Computers, learning create inseparable bond in schools

Information Technology experts have become a staple in businesses, so why not schools?

Schools, whether primary, secondary or higher education institutions, are constantly working to make the most of their budgets. A way to get the best value for the money is making sure that time is spent wisely as the money.

And when a classroom full of school children is sitting helplessly in front of computers that refuse to work, time - and money - is being wasted.

So what can be done to fix that problem? When this happens at large corporations, an experienced information technology consultant is kept busy moving from workstation to workstation putting out binary fires daily.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is definitely a large corporation, as it serves more than 500,000 clients (students) and 10,000 faculty each school day. That's why Governors State University's Management and Information Systems Technology (MIST) graduates are being hired independently by the schools after proving to be a valuable resource.

While no line-item in CPS' budget is currently dedicated to support an IT specialist, students completing the internship are being hired independently by the schools after proving to be a valuable resource.

An excellent example is GSU...
student Heather Staib, who has been working with the current group of students in the program as a trainer, interned at Whitney Young Magnet School last year.

After the semester of work, administrators at Whitney Young decided they must try to retain her. Not being too familiar with the faces of top administrators within CPS, Staib received some "special treatment" when she was interviewed for the job.

"He (the interviewer) asked me what I would do with my free time once all of the problems are under control and everything is working correctly," Staib said. "I told him that 'first we'd have to wake up from the dream we'd be in.'"

That certain interviewer was none other than the Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools Paul Vallas. "It was a little bit of a surprise to me, but it wouldn't have changed anything had I known who he was before the interview," Staib added. Honesty pays, and she started the job full-time this August.

While working within the schools, students also become teachers. Some of the sites have had faculty take training sessions with the interning student. That adds another responsibility to the student, something Nardine and Freeman address during their classroom sessions.

"You have to teach the students to interact with several people in an intricate personnel structure, such as a school, and that's not an easy thing," Nardine said. "We try to prepare the students for that, and make sure that they're ready to teach teachers."

Jones Magnet Assistant Principal Joseph Smith, who has had the benefit of having the services of an intern for the school, said the service and support given is incredible. As an example, Smith estimates that Jones Magnet has approximately 200 computers.

"It's hard to teach students one-on-one in a technology lab situation if you constantly have to keep fixing all of the computers," Smith said. "When the teachers are given the time to teach and the students are allowed that attention, it makes us a better school. And we love work," Smith quipped.

If the students run up against a seemingly impossible problem or just want to discuss technical difficulties during the internship, a website set up by Nardine and Freeman answers their questions on a daily basis.

Adamo Fecadu, a senior currently pursuing a master's in mechanical engineering from IIT, has been through the program and said the Internet site is a good deal.

"If you ever run up against anything that's incredibly difficult, the website is there. It's a great help," Fecadu said.
GSU building on future with new facilities

Construction on faculty and Early Childhood buildings sited

Breaking from tradition and breaking new ground is one and the same at Governors State University, as the planning phases start for two new buildings.

In battling for educational funding during the 1998-99 fiscal year, GSU managed to secure an impressive $14.3 million in state funding for construction of a new Family Development Center and a new central faculty building.

Sites have been chosen for the two buildings; the development center will be just west of the conference center access road across from the carillon, and the faculty building will be built northwest of The Center for Performing Arts.

Both projects are in the planning phases, with ground scheduled to break in spring of 2000.

The faculty building will meet the increasing demand for space for instructors, a population that has been growing with student enrollment.

The Family Development Center, with a projected cost of $4.3 million, will help put GSU’s College of Education at the forefront of early childhood education.

According to Sandra Robertson, executive director of the family development program, work is hoped to be completed by the fall 2000 semester.

The Smart Start program, currently operating at the Crete-Monee Early Childhood Center (formerly Crete Middle School), now serves more than 200 children ranging in age from newborn to five years in the Will and Southern Cook County area. Smart Start maintains its focus on the development and interaction of young children, as well as a sounding board and information link for the parents.

The charter school program will serve students ranging from kindergarten to fourth grade, and will implement some new techniques in teaching, such as looping, where students in a class will stay with the same teacher as they progress through grade levels. Looping will also be used on a trial basis at other Crete schools at the start of the fall semester.

