Year of the Grant: Family Development Center Awarded 3-Year Grant
The Family Development Center has received a 3-year grant of $44,700 from the U.S. Department of Education to support an infant and toddler childcare program. The grant targets the children of low-income parents who are attending school. It will be used to supplement salary expenses for a classroom supervisor. The university’s childcare program is currently licensed to care for children between the ages of 3 and 12. Adding a position for an infant/toddler teacher will enable the program to expand services to children between the ages of 6 weeks and 3 years.

Study Paper Highlights Need for Faculty Diversity in Higher Education
Dr. Adriela Fernandez, professor of social sciences, has written a paper on developing effective strategies for recruiting and retaining minority faculty in higher education. In it she writes of the need to address this problem of inequity, “not only on the grounds of ethical fairness but because it is sound public policy with increasing payoffs for society.”

GSU Faculty Numbers Show Strength in Diversity
Dr. Fernandez’s research establishes Governors State as a national model because of its commitment to diversity. In most categories, the university exceeds national figures for recruitment and retention of full-time, ethnic and minority faculty.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Governors State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ethnic minorities</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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Dr. Fernandez advocates more programs to boost minority faculty hiring along ethnic and gender lines, with a special emphasis on Hispanics. Excerpts from the paper were presented to NCATE officials during their recent accreditation review of College of Education programs. It was also presented at the Second National Symposium, “Keeping Our Faculties: Addressing the Recruitment and Retention of Faculty of Color” held in Minnesota last year.

Four-Year Degree Partnership Programs in the Pipeline
Provost Paul Keys told students, staff and faculty attending the “Pizza with the Provost” forum on October 24 that the university is making headway in establishing plans for “seamless 4-year degree” programs with several area community colleges. He said agreements are being sought with Moraine Valley, Kankakee, Joliet, and South Suburban community colleges. Dr. Keys said the plan is to have the programs in place within the next two years. Academic programs being explored for the seamless degree program initiative include criminal justice, teacher education, business and technology.

**Another Week, Another Accreditation Team Site Visit**
The nursing program is scheduled for a re-accreditation site visit on October 28-30, 2002. A visiting team from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) will be on campus, meeting with faculty, students, alumni, and selected members of the GSU community, as well as visiting clinical sites. The nursing program was last accredited in 1994 for 8 years, the maximum time allowed.

**GSU Campus Housing: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?**
Dr. Keys said the university is in contact with Century Housing Development of Dallas, Texas, to conduct a study to determine if GSU should consider building campus housing. During Welcome Week, Century collected 1,198 completed student questionnaires. The results are being tabulated and will be presented to the university community. Century will also be contacted to determine next steps, which may include a market study.

**Student Senate President Highlights Achievements**
At the Provost Forum, Verna Jackson, student senate president, discussed some of the senate’s accomplishments, including new elections, the adoption of bylaws, the resurrection of the student newspaper, renamed *The Phoenix*, and the purchase of information monitors that will be installed in common areas and paid for with student funds.

**GSU Scholarship Sails On**
Tina K. Whitney, environmental biology graduate student, received an award at the Illinois State Academy of Science annual meeting. Her presentation was titled “Fecal Corticoids to Measure Chronic Adrenal Activity in Rats.”

**Creationist Holds Forth at Forum**
John McKay, an Australian creationist geologist, will be speaking in Engbretson Hall, October 30, 5:30 p.m., on the topic of “Genesis and Geology: The Rocky Record of Evolution and the Rock Solid Evidence of Creation.” The GSU Bible Students Fellowship is sponsoring the forum.

**Give Often**
The student senate is coordinating a blood drive on November 11, 2 – 8 p.m., in E-Lounge. The Heartland Blood Centers, located in Tinley Park, will draw blood from donors. Give and receive a free t-shirt.