Deluge of January snow warrants closer look at clearing difficulties

Inconvenient. Pretty. Dangerous. Call it what you want, snow means one thing to the employees in Physical Plant Operations at Governors State University - work.

When the area was hit with the second largest one-day snowfall total in Illinois' recorded history this January, GSU managed to keep its doors open.

The only thing that seemed to be in PPO's favor was the timing of the storm, which had arrived on a Saturday during Winter break. Facing an estimated 23 inches of snow and the broad expanses of GSU creating seemingly infinite drift heights, the task was indeed massive.

In an attempt to put a job like this into scale, PPO employees Jo Shaw and Ilia Gallagher of PPO had some numbers that were astounding.

Since the first snowfall of the season, there has been 220 tons - 440,000 lbs. - of salt spread on the roadways and parking lots. There has been 30,280 lbs. of calcium chloride spread on the walkways and entrances.

And during the weekend del-

Weather - Cont'd on 2
Weather -continued

ugc of snow, a mere five people put in a total of 135 hour plowing, shoveling, spreading and organizing. When other businesses and schools in the south suburban region were closing their doors, PPO kept the university open and accessible. Shaw and Gallagher both agree that this was the smoothest snowfall removal of this magnitude they have seen at GSU. They are speaking from experience, having 27 and 15 years at GSU respectively.

"(PPO Director) Mike Hassett has done a lot as far as getting people together and organizing things," Shaw said. "We had people in the right places, and you have to have that. You have to have an organized plan to remove this stuff or else you’ll be on top of each other." Shaw said they had a pretty good heads-up on this storm by tracking it on radio and television.

A factor that Shaw and Gallagher did keep pointing to, however, was that the employees - Shawn Jones, Bill Josma, Larry Hank, Scott Smith and Rich Van Pelt - all made it here to start the removal process.

"They got here at 6:30 in the morning, and didn’t leave until 12:30 a.m. the next day," Gallagher said. "And they were right back here literally a couple of hours later. There was no way in the world we could have done it without them."

Other people who played a key role in the removal according to PPO, were Bill Van Dyke and Dick Kara. "They do all of that work and they never complain, they just keep working" Shaw added.

The only thing they said that frustrates them is the lack of appreciation for their work. They’re really good about it, though. People complain about things like the fact that the salt ruins their shoes, but the staff just let it roll off their backs." And while everyone enjoys some rare warm weather, the people in PPO do cast this one warning to the GSU community to think about. "There is still plenty of winter left this year, so hold on."

Politics keystone of another Green gathering

Considering the current fodder available for political debate, GSU professor Paul Green’s "Politics Past - Politics Future" debate at the State of Illinois building in Chicago was incredibly civil.

A distinguished political panel consisting of Chicago Sun-Times political columnist Steve Neal, the Chicago Reporter’s Laura Washington, Republican Party representative Chris Dudley and Democratic Party representative David Wilhelm were given a chance to reflect on the most recent and upcoming elections.

Green, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Administration at GSU, posed the questions to the panel.

Dudley made note of the 1990s trend of Republicans gaining seats in both state and U.S. offices, and the fact that Illinois actually elected a Republican senator in Peter Fitzgerald.

Wilhelm drew attention to the fact that the November elections saw Democrats gain seats in the U.S. House and Senate, showing a sign of endorsement for the Democratic Party.

Democratic Party representative David Wilhelm answers questions as GSU’s Paul Green looks on.

 Icons

Teaching  Service  Technology  Diversity

@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.

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John Harris

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Historic occasion for Physical and Occupational Therapy

The Center for Performing Arts was the scene for a special occasion for the College of Health Professions. The very first Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy graduating classes were pinned on Dec. 13. It was a proud moment for both the faculty and students involved in the program. The students were the first to complete the three-year master's degree program, working under stringent guidelines as they laid down the road work for all other students that will come through the program.

Cecilia Rokusek, dean of the College of Health Professions, was excited to see the student and a large crowd of family, friends and significant others that took up a large chunk of the seating in the theater.

"You all now face different challenges in front of you," Rokusek said. "I commend all of you for being pioneers. It's because of you - the students - that this program was possible."

Beth Cada, who heads up the Occupational Therapy program, said that the philosophy of their profession is "to provide the knowledge of how human beings perform their roles," and admitted that it was "a very exciting time for everyone involved in the program."

Cada said that the mettle of the students was evidenced by their willingness to be a part of the first class in the program at GSU.

Heading up the Physical Therapy program is professor Dr. Russell Carter, who despite his professed fear of public speaking, ably translated to his students that he appreciated "all of their hard work, dedication and subsequent success."