The childcare center, now open to staff, faculty and students, will serve children three years of age and up. The center will have before, during and after-school sessions available, and hopes to have service open to students attending night classes in the near future. Another proposed element of the program is making services available to the general public. The current childcare facility at Governors State has approximately 25 students, and looks to maintain that approximate number. According to Robertson, the program will stand to benefit all involved.

“From the student to the parent to the child, the opportunity to observe and learn from the most integral commodity of the future - our children - is a benefit to all of us,” Robertson said.

Diane Alexander, dean of the College of Education, is happy to see the progress and growth at GSU. “We are thrilled to see the Family Development Center come through the design stage and begin to become a reality,” Alexander said. “Faculty and students are excited about the possibilities to work with their community, the schools, and parents toward substantive early childhood education.”

Nationally renowned firm Ross-Barney/Jankowski will design the building. The firm, known for its work on educational facilities, recently won the competitive competition to redesign the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.
Familiar faces named to interim positions at GSU

Three familiar faces have been named to serve in key interim positions at Governors State University, carrying on the mission of success for the institution. Director of business operations Tim Arr will be serving as vice president of administration and planning, professor Jane Wells will serve as provost, and professor Ami Wang will serve as dean in the College of Health Professions.

All three look forward to the opportunities the interim positions have to offer and to make contributions where needed. Arr’s work will include the large-scale expansion of the campus with the addition of two new buildings: the faculty facility and the child and family development center (See p.3). "I’m happy to take the opportunity and assist during this exciting period of transition," Arr said.

Wells and Wang echoed Arr’s comments regarding the atmosphere of expansion and opportunity, adding that they feel "fortunate to have been chosen" to serve in their interim roles.

Sen. Halvorson makes "Child's Play" a success for local kids

Shouts and screams of children having a good time filled The Center for Performing Arts this summer, thanks to Ill. Sen. Debbie Halvorson.

Halvorson made it possible for several area children attending numerous day camps and programs in the south metropolitan region to come to The Center and see "Child’s Play."

Special state funding acquired by Halvorson helped pay for children from economically challenged areas to receive transportation to and from the event, as well as the show itself.

"Child’s Play" is a nationally-renowned troupe specializing in interactive children’s theater, and features juggling, singing and several games.

"Governors State University is fortunate to have a friend like Senator Halvorson to help make such a fun event possible," said Governors State University President Paula Wolff.

Halvorson, a longtime attendee of events at The Center, said she was "thrilled" to see so many young, happy faces in the audience having a good time.

"It always means a lot to see so many children having a great time, and I’m glad I could help in any way," Halvorson said.
Presidential search process getting under way

The prospect of having the world's largest, most successful executive search firm working with some of the best representatives Governors State University has to offer holds infinite potential.

The GSU Board of Trustees announced Aug. 12 that it has entered into contract negotiations with search firm Korn/Ferry International to provide executive search consultation for the position of president of the university.

On Aug. 13, the university announced a list of 20 people who broadly represent the GSU community to make up the search committee for the university.

The committee will comprise representatives from the following university posts: Civil Service Senate; Student Senate; Administration and Planning; Alumni Association; GSU Foundation; and Board of Trustees (see adjacent list for names and the constituency they represent).

Korn/Ferry was selected pursuant to the competitive bidding procedures mandated by the Illinois Procurement Act.

The board selected Korn/Ferry after reviewing the bids submitted in response to the University Request for Proposal and hearing the oral presentations of the firms that responded.

Members of the search committee attended the oral presentations and had the opportunity along with the trustees to ask questions of each firm's representative.

With the assistance of the firm, the search committee is charged with recruiting candidates, developing the candidate evaluation criteria, and reviewing the candidate applications. The committee will host the finalists and participate in the on-campus interviews. They will also present an evaluation of each of the candidates to the Board of Trustees.

Founded in 1969, Korn/Ferry has conducted more than 75,000 searches and "has developed an in-depth understanding of business and management issues facing organizations today," according to Korn/Ferry statistics.

With offices in Chicago and 69 other cities worldwide, Korn/Ferry can draw on a massive pool of resources.

Their education division, established in 1988, handled more than 260 educational and not-for-profit assignments for higher learning institutions worldwide last year, crossing all levels and functions.

Sally Jackson, chair of the GSU Board of Trustees, sees great potential with the search firm and the GSU search committee working together.

