump. There are now a total of 200 faculty members working at the university. Another step in the right direction for GSU is the several substantial physical changes to the university that have either recently been completed or are still in the process of completion. Some of these capital projects funded by more than $22 million.

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Convocation -continued

lion worth of appropriations include rehabilitating of both the A and B wings, construction of the Center For Performing Arts, construction on the front of the university and new heating and cooling units.

More than $66 million in outside funding has come into the university, helping develop several projects which include the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, Foster Parent Training contracts, the Center for Addiction Training (CATEE) and the LincolnNet and ABELINC projects for technological infrastructure.

And while all of these substantial improvements roll on, as Dr. Wolff put it, "The orange carpet just lay there."

And with the arrival and progressive installation of 22,000 square yards of "soothing, solid, sympathetic, Socratic" blue carpet, it gave Dr. Wolff a chance to rejoice.

Her sense of rejoice over carpet took on an added dimension - and a little levity as well - when she shed her orange outfit to reveal a blue one underneath.

While receiving a hearty round of applause, the metamorphosed drapery further hammered home the theme of change.

"In ten years, will a college degree still mean anything? Will anyone be accumulating credits? And, if they are, will any one person get a majority of credits from one university, or will learners be stringing their credits together like beads on a necklace through the Internet? Will your job still exist?...

"I don't know. But I do know that over the next five years, the decisions that we make in this university will determine our future, the way we position ourselves in the changing and educational environment, the persuasive case we can make to the funders or decision-makers, the hiring decisions we agree on; and the course that we steer for Governors State will be more critical today than it ever has been in our past."

In closing, Dr. Wolff asked members of the faculty and staff at GSU to "be vigilant about the institutional values and principles we must preserve, but do not be a handmaiden to traditional or provincial interests."

Newly-elected student trustee Curry Kimble carried on the theme of change, emphasizing that change should not be feared.

"People who are afraid of change are the ones not prepared for the future; and I think that applies for students and teachers. We must not be afraid of change."

Vice President James Alexander, left, and student trustee Curry Kimble, above, address the audience during convocation.

@govst.edu will always report accomplishments that help GSU meet its mission statement. Look for these icons which will indicate stories that directly relate to GSU's four goals.
Peggy Woodard, Michael Witak receive Baysore honors

This year's winners of the 1998 Baysore award were Peggy Woodard and Michael Witak.

Woodard, who works as director of student development in Student Affairs and Services said she was shocked to know she had been given the award.

"I was very honored. I knew Gerry Baysore when he was at the university, what an excellent person he was and all the good things he stood for.

"And all of the people who have received the award before me, to have been included in the list is an honor. He was a very decent and hard-working man," Woodard said.

Woodard has been employed at the university since 1983.

Witak, who works as a research associate in Academic Advising, was also surprised to be nominated.

"I was shocked. I feel very honored by it, and I only hope I can live up to the standards that were set by the people who have been nominated before me," Witak said. Witak has been an employee of the university for three years.

Gerald Baysore was associate vice president of academic affairs at GSU, and died of Cancer in 1988.

The award is given annually to the deserving person or people who best embody the four characteristics for which Baysore was known:

1. Absolute integrity
2. Total competence
3. Generous dedication
4. Unfailing civility

Winners each year are nominated by deans and vice presidents of their respective departments and jurisdictions.

IBHE chief visits GSU, talks on Citizen's Agenda

Illinois Board of Higher Education Executive Director Keith Sanders took time recently to visit Governors State University and talk over the importance of the Citizens Agenda and keeping GSU's sights on the fiscal year 2000 budget.

The Citizen's Agenda is a program designed to act as a forum for gauging the public's educational wants and needs.

Sanders, in a very hands-on fashion, took the time to talk to faculty and staff, as well as taking part in the most recent taping of "Issues & Impact."

Sanders, along with IBHE Chairman Jerry Blakemore, GSU President Paula Wolff and student trustee Curry Kimble, discussed the need to maintain a healthy dialogue within the Citizens Agenda.