The featured speaker was South Suburban Paratransit Coordinator Lenda Hunt, who shed light on the growing importance of physical and occupational therapy. She spoke from firsthand experience after going through extensive therapy following an automobile accident that left her paralyzed, and related how it really never ends.

"Your job is so important to those you work with," Hunt said. "It's going to be a major part of that person's well-being for the rest of their life."
**Happenings**

**New faces at GSU**

The GSU community would like to welcome the several new faces who have joined us in the months of December and January:

- Sally Roethle
  - Research Associate
  - CELCS

- Kevin Doyle
  - Police Officer
  - DPS

- Mary Hall
  - Secretary III
  - CAS

- Cheryl Poulus
  - Research Associate
  - COE

- Graham Sennett
  - Plant Operating Engineer
  - PPO

- Carla Johnson
  - Research Associate
  - COE

- Leslie Alberts
  - Research Associate
  - CPA

- Brenda Boykins-Montgomery
  - Coordinator of Marketing and Promotion
  - PA

- Sheila Coil
  - Research Associate
  - CELCS

- Francis Bradley
  - Computer Lab Coordinator
  - ITS

- Vanyette Exton
  - Secretary III
  - CAS

- Alisa Lichtenfeld
  - Secretary IV

*continued on next page*

**GSU celebrates the holidays, readies for a strong 1999**

Governors State University had several events during the holiday season that helped wrap up another successful year both academically and physically. Holiday gatherings ranging from Paul Green's Irish Coffee gathering and an all-day Kwanzaa event in Engbretson Hall to the Glen Campbell concert benefiting the Foundation Scholarships were all part of GSU'S seasonal celebrations.

GSU President Paula Wolff hosted the annual holiday celebration gathering in a packed Hall of Governors. President Wolff congratulated the more than 600 administration, faculty and staff working at GSU for "making 1998 another extremely successful year and something to be proud of. One of the highlights included expanding student numbers. She also thanked everyone for their patience during the myriad projects under construction throughout the year.

*At right, GSU President Paula Wolff makes some comments at the holiday gathering. Below, Sherry Kohl, Donna Viramontes and Chris Barberi have a chat and a bite to eat in the Hall of Governors.*
Glen Campbell makes foundation concert "rhinestone" studded achievement

The Governors State University Foundation benefit concert featuring the holiday songs of music legend Glen Campbell could easily be considered a success. With a packed Center for Performing Arts in December, Campbell and a host of musicians - including daughter Debbie - made for an entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Campbell played twice the same day, wowing crowds with several traditional holiday favorites as well as his well-known hits "Wichita Lineman" and "Rhinestone Cowboy."

Running in conjunction with the concert was the Foundation Board's inaugural benefit concert before the concert in the Hall of Governors.

Several integral members of the board including Richard Gibb of Federal Signal, Pat Ormsby of Bimba Manufacturing and Chuck Ofenloch of St. Paul Federal Bank enjoyed conversation with friends while raising money for scholarships.

The event was able to raise more than $16,000 in its first offering, a rare feat for a first-time event. The proceeds go to scholarships such as the Community College and General Scholarship funds.

Ormsby, who headed organization efforts for the event, said it was a remarkable achievement. "We exceeded our expectations, and all of the money will go to the scholarship funds and the students who need them."

Happenings

New Employees - continued from previous page

Renee Rainey
- Library Technical Assistant
University Library

Bruce Wilson
- University Professor
CAS

Rosetta Webb
- Research Associate
CELCS

Thomas Bruynell
- Special Projects Manager
CBPA

Students, alumni display art on web page

One of the hardest things for an artist to achieve is finding the right medium. Not necessarily the decision of using canvas or clay, but the way in which to get their work known to the public.

Current art students and alumni from the Governors State University Arts program are getting a chance to show their wares with today's leading resource, the Internet. GSU will be creating special links on the web page (www.govst.edu) to show one page of work from each participating student. In all, three new pages are being added to the Internet art pages at GSU. The Alumni Page is exclusively for GSU's art alumni to let the university know what new events are going on in their lives.

From awards won and current projects to family information, alumni are encouraged to submit information to the director of Alumni Relations for the Internet site to keep everyone up to date on their progress.

The Electronic Art Gallery is where current students and alumni can showcase their art. Students and alumni are continued on next page

Glen Campbell and his daughter Debbie, top, perform a duet for the crowd at December's holiday concert. A GSU Foundation benefit was held in conjunction with the concert. Among attendees were Chuck Ofenloch, above right, along with Dick Gibb, far left, and Pat Ormsby.
also encouraged to submit their personally designed web pages if they are currently operating one.