"Governors State is looking for someone who will best understand the mission of the university and continue with the trend of positive growth. We believe that the combined assets of the university's search committee and Korn/Ferry's talents and resources best provide us with that opportunity," Jackson said.

A series of memos to the GSU community will discuss the progress of the committees throughout the process. There currently is no specific calendar for these informational memos, but once the process officially starts, the search committee will attempt to keep the university community well informed.

Governors State search committee announced

Search committee chair and trustee
- Bruce Friefeld

Trustees
- Fran Grossman
- William "Bill" McGee

Faculty Senate President
- Karen D'Arcy

Civil Service Senate President
- LouElla Rozier

Student Senate President
- Laura Wolframski

Dean's Council/VP
- Patricia Carter
- Brandon Senter

Administration and Planning
- Colleen Rock Cawthon
- Peggy Woodard

Civil Service staff
- Debra Boyd
- Catherine Swatek

Faculty
- Arthur Durant
- Marsha Katz
- Deborah Holdstein
- Kelly McCarthy

GSU Foundation
- David Barr

Alumni Association
- Kenneth McNeely

Board Chair Appointees
- Ann Glascoff
- Mary Arnold

Staff to the Committee
- Gail Bradshaw
- Ginger Ostro
When students take a second language to round out their college experience, the more traditional pursuits come to mind: Spanish, French, German, and sometimes Latin. Mandarin Chinese is not a traditional choice.

But after meeting Governors State University students Chrystal Sanks, Regina Nobles and Deborah Tero, it seems perfectly normal. Mandarin, or whatever projects they set their minds to, is what they accomplish.

A perpetual hard worker and honors student, Sanks has made the most of life’s opportunities.

She started her higher education career at Prairie State College and now attends GSU through Learning in Context, a program designed to give Ford Heights students the opportunity to attend college tuition-free.

As a reward for her academic achievements, she is getting the opportunity to immerse herself in the Mandarin language when she departs for a semester’s study in Beijing, China, this fall as one of the National Security Education Program’s international fellows.

Sanks, according to LJC’s director Ernestine Beck-Fulghum, is an inspiration for other kids coming up in the LJC program. “She is a leader by example, something that is hard to do in this day and age.”

Nobles, a 46-year-old mother of two, said she would regret it for the rest of her life if she turned down the chance.

“Ten, twenty, thirty years from now, I don’t want to look back on this and say, ‘you know, I should have gone.’ I’m extremely excited to be going,” Nobles added.

Tero, also excited to go, said the three will rely on each other for several things.

“It will be nice to have Chrystal and Regina there. They’re always trying to do the best, and sometimes we need each other’s encouragement.” Tero added.

The NSEP fellowship is traditionally given to a diverse and talented group of students across the country, and targets students that are in low to middle income levels. They must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

NSEP, established by the federal government, was started to “lead in developing national capacity to educate U.S. citizens to understand foreign cultures, strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness and enhance international cooperation and security.”

The fellowship program requires two intensive, two-week summer institutes and one year of Mandarin Chinese linguistics.

Sanks says she’s “Proud of the opportunity, because not many African Americans, let alone Americans in general, get a chance to study in China. It’s a wonderful opportunity.”

Equally proud is the village of Ford Heights, when Mayor Stillerine Bennett proclaimed August 19 “Chrystal Sanks Day” in the village.

The students are slated to leave Aug. 27 to study at Tsinghua University and will return on Dec. 23, 1999.
Donna Rutledge

Governors State University is pleased to name Donna Rutledge as Employee of the Month for June 1999.

Donna has been with GSU for 26 years. She began working at GSU in 1973 in the Human Learning and Development Center, now known as the College of Education.

In 1977 she moved over to what is now the Communications Services Department. She has been in the dean's office in the Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services since 1991.

She says she is "privileged and honored to represent GSU as Employee of the Month for June."

Donna is the mother of one daughter and is expecting her first grandchild in November. She has lived in Park Forest since 1967.

Jan Estabrook

According to July Employee of the Month Jan Estabrook, some of the nicest, hardest-working people in the university come from Physical Plant Operations.

She admits she is a little prejudice, however, since her seven years at GSU have all been with PPO. Known among co-workers as an extremely kind hard worker herself, the wide range of responsibilities and scope of activity is what she likes most about the job.

