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Wolff gives her last Convocation

Hard work, success of terms to leave lasting footprint on university

It is extremely difficult to fit seven years of emotion and accomplishments into approximately 10 minutes.

This was the scenario facing outgoing Governors State University President Paula Wolff in preparation for last month's Convocation speech “Epilogue as Prologue: Keep All Hands in the Grave.”

Considered by some as a strange title, the point was made clear during her speech: Continue to build on recent successes of the university, and let the negativity die.

Her seven-point speech, keeping the above in mind, focused on “The soul of the university, its character, its civility, its future as a living entity.”

Point One: Transitions are unsettling.

While transitions may create a sense of anxiety and uncertainty as they occur, Wolff noted that staff and faculty should focus on other aspects.

“Transitions offer opportunities. Transitions are also times to benchmark and assess. What are we? What should we be?”

Point Two: Make future decisions based on where you and the university currently stand, and try not to be a “captive of history—imagining the university as it was when you came or as you want it to be.”

Wolff illustrated her point by getting the facts and anticipating the future.

* GSU’s budget exceeds the median operating budget for all institutions, nearly doubling in seven years from $28.6 million per year to $53.6 million. Our endowment is almost six times larger, having gone from $127,000 to $701,000.

* GSU enrollment exceeds the median for all institutions nationally. We have grown 20.1% between 1992 and 1999. Our credit hour have increased 26% in the last seven years.

* GSU continues to grow in terms of a diverse student body. Women make up 70.7% of the

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Convocation - cont'd

Student body. Last year, GSU enrolled the second highest number of African-American students in Illinois, and enrolled 16.7% of all African-American students pursuing master's degrees in the state. Our student population now represents more than 13 different countries.

* GSU continues to break records with its number of graduates each year, most recently surpassing the 1,300 mark for the third year in a row.

* All of the degree programs in the university eligible for accreditation are now accredited or in the process. There are 23 accredited programs.

* As for the future: According to projections developed by the Northeastern Planning Commission, Will County - and especially this region - will experience the largest growth of any region in the Chicagoland area over the next 20 years.

Point Three: Define the direction of the university, and keep it in a positive light.

“Try not to define (the future) in distinction to what you may not have liked in the past. Fighting old demons can be destructive, negative and counterproductive,” Wolff said.

“When demons are gone, they are gone; and you neither can nor need to fight them anymore. There are no hands from the grave.”

Points four and five had to do with the perception of the university through the eyes of an employee.

The focus of point four targeted the principle that the whole is always better than a one person or group of people is without substantial significance in making GSU a fine institution,” Wolff commented.

“The lives you have changed have been myriad. The academic vision you have created has guided a multitude. The gifts you have given are magnificent. A debt of gratitude is owed to you by many.

“Because I have had the opportunity to be here with you, I am among them. Thank You.”

RECOVERING THE SATELLITES: Dr. Mel Muchnik gave a humorous, yet poignant speech on GSU’s trailblazing past and its bright future. Muchnik gave attendees a good laugh recalling the wilder days of hosting a party for the impending re-entry of a Russian satellite to earth. GSU faculty played the role of Nostradamus, predicting the earth-bound hunk of metal would arrive somewhere on the university’s 750 acre tract of land that night. The press release was picked up by the New York Times, which ran a piece on the party.

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College of Arts and Sciences  Erie House program offering educational panacea in Chicago neighborhood

Erie Neighborhood House, with its vibrantly colored hallways teeming with the voices of students and children, is hard to imagine as a cardboard box factory.

People in the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood all gather outside the recently renovated building, talking about recent events, family or events of the day. These people are friends.

This bond is preserved within the ENH - Governor's State University classroom where GSU professor Adriela Fernandez works with students of the College of Arts and Sciences at GSU.

Sitting among them, there is genuine care among the group. A care to succeed and a care to see their fellow students strive for their best.

Most of these students are women from the neighborhood pursuing their bachelor's degree while trying to balance a family, a full time job, or both.

Since 1998, GSU has been giving students in the program a quality college education without worrying about transportation to a traditional campus setting. Courses within the program at ENH cover a wide variety of subjects; computer skills, humanities, the sciences, art, ethnic and gender studies, and professional studies. All of the course work stays relevant to the Integrative Studies work, with a minor offered in either social work or criminal justice.

If you ask the students what got them interested in the program in the first place, a lot of it originally had to do with location. According to mother of two, full time worker and student Gladys Diaz, it was why he started.