The Other Links Page is for interesting sites related to the field of art or art happenings. Participation and comments are welcome by anyone. To submit information on the website, please contact Mary Bookwalter at m-bookwa@govst.edu or the Art Pages e-mail address, art@govst.edu.

To view Governors State University's Art Pages, connect to www.govst.edu/users/gart.

Well-known artist shows work as part of Black History Month

Governors State University is proud to display the art of nationally-renowned African-American artist Jacqueline Richards as part of the Black History Month events at the university.

Richards, whose work has been shown at galleries as far away as New York, is critically-acclaimed for her work in the traditional, two-dimensional media format.

Her works will be presented in the E-Lounge at GSU throughout the month of February.

For additional information on the exhibit, please feel free to call GSU at (708) 534-5000.

Bright blue play mats, a tub full of plastic balls, miniature chairs and a crawling tube adorn the most recent classroom opened up by Governors State University.

It was all part of the new Smart Start program opened up as a cooperative effort between GSU and Crete-Monee School District 201-U. Smart Start focuses on the development of the child in the earliest stages of life, starting at infant age and leading up to three years of age. The program also fuses the education of the parent or caregiver with the children's, helping both to develop their skills.

"This program will not only benefit the students in our district, but those in the entire region," said 201-U Superintendent Steve Humphrey.

Another group receiving an invaluable education in the program is College of Education students at GSU, who will facilitate the classrooms. "This program will provide our education students with one of the best educations in the nation," Smart Start Director Sharifa Townsend said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Working alongside Townsend is Cheryl Poulog, who will serve as the on-site coordinator for the program. "We could not have accomplished this without Cheryl," Townsend said. Smart Start is the first step toward opening a charter school, which will also focus on fusing parents and children in their educational experiences.

GSU President Paula Wolff and 201-U Superintendent Steve Humphrey lead ribbon-cutting activities, top, while Smart Start director Sharifa Townsend comments, above. At left, new students dive into plastic balls while a GSU student plays along.
Efforts of public and private groups deliver, bringing new tech center to Ford Heights

Several integral members of the public and private sector gathered in the new Ford Heights Community Technology Center at Cottage Grove Middle School to launch an educational tool for students and community members alike.

More than 20 Internet-ready computers - with students at the helm - provided the setting for Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2nd District) and several other people who made the center a reality.

"The so-called 'Digital Divide' - that increasing gap between the technological have and have-nots - must be narrowed," Jackson said.

"All students deserve equal training and access to education. The new Ford Heights Community Technology Center is a shining example of a means to bridge that gap."

Governors State University President Paula Wolff was also on hand at the event, reaffirming GSU's commitment to supplying a quality education.

"We are delighted to be a part of the development of the Ford Heights Community Technology Center," Wolff said. "The university is committed through its programs to serve the educational and employment needs of all communities in the south suburbs. This is an exciting part of that effort."

Governors State has taken an active role in the center, planning to facilitate future course opportunities to members of the Ford Heights community. Larry McClellan and Ron Bean of GSU have been the primary representatives on the project, serving as both facilitators and advisors. Bob Bremer, chairman of the Community Relations Committee at Ford Motor Company, said the center is a part of Ford's looking to the future as well as the student's future.

"What is the price of entry into today's working world? Computer skills. They are an essential part of today's work force. We want to supply that not only to the students but their parents as well. We want to give them the same skills their children are getting at school now," Bremer stated.

Other key people and organizations who made this center a reality include Ford Heights School District 169, Prairie State College, UAW Local 588 led by Don Deel, Ford Heights Mayor Sillerine Bennett and the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at GSU, under the guidance of McClellan and Bean.

GSU Alumni News

GSU Alumni continue to achieve

Many of our Alumni continue to gain success after graduating from GSU. This is a source of pride for the university.

Susan Prokopeak,
Who received a B.A. in 1988 and an M.A. in 1991, has accepted the position of director at the Seneca Public Library.

Yovonne Raketic
Who received an M.A. in education in April of 1998, was recently indoctrinated into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. She was honored for her pioneering role in the Women's Basketball League.

John Roberts
who received a B.A. in business back in 1985, was recently featured in an in-depth article regarding his accomplishments with his business, Proteva Computer.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our GSU alumni. Please feel free to contact the Alumni Relations office at (708) 534-5000, Ext. 4128 and let them know what you are up to.
Lynne Hostetter
December Employee of the Month

What started as a temporary position in the College of Business and Public Service ended up snowballing into a career that spans more than 21 years at Governors State for Lynne Hostetter.