"Since the whole campus community is affected (by PPO), it seems that eventually we get to meet and work with people from every department on campus. The days are usually very busy and you never know who will walk in or what kind of concern they will have; this is what keeps the job interesting," Estabrook said.

Ronald Hill

After spending four decades with R.R. Donnelly and Sons, Governors State University in 1997 had the good fortune of having Ronald Hill start working in Physical Plant Operations.

In that short amount of time, Hill has earned the respect of his colleagues by being elected the August Employee of the Month. While pleased to receive the award, Hill was reluctant to talk about himself.

Hill, a resident of the south suburban region, also works in PPO with his brother, Bob.
NCA Self Study team working hard

With the North Central Accreditation visit scheduled for April of 2000, the self-study team at Governors State University is getting ready.

Debbie Holdstein, professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Michael Toney, executive director of Enrollment Services, are working diligently with all facets of the university to complete a comprehensive self-study report. They, along with a team GSU employees, have been meeting virtually every week throughout the summer in order to provide a complete, quality report by the April date.

Each department within the university has submitted an extremely detailed report to Toney, Holdstein and others to outline several points, including the following:

- Background of department
- Issues facing department
- Assessment and outcome
- Future direction of department

The GSU self-study team most recently asked all departments to complete a pared-down version of their self-study reports, trying to make the comprehensive study more succinct.

Armed with this information, the team will then submit a final report to the NCA team upon arrival for the on-site visit.

The original, larger report is still essential, however, as a cataloguing system has been created by the team as a reference guide. If there needs to be any questions answered once the comprehensive report is completed, the team can refer to the original reports.

"We have excellent people working on the self-study, some of whom are on-site inspectors for NCA themselves," Holdstein said. "They have provided us with a wealth of knowledge of what to focus on."

According to the U.S. Bureau of statistics, it is estimated that women make approximately 75 percent of all managed health care decisions nationwide.


The event, which featured guest lectures on navigating the healthcare system and preventive medicine, provided excellent information on woman-specific health issues.

Katherine Tymkow, a professor in the College of Health Professions' division of Nursing and Health Systems, gave a highly-informative presentation entitled "Women and Osteoporosis: Must it Happen to Me?" a key issue to women's health.

Also on hand was Illinois Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood, who discussed her efforts to improve the status of health care for Illinois while working in Springfield. Wood can draw upon personal experiences when it comes to dealing with health care issues, being a breast cancer survivor herself.

Timing of the Aug. 19 event was extremely timely, as Governor George Ryan signed into law the most recent version of the Patient's Bill of Rights. Within that bill, several key issues address women's health.

Two specific issues include a substantial increase in funding for breast cancer research and another key issue: the assignment of your primary care physician. According to Wood, the state is working to allow patients to list obstetricians/gynecologists as a primary health care provider, where a majority of female health visits are made.

Weller, who was extremely happy with the attendance and content of the conference, said he is considering making the event annual.

"The issues in health care continue to change, and subsequently the questions will. This is something that could become a yearly event," Weller commented.
Center for Performing Arts opening night benefit to be delivered on a "Dolly"

Hello, Dolly!
Friday, September 24, 6 p.m. gala
8 p.m. performance.

Kick the season off with Mainstage Production’s presentation of "Hello, Dolly!" the Broadway hit that won a record ten Tony Awards with its first production. Be a part of The Center’s opening night!

Dawn Upshaw
Sunday, September 26 at 3 p.m.

Raised in Park Forest and a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, sensational vocalist Dawn Upshaw has achieved international acclaim for her work in 20th century opera. Upshaw’s repertoire includes a variety of languages, styles and traditions.

T.S. Monk
Saturday, October 2 at 8 p.m.

Recipient of the New York Jazz Awards First Annual “Recording of the Year,” drummer, composer and vocalist T.S. Monk is known for delivering sizzling sets.

The Last Swing of the Century
Friday, October 22 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

With more than 500 hits to their credit, Guy Lombardo’s Royal Canadians dominated and defined the Big Band era with favorites, including “Sweethearts on Parade” and “Auld Lang Sync.”

Jim Brickman
Saturday, November 13 at 8 p.m.

With three gold records under his belt, composer and pianist Jim Brickman plays romantic selections from his latest CD, “Destiny.”