Jerry Blakemore, left, GSU President Paula Wolff and Keith Sanders talk to faculty and staff regarding the Citizen's Agenda program.
Happenings

New faces at GSU
The GSU community welcomes the several new faces who have joined us in September and October:

--Christopher M. Cavelle
ITS
--Catherine M. Crawford
CHP
--William J. Crawley
UL
--Andrea Havill
CELCS
--Christy Ann Heins
PA
--Esther D. Johnson
CELCS
--Jarrett M. Johnson
SMRLC
--Karen Sobieraj
CHP
--Joseph Spagnolo
CE
--George Sweiss
CAS
--Catherine Tymkow
CHP
--Colleen Waltman
UL
--LaShaunda N. Williams
UL
--Vicki Wright
BOPD

GSU prepares for transfer day - open house
Governors State University is preparing for what it hopes to be the most successful transfer day and open house yet.

Michael Toney, executive director of enrollment services at GSU, said the gathering is a prime opportunity for the community to come out and see what the university has to offer while having a good time.

"Students have an excellent opportunity to interface with representatives from the GSU community on a one-to-one basis," Toney said.

Event registration starts Nov. 7 at 9:30 a.m. with the main program starting at 10 a.m.

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Skinner talk draws large crowd, kicks off new Presidential Lecture series
Renowned businessman and prominent political figure Sam Skinner spoke to many people in Governors State University’s Hall of Honors last Tuesday morning, inaugurating the presidential lecture series.

Approximately fifty representatives from the public and private sector were on hand to here Skinner relate his expert knowledge on the subject of electrical deregulation and its potential effects at the local and state levels.

Skinner, former chief of staff for President George Bush and former president of Unicom, parent company of Commonwealth Edison, was the first speaker in a three-part Presidential Lecture series.

The second speaker, Gloria Scoby, is slated for Feb. 5 of next year.

Scoby is the senior vice president and publisher of Crain’s Chicago Business magazine, recognized as a hallmark in midwestern business publications with a biweekly circulation of 50,200.

She also works directly with the publishers of Advertising Age, Advertising Age International, Business Marketing, Creativity, Electronic Media, Crain’s New York Business, Pensions & Investments and Investment News.

She oversees Crain Communications’ radio stations in Florida as well.

Scoby arrived at Crain’s in 1978 as a member of the startup team that launched Crain’s Chicago Business, the first of four Crain city publications.

Since then, she has served in several capacities to the publication, including advertising director, associate publisher, publisher and was named group publisher in 1995.

The third scheduled speaker is David Vitale, vice chairman of First National NBD Bank in Chicago. He is currently slated to speak on June 5, 1999.
Paul Green's "South Suburban Style" debates put issues in crosshairs

"GSU Presents - The 1998 Campaign: South Suburban Style," a series of political debates moderated by noted GSU political analyst Paul Green, were once again a success.

Professor Green poses with 35th House race contenders Maggie Crotty, D-Oak Forest, and Patrick Burns, R-Oak Forest, at right.

The 40th Senate race is a battle between Debbie Halvorson, D-Crete, left, and Flora Ciarlo, R-Steger, former 80th House representative.

At right, the 37th House race combatants Kevin McCarthy, D-Orland Park, and Maureen O'Hara, R-Orland Park, take time out to smile.

The 19th Senate debates between William Mahar, R-Orland Park, and Pam Woodward, D-Frankfort, left, were successful.

At right, 80th House race opponents George Scully, D-Flossmoor, right, and Andy Qunell, R-Crete, prepare to debate.

Happenings
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Child care at GSU opens its doors to the public

The child care center at Governors State University now offers qualified care through a safe and nurturing atmosphere to the public. Once available only to GSU students and staff, child care is now open to everyone.

The child care program fosters an open door policy, and parents are encouraged to participate in activities through volunteering in the classroom or as a member of the advisory board.

The children are given the chance to explore, play and, most importantly, succeed through developmental activities guided by adults. The center employs a qualified staff with education and experience in early childhood education. All staff members are certified in first aid and CPR.

The center is licensed to care for children from 3 years of age (must be fully potty-trained) through 12 years. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information, call (708) 534-4561 or visit the Hantack House on campus. Schedule care options vary.