"It was right here, and I was interested in finishing up my education," Diaz said. "I had been to some other schools, and the experience wasn't so good. The feeling wasn't there. Here, I'm constantly encouraged by the other students and Dr. Fernandez to work hard. Now, I'm graduating and I'm looking to go on and pursue my master's degree."

Diaz, who will be armed with a bachelor's degree after the spring 2000 trimester, would be a desirable employee by anyone's standards. But she says the inspiration she received in Fernandez' classroom has given her the encouragement to pursue her master's wasn't going to be easy. Extensive amounts of homework, are par for the course - literally.

What Medina and others going was the sense of community coupled with an involved faculty and administration determined to make it work. She, too, is going to pursue a master's degree after she wraps up classes this fall.

"Dr. Fernandez challenges you to work hard, but in a very positive way. She helps you and understands what you're talking about," Medina added.

Fernandez does show her passion in the classroom. Described by students as "very passionate teacher," Fernandez can be spotted at any given time engaged in animated conversation in either Spanish or English. She is humble, however, when it comes to the accolades the students give her. Fernandez says Roger Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is a major reason the program is working.

"He is an inspiration. He's been in higher education for the last 20 or 25 years, and he still cares so much. You don't see that too often. (Oden's) here all the time, checking in on the students, seeing how everyone is, and making sure everyone is happy," Fernandez said.

From the look of things, she is right. When Oden appears in the classroom, everyone knows who he is and greets him.

"It's nice to see how the students have grown and are asserting themselves in the classroom. When you provide students with knowledge in the classroom, it gives them the assurance to assert themselves outside in the working world," he added.

Oden is also well known as a teacher who is devoted to the success of the program. He instructed a Saturday morning class.

"It's very rare that you see a dean teaching a class on a Saturday, let alone an off-campus site, Fernandez said."
Each year during Convocation at Governor’s State University, the deans of the university honor select faculty in their respective colleges for outstanding achievement over the course of the last year.

This year, Faculty Excellence awards were given to 17 individuals whose work made the university stronger.

College of Arts and Sciences
Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had five award recipients. They are as follows:

Gregory Moehring
Dr. Moehring’s contributions to the chemistry programs in instruction and research achieved a level of fruitfulness and accomplishment that was exemplary, according to Dr. Oden. He was honored for excellence in teaching and performance of primary duties and research. He provided instructional leadership for the undergraduate and graduate students with significant commitment toward collaborative research.

Neva Jacquelyn Kilpatrick
Dr. Kilpatrick, professor of liberal arts, was recognized for her work in several facets of university life. She is a member of the GSU Faculty Senate, the Integrative Studies Committee, a member of the Student Communications Media Board, having served as interim director for the Writing Across the Curriculum program. A recognized scholar, she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. Dr. Kilpatrick spent the summer of 1998 researching indigenous and colonial cultures of Mexico and New Mexico.

Mel Muchnik
Internationally known for his efforts in communicating through technology, liberal arts professor Mel Muchnik continues to bring GSU to the technological forefront. Giving seminar presentations in Australia and presenting a paper to the Asian Association of Open Universities in Hong Kong, he provided GSU with an extensive global view and vision. Muchnik and a professor at the University of South Australia taught classes using online activities to connect students in the United States and Australia for web presentations. Locally, he serves on the Millennium Conference Committee and is an active member of the Center for Technology and Information.

Steve Shih
He contributed greatly to the GSU community; Professor Shih has developed four new courses to cover the material required for the Microsoft certificate examination. Also the courses developed by him are incorporated into the master’s degree curriculum in the Management Information Systems NEPiR submitted by the College of Business and Public Administration. Shih was instrumental in setting up an entire computer lab with 20 computers and a server (donated to the university by a local computer company) and GSU becoming an approved academic training program site identified on the Microsoft Web pages. In addition to this, Shih understands experience is essential to a student’s success.

College of Education
Diane Alexander, the dean of the College of Education was happy to announce outstanding individuals for excellence. They were as follows:

Diane Kjos
She recently has worked with Dr. Jon Carlson on a series of videos depicting various experts in counseling and psychotherapy working with clients from the GSU community for publishers Allyn and Bacon. Doctor Kjos is also president-elect of the National Career Development Association. She has won numerous awards including a national award for Counseling Vision and Innovation and an international counseling award. Students consider her an informed, challenging and motivating teacher.

Damen Krug
He has given numerous presentations at conferences on the processes of conducting research. He has presented at the Illinois School Psychology Association and American Psychological Society (with his colleague, Dr. Linda Buyer) twice to the National Association of School Psychologists. As a result of Dr. Krug’s presentation to the American Psychological Society he was invited to submit the presentation in manuscript form to the journal and to present at the American Psychological Society’s annual conference. Professor Krug developed, received funding for and coordinated the AT&T Computer Scholars Program in 1997, 1998 and 1999. This program assists junior high school students in learning how to best use computer technology.