The Nutcracker
Saturday, December 11 at 1 p.m., 5 p.m.

Bring the whole family for a performance by Chicago’s Salt Creek Ballet, a fantasy journey into young Clara’s dream world inhabited by enchanting dancers, the Mouse King and chivalrous soldiers.

Upcoming shows

Capital Steps
Friday, January 21 at 8 p.m.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre
Friday, January 28 at 8 p.m.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Friday, February 4 at 8 p.m.

Yesterday: Tribute to the Beatles
Saturday, February 12 at 8 p.m.

Irish Rovers
Saturday, March 11 at 8 p.m.

Pump Boys and Dinettes
Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m.

Ravinia’s Stearns Institute
Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m.

Happenings

New faces at Governors State University

The Governors State community welcomes the several new faces who have joined us in recent months:

Carlos Martinez
Specialist, Y2K Compliance - ITS

Eric V. Martin
Director, Writing Across the Curriculum - Office of the Provost

Jerald A. Alexander
Special Projects Manager - CELCS

Molly Baltman
Program Coordinator - CELCS

Leah Blakely
Program Coordinator - CELCS

Vivian Jones
Field Teacher - CELCS

Barbara Keaton
Special Events Coordinator - CELCS

John J. Stoll
Dean - CELCS

Michael S. Sullivan
Plant Operating Engineer - PPO

New hires - cont’d on p. 10
Religious leader talks on holistic methods of mind-body wellness

Governors State University drew a major crowd for Rev. Joseph Britto, a practitioner of alternative medicine in India. The presentation was in Engbreton Hall on Monday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The lecture/demonstration, entitled “The Five Elements in the Vital Force: Healing mind, body and spirit,” focused on the core aspects that Rev. Britto has learned through his vast work in natural medical therapies.

Rev. Britto gained his knowledge working worldwide, practicing in the countries of Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Europe, and most recently the U.S. cities of Chicago, San Francisco and Milwaukee.

Revered for his knowledge and ability in homeopathy, Rev. Britto was called on by Mother Theresa of Calcutta to treat and train the sisters of her religious order since 1974.

Learning in Context student ready to lead by example

Ford Heights and the Allerton Park Conference Center are approximately 150 miles apart on a map.

But to Sevena Wells of Ford Heights, the two communities are coming together to serve a specific purpose in her life: giving her leadership training and well-rounded life experience.

Wells is gearing up for a gathering of strong minds from several different ethnic, religious, academic and professional backgrounds to learn and focus on the intricacies of becoming leaders in their respective fields.

The Leadershape Institute, held at the Allerton Park Conference Center outside of Champaign, was formed 11 years ago to focus on the mission of developing young adults to lead with integrity.

Currently enrolled in the Board of Governors program at Governors State University, Wells wants to bring her leadership skills to the master’s level Occupational Therapy program here at GSU.

The 22-year-old, who started at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights and attends GSU through the Learning in Context program, is not shying away from setting lofty career goals. There is more to her plan.

While the often-overused adage ‘It takes a village to raise a child’ keeps its focus on the efforts of a community, there is no mention of what it takes to build that village.

Wells’ dream plan, which involves some of her friends at GSU and other universities, is to open up a health clinic in Ford Heights.

This dream plan includes offering volunteer services to Ford Heights and other low-income residents and families.

“My long-term goal is eventually to start my own business in the health field, bringing my education from Governors State and my services learned through the several programs back to the Ford Heights community,” Wells said.

“I have friends that are going through nursing, physical therapy and other programs, and I think about us becoming a team some day. They know it’s my plan,” she added.

Leadershape, focusing on students ages 17-25, has been recognized nationally after starting here in Illinois.

Since its inception 11 years ago, the program has expanded to 20 other colleges across the country, serving more than 1,000 students each year.

Wells found out about the program from Keith Lewis, a counselor in the Learning in Context program.

Serving as an engine to create a spark in a town born of the auto industry, the Learning in Context program continues to produce excellent students with the vision of someone like Sevena Wells.
AT&T CyberNavigator camp educational, informative

The third annual AT&T Cyber Navigators Program, a special collaborative effort between AT&T and Governors State University and the College of DuPage, has completed another successful year.

The daylong camps were designed to teach students who just completed either sixth, seventh or eighth grade some of the reasoning and technological skills learned when using hands-on experiences and real life issues.