Public administration open house at Parkland College

The College of Business and Public Administration at Governors State University invites prospective graduate students to attend a Master of Public Administration open house.

The open house will take place Nov. 19 at Parkland College, Champaign, in the Flagg Lounge student center from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Faculty and advisors will be available to consult with potential students about earning a master's degree in Public Administration.

For further information or to make reservations, call (217) 373-3846, fax (708)534-6981, or e-mail: j-gustaw@govst.edu

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GSU continues to grow within faculty, student population

For the sixth consecutive year, Governors State University continues to grow. The number of students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs at Governors State University has shown substantial increases. The university now serves more than 9,200 students per year.

According to GSU Provost Tobin Barrozo, the positive growth can be attributed to strong personnel.

"Ultimately, the success of the university can be traced to the teaching of an excellent faculty and staff," Barrozo said.

Students enrolled in the undergraduate degree programs at GSU have gone from a head count of 2,514 students in the fall of 1992-93 to 2,966 in the fall of 1997-98, an impressive increase of 18 percent. The graduate programs have seen an even larger increase. A head count for the fall 1998 revealed a 20.3 percent increase over the fall of 1993 rising from 2,691 to 3,151.

The combined student population growth over the same academic years is 19.2 percent, translating into an increase of approximately 1,000 more students. And as the numbers increase, so does student diversity. One of the largest areas of student growth is the minority population, which has seen an impressive 60.1 percent increase. At 1,947, the minority student population makes up more than 31 percent of the entire student body.

The Board of Governors

Martha Hellman named employee of the year

Always one of the exciting moments at Convocation is the announcement of the employee of the year. This year's winner is Martha Hellman, secretary IV in the College of Education, Psychology and Counseling division. She has worked at GSU for three years. Some of the comments presented to the audience at convocation demonstrated her hard work and dedication:

"Martha is consistently cordial and good-humored. She is organized, works well cooperatively, goes out of her way to meet faculty requests, and has a high level of accuracy in her work."

According to Hellman, however, the award was a big surprise to her. "It was really quite an honor. I feel that it was very nice, but that the award should be shared among the 11 other nominees."

Hellman, who was originally the December employee of the month, said one of the biggest contributing factors to her success at work is the environment in her department.

"I hope everyone has as much fun in their departments as we do here," Hellman said. "We work hard, but everyone is so nice that it makes the work seem a little easier."

Patricia Rogala

October Employee of the Month

Patricia Rogala, a purchasing assistant at the university, was tapped as October's employee of the month. She was nominated for the honor by one of her co-workers, Maya Hardy, who said Pat deserves the honor because she "extends an arm of courtesy whenever needed and follows up on questions and concerns when speaking with faculty, staff and vendors."

"She willingly takes on additional responsibility in the absence of others or just when needed. She understands the importance of communication on a professional level and implements excellent decisions whenever necessary."

Rogala has worked at GSU for 15 years, starting in the business office - where she currently works. In between her start and now, she spent some time working in what is now CELCS. As for her personal feelings on the award, Rogala said she is honored as well as very surprised.

"We have a very busy department, and we really come into contact with just about every aspect of the university in purchasing. We try to meet everybody's needs, which is sometimes hard to do."

She also says her whole department is really deserving of the award. "They should all receive it," Rogala said.

She resides in Oak Forest with her husband, a 20-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son.

The October issue of .EDU incorrectly identified Jackie Schimke as October employee of the month. She was September employee of the month.
Center for Performing Arts awards patron with airline passes anywhere in world

Park Forest couple Mike and Janice Lullo of Park Forest recently received word that they have won a special trip for two anywhere in the world as part of a contest held by the Center for Performing Arts (CPA).

Burton Dikelsky, director of the CPA, presented Janice with the paperwork officially notifying her of the prize.

She and her husband won the prize after they were automatically entered into the contest, in conjunction with American Airlines, when they purchased a four-event ticket package at the CPA.

Everyone purchasing a four-event ticket package at the CPA, in addition to receiving a 10 percent discount on the cost of the tickets, was automatically enrolled in the contest. Dikelsky offered congratulations, adding that "it's nice to see people supporting the theater, and I hope you enjoy your trip."