After serving the college for "a couple years," she became secretary to the governance for the Faculty Senate.

"I took all of the minutes for the meetings, and basically acted as the secretary for Faculty Senate," Hostetter said. Adjacent to her office was the word processing office, where she would spend countless hours working on the minutes. It was in that office that it was suggested she make the move permanently. That was in 1979, and she has been there ever since.

According to the employee of the month nominations for Lynne, she is always at the ready when it comes to helping out with projects. "I still love it. The work changes as the technology changes, and that's intriguing," she said.

"Although I've been in the same spot for years, my job always changes. I've been doing some budget work and doing a lot of spreadsheet work."

Hostetter said she also finds a lot of gratitude for the work she completes, adding that it's always a nice thing to hear. "People on the whole are very grateful for everything that I do, and it's nice to have people appreciate what you do," Hostetter added.

She has two children, 25-year-old Rachel and 22-year-old Michael, and has been married to husband Bob for nearly 27 years.

Nancy McDaniel
January Employee of the Month

One thing you find out when talking to Nancy McDaniel is that she has an infectious laugh and great spirit. Those traits, among several other positive comments, were among the common threads on her nomination form as employee of the month. Working as a staff secretary and supervisor in the College of Arts and Sciences for a little more than a year, McDaniel says the job has been a great experience.

"I've really had an enjoyable time while I've been here," McDaniel said. "When I first came here, everyone was extremely patient with me when I was starting to figure things out. If you ask me, we have the best department in the university," she said laughing.

"The entire group of staff and faculty have never given me any trouble, not one bit. I really enjoy the work I do here," she added.

With four grown children, McDaniel said she is warming up to the idea of one day becoming a grandparent.

"I think I'm ready for it. I think it would be nice to be able to spoil them when I can," she ended.
Clothing, toy drive delivers for those in need

Boxe$ randomly placed throughout the university filled up over the month of December, as people throughout GSU remembered the importance of goodwill toward others.

GSU President Paula Wolff and others collected warm clothing and toys for families in need living in the Ford Heights area.

Several van loads of clothing were delivered and distributed to residents personally by President Wolff, keeping many people in the area warm during the cold winter months.

Lincolnet participants gather at GSU, discuss future

Lincolnet, the massive website home page generated here at GSU, recently held an account holders conference in Engbretson Hall, discussing possibilities for the future.

According to Lincolnet supervisor Tom Liska, more than 40 people representing a portion of the 300 institutions on the website took part in the all-day conversation on what Lincolnet plans to do in terms of support and projects.

Lincolnet started in 1996, and came to life via funding from the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur and Chicago Community Trust grant funding. Liska and others understand that receiving a grant is not a guaranteed situation, so several options were discussed on how to create a sustainable income. Some of the ideas considered were establishing training courses directly concerned with the website and possibly instituting a yearly fee.

"We have already started constructing a lab in OTS, where we could handle a maximum of about 10 people," Liska said. "We'll be able to offer them four different courses for a nominal fee: basic Internet navigation; basic website design; advanced website design; and a graphics design course."

There has been no fee structure as of yet for the courses, but they will be available to all account holders. The idea of instituting a yearly users fee has also been considered a possibility, but the cost would be substantially below what is normally charged to account holders.

"The usual fee charged to account holders is around $20 to $40 per month, and we're looking at charging that amount per year," Liska said.

The cost would be based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration the amount of yearly income the institution generates.

The extra funding would be used to enlist a graduate assistant or an upgrade to equipment. Currently, only Liska and a part-time graduate assistant are handling the workload.

"Everyone was very positive about our plans, and we're looking to get another group together in June," Liska added.
Torch is passed at annual Irish Coffee

Professor Paul Green, in his starring role as emcee and host, honors Kevin Conlon, left, after passing the grand marshal title on from Tom Dunn. Below, Green and Sen. Debbie Halvorson, from left, chat with other guests.

Institute for Public Policy and Administration Director Paul Green did what he does best recently and talked about politics.

It was not the focus of the gathering, however, as politicians and citizens alike gathered in the lobby of The Center for Performing Arts to enjoy a cup or two of Irish Coffee and some soda bread during his annual "Irish Coffee" event.

Each year, Green selects a political figure to preside over the event as grand marshal. The distinction goes to the husband and wife team of Kevin and Claudia Conlon, Rich Township Supervisor and circuit court judge, respectively. They took over from 1997 marshal Tom Dunn, a former state senator and currently a Will County Associate Judge.

Early Childhood conference coming to GSU

Early childhood education, considered one of the most crucial elements of our future, will be the focus of a conference at Governors State University.