"We are extremely pleased with the success of this year's camp," camp coordinator and Governors State University professor Damen Krug said during graduation ceremonies.

"Without the support of AT&T, GSU President Paula Wolff and the instructors who work with the kids every day, it wouldn't be possible."

The program was split into two, half-day sessions. The first half provided training in the exploration of science and the scientific method. The second half of the day involved computer training that will include e-mail, Internet searches, downloading of images, PowerPoint and digital camera technology, as well as other interesting topics.

Improvements to this year's camp included increased technology coverage, teacher training, follow-up activities, assessment of camp goals and increased demonstration of the widerange of applications of technology.

This year also marked the addition of a new branch site located at the College of DuPage. This location served forty students and was essentially identical to the program at GSU.

The College of Education's Damen Krug (top right) talks to students, student teachers and parents during graduation ceremonies in the Hall of Honors.

The addition of the new site improved the accessibility of the program to students in other areas. It also enabled the program to use distance learning and communication technology to a degree not possible before.

The students learned technologies such as Instant Messenger, sending attachments via e-mail, and incorporating images and material sent via e-mail into other programs.

More importantly, two pairs of students were able to confer with each other through the distance learning classroom, enabling students to interact and learn about the technology with hands-on experience. Another major addition this year was inviting teachers and administrators in for a one or two day workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to give teachers and administrators instruction and to allow them to observe and interact with students in the classroom.

Students also received increased exposure to different applications of technology via field trips to such sites as the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum of Natural History and the Adler Planetarium.

GSU/Alumni News

continued from previous page

College of Arts and Sciences alumni excel

- Chuck Roth was recruited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a global positioning system specialist who will interface with various fieldwork projects.

- Deann Grossi accepted a position as a biology and chemistry instructor at the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago.

- Rebecca Conant accepted a new position involving science education outreach programs and grants coordination at the Chicago Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- Kristi Lowe will defend her dissertation and complete her Ph.D. program in environmental microbiology and molecular biology at Georgia Technical University this fall.

- Jennifer Kleinfeld and Abdoulie Njie were accepted to Rush Medical School and start this fall.

- Rick Derks was accepted into the dual M.D., Ph.D. program at the Chicago Medical School, and starts this fall.

- Mark Wojtczak accepted a position with a local environmental consulting company. His primary responsibilities include working on wetland restoration projects.

Congratulations to the alums of CAS!
Alumni golf outing tees off Sept. 18

Governors State University’s office of Alumni Relations is inviting university alumni to the 1999 Alumni Golf Outing, Sept. 18 at the Green Garden Country Club.

Eighteen holes of golf, lunch, dinner, prizes and several other skills competitions for all levels will be part of the fun starting with a putting challenge at 9 a.m. at Green Garden, 9511 W. Monoc-Manhattan Rd., in Frankfort, Ill.

An $80 per person entry will get you 18 holes of golf, lunch and a barbecue dinner at the end of the event.

If golf’s not your bag, you can attend the barbecue dinner at approximately 6 p.m. for $30.

For additional information on the event, call the Alumni Relations office at (708) 534-4128.

Meet... David Carvalho

When Governors State University Foundation Board member David Carvalho was an 8-year-old boy growing up on Somonauk Street in Park Forest, he remembered hearing the talk of building a university just south of where he lived.

When he was a senior at Rich Central High School, he remembers writing an editorial in the school newspaper opposing the campaign of David Barr (also a GSU Foundation Board member) in his bid as District 227 superintendent.

Later on, Carvalho recalls the difficulties he had trying to balance a full-time job with an accounting class at GSU, and giving up on the pursuit.

Somewhere between then and now, he obviously figured out how to balance work and extra activities. He is an accomplished attorney representing the Cook County Bureau of Health Services; president of Flossmoor Elementary School District 161; and GSU Foundation board member to just mention a few of his pursuits.

"Ever since my experience with the accounting class, I’ve always had a tremendous amount of respect for students at GSU. Most of them are doing just that, and I think it’s impressive," Carvalho said.

"It’s really a small world. There’s the history I have with David (Barr), which is funny. He was my attorney when we closed on our house, and we serve together on the board at GSU. Things like that are what makes a strong sense of community."

Carvalho, his wife, and three children have lived in the village of Flossmoor since 1992.