The couple, residents of Park Forest for the past seven years, have not yet made their choice of locations served by American Airlines, but are leaning heavily toward Paris or somewhere else in Europe.

They have one year to use the tickets after winning the prize.

According to Mrs. Lullo, she initially didn't believe Burton when he called to inform her of the prize.

"I've never won anything like this in my life," Janice said. "I've dropped (raffle) tickets into drawings and mailed my sweepstakes entries before, and won nothing. I didn't even know that I was entered in this until I got the call."

Professor, friend Judy Cooney passes away

Judy Cooney, friend and respected colleague at Governors State University, passed away Oct. 13 after battling cancer for more than a year.

Dr. Cooney was a professor in GSU's division of psychology and counseling, where she received several awards for her hard work and dedication.

She began working at GSU back in 1980 as a lecturer in the division of psychology and counseling, and became a professor within the division in 1981. In 1990, she was appointed director of the counseling program and in 1995 was named acting chair of the division. Some of the awards she received while working at GSU include: Faculty Excellence award in 1990; the Wendall Dysinger Professional Publications Award in 1989; the Best Book Award, given by the young adults division of the New York Public Library.

Happenings-cont'd

(BOG) program, an integral and innovative program presented by GSU, is available to students at several other universities throughout the United States.

The BOG bachelors degree program has seen a 32.9 percent increase in the number of students enrolled.

And while student numbers increase at GSU, so does their workload. The number of credit hours per trimester has seen a 20.2 percent increase, with an average student now handling approximately 6.5 credit hours.

The total increase of students receiving either undergraduate or graduate degrees has risen from 1,167 in 1993 to 1,344, a 19 percent increase. The numbers of minority students receiving degrees has also skyrocketed, with a 60.2 percent increase between the years of 1993 and 1997.

Responding to the needs of the burgeoning student numbers, GSU also has increased its own staff numbers by more than 10 percent from the 1995 school year to present day. There are now a total of 200 faculty members at GSU.

With physical renovations underway and in the planning phases at the university, GSU continues to meet both the physical and educational demands of students in the Chicagoland area.
Indian Festival of Lights program set for Nov. 5

Governors State University's Student Life Development Center is sponsoring the Indian Festival of Lights at GSU Thursday, Nov. 5 from 1:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Events include talks on the cultural and spiritual heritage of India, a presentation on Swami Vivekananda discussing the spiritual bridge between East and West, and "A taste of India."

Vivekananda, a relatively unknown monk from India serving as a delegate to the World Parliament of Religion conference at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1893, made a moving message regarding universal brother/sisterhood. Overnight, he became regarded as a spiritual beacon.

Last year's Festival of Lights focus was on Mahatma Gandhi. Admission to the event is free, and the public is encouraged to see this beautiful event. For further information, contact the Student Life Development Center at (708) 534-7057.

Meet... Patrick Rea

Long time Governor's State University Foundation Board member Patrick Rea brings an eclectic wealth of knowledge gained in several different sectors of life.

In the public sector, Rea has served as a member of the GSU Foundation board since he was asked by late university president Bill Engbrecht and former foundation president Bill Dodd back in the late 1970s.

He also serves as village trustee on the Tinley Park village board, doing so for more than 28 years now.

In the private sector, he serves as a vice president at the First National Bank of Chicago and past president and chairman of the Chicagoland division of the American Institute of Banking.

And, believe it or not, he still maintains an active military life as a Brigadier General in the United States Army Reserve. He was recently appointed by President William Clinton as State Chairman of Employer Support for the United States Guard and Reserve, which operates as the senior representative between the pentagon and the business community of Illinois.

Rea said he tries to translate the information and experience into his work with the board by "raising awareness of the university within the south suburban community and maintaining linkage between the Chicago corporations and the university."

And with some time to reflect, Rea said some of the accomplishments he's proud of while serving on the foundation is the raising of funds for the Center for Performing Arts, and the growth and recognition of the university. Rea resides in Tinley Park, and has a son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, as well as twenty other family members living in the south suburban area.