The Early Childhood Annual Conference, hosted by GSU and the South Suburban Association for the Education of Young Children, will be March 20 and is planned to be an all-day event.

The keynote address will be given by nationally-renowned speaker and educator Michael Brandwein. Brandwein is known for his dynamic and highly-entertaining talks, and draws upon his past experiences as a trial lawyer as well as a "Second City" improv graduate to keep things interesting and lively.

The title of the keynote address is "The Power of Positive Example," focusing on how students learn from what they are shown not what they are told.

Brandwein recently completed three television shows that will air this year for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting on the topic of communicating with young people.

There will be several other activities and sessions available for those who attend, ranging from positive parenting to brain development and its implications on early childhood development. Computer seminars will be available as well. For additional information on the conference, visit the website at www.lincolnnet.net/SSAEYC99, or call (708) 534-4487. Costs for the event vary.
Governors State University graduate Steven Addair, whose step from writing to filmmaking has gained national acclaim, recently hosted a screening of his most recent project here at GSU’s Center for Performing Arts.

After a successful local debut of the film “Ivory” in his hometown of Hinsdale, which more than 300 people attended, Addair had the screening at GSU on Jan. 14, again drawing a large crowd.

“Ivory” is Addair’s first major effort, and has gained him considerable acclaim. While Addair was here at GSU getting his degree in the College of Arts and Sciences, professor George Carpenter suggested that Addair take his script, go that extra step and actually put his story on film.

Addair’s “Ivory,” shot on the shores of Lake Michigan near Long Beach, Ind., is about someone who loses the love of his life and how he cope§ with the grief that follows.

Addair submitted the film to the New York Independent Film Market, where it was selected to be shown.

According to Addair, several projects have come out of the positive response he got after the New York viewing.

Not only was the film shown at The Center For Performing Arts, but most of the members of the cast managed to make some personal appearances.

Featured soundtrack musician Frank O’Connor was also on hand to perform some of the songs from the film for the audience.

Virginia Cunningham’s cookie jar gathering much more than crumbs for Neediest Kids Fund

What does $30,000 mean to you? To some, it represents a new car, vacations and paying exorbitant bills racked up over the holidays. But to GSU cafeteria cashier Virginia Cunningham, that $30,000 means Christmas for those less fortunate than others.

In a mason jar more fitted to preserved peaches, peas and other items, money gathers throughout the year at what appears to be a slow and steady rate. However, Cunningham has collected more than $27,000 worth of nickels, pennies and other change dropped into that same little jar since Christmas of 1986.

Cunningham says she heard of another cashier placing a coin jar next to the register and collecting left-over change as part of Chicago radio personality Wally Phillips’ Neediest Children’s Fund. Since she has started, the amount dropped into the jar has grown each year.

“It gets better and better, and I think this year, it will be that way again,” Cunningham said. “We’re at $3,500 as of right now.

“It seems the students are the ones who have really stepped forward this year.” This year, a full page advertisement appeared in the December issue of the INNOVATOR, asking members of the GSU community to make a donation to the fund.

In the form of a season’s greeting card, names of the students, staff and faculty who made a contribution of $5 or more will appear on the card as contributors.

The money collected will go toward less fortunate children in the area who would otherwise have little or no holiday season. And according to Cunningham, all of the funds for the children go directly to them since there are no operating costs or overhead fees. “It all goes right to the kids,” Cunningham said.

The Fund provides children with toys, clothes and most importantly, food. All who participated in the fund helped children know that they have extended a helping hand.
Meet... Aldo DeAngelis

If you're looking for a friend of the Governors State University community, you needn't look further than local resident, former state senator and philanthropist Aldo DeAngelis.

A life-long resident of the south suburbs, DeAngelis has been actively involved with the university for more than 15 years, and has played key roles in its development. A large portrait in The Center for Performing Arts lobby serves as a reminder of the role he served in getting the center built. DeAngelis spearheaded fund-raising efforts to construct the facility, a project totaling more than $7 million in all.

During his service as state senator, he actively worked to make sure GSU was being recognized in the halls of Springfield.

"When GSU was getting going, their state higher education money was under attack from some of the other facilities," DeAngelis said. "We worked to make sure that the university got what it deserved and gained some recognition."

And according to DeAngelis, that recognition continues to grow under the guidance of current President Paula Wolff.

"Things have really gotten strong since Paula started at GSU," DeAngelis said. "She continues to strengthen that image as a good leader for the school and the entire south suburban area."

Along the lines of honoring hard work, DeAngelis' likeness can also be found in the Hall of Honor. He was also presented with an honorary doctor of letters degree from GSU.