Mary L. Lanigan
During the 1998 academic year, she restructured four Human Performance and Training courses. Dr. Lanigan incorporated Internet technologies into two of these courses. She has created project-based partnerships with the internal and external GSU communities. In 1998, the Chicago Housing Authority, Prevention and more than 25 faculty and staff were clients for Dr. Lanigan’s students. Also in 1998 she presented papers at four conferences and had an article published in Performance Improvement 37. For her dissertation research, Dr. Lanigan won the 1998-1999 International Society for Performance Improvement Outstanding Research and Student Research Award.

David Prasse
Dr. Prasse worked tirelessly in obtaining NASP (National Association of School Psychologist) accreditation for the master’s in School Psychology program here at GSU. Also he was consultant with the Chicago Public School system and LADSE, a special education consortium on the northwest side of the city. Professor Prasse presented a full day workshop on “Environmental Assessment Systems in the Classroom” and a symposium presentation on a “School-based Problem Solving Model” both presented at the Illinois School Psychology Association Conference in winter 1998.

Vinicio Reyes
Dr. Reyes is dedicated to his community and students. One of his students said, “This was my first class at GSU. I hope all are as good as his.” In 1998 he won a Student Faculty Choice Award. He is also very involved in the university’s outreach to Hispanic Americans through Project HOPE. He chairs the Parent Advisory Group, serves on the Board of Trustees and the Francisco Montalvo Jr.
Endowed Scholarship Committee for Project Hope. He was recognized for leadership and mentorship by the Latino Principals Association.

**Diane McClellan**

Dr. McClellan serves as an ad hoc consulting editor for the ERIC digest. Also, she wrote a chapter in the Project Approach Catalog, "Helping Teachers and Preservice Teachers Learn the Project Approach" and a journal article in the referred journal Early Childhood Research and Practice, titled "An Investigation into the Relation to Participation in Mixed-Age or Same-Age Classrooms." She was also an invited speaker at the National Conference on Mixed-Age Grouping. Dr. McClellan is devoted to childhood education. She also serves as co-chair in the development of the Early Childhood Charter School/Family Development Center on GSU grounds.

**Larry Cross**

Recognized by both faculty and students for his excellence in the classroom, Dr. Cross is recognized for his work in the Division of Education. In 1998, he was honored with both a Student Faculty Choice Award and a nomination for Who's Who Among America's Teachers. His excellence is best exemplified by his outstanding work as a professor and coordinator at the Bright Elementary School lab site in Chicago. He has served on 12 committees in the college, chairing the master's in education task force and co-chairing the search committee for the new dean in the College of Education.

**Sharifa Townsend**

Professor Townsend is recognized for her facilitation of creative and innovative learning experiences for her students. She received both a Student Faculty Choice award and was nominated for the Illinois Outstanding Early Childhood Educator award. Her work has been instrumental in ensuring the success with the new Smart Start program built around Crete-Monee School District 201U and the early childhood program.

Children from the district learn through innovative teaching methods implemented by the student teachers within the Early Childhood program.

**University Library**

Rebecca Bostian, director of the University Library, introduced their representative receiving the Faculty Excellence Award.

**Mari Ellen Leverage**

Leverage was recognized for her excellence in the performance of duties and service to the GSU community. In her responsibilities as liaison to the division of Management/Administrative Sciences/Marketing/Public Administration in the College of Business and Public Administration, she has made teaching responsibilities flow more smoothly. She offers library instruction to students, both individual and classroom, in which she emphasizes techniques to access online information resources via the Internet and from home, office or the university library. Her service activities within the university are numerous. She serves as editor of the GSU/University Professionals of Illinois Union newsletter, serves on the executive board of the Faculty Senate and continues to chair the Educational Policies Committee.

**College of Business and Public Administration**

College of Business and Public Administration Dean William Nowlin introduced his college's recipients of Faculty Excellence awards.

**Anthony Andrews**

College of Business and Public Administration Professor Andrews is recognized by both his students and colleagues as an excellent economics teacher. Student comments include "For the first time as a mature graduate student, I found myself spending selfless hours at the library; I became a frequent user of the computer lab and was exposed to various new software programs, and felt I received my money's worth plus a whole lot more." A constant commentary to his work is his willingness to be available at a variety of hours to his students and to create a mentor/protege relationship with many of his students to ensure their success. His teaching has extended to the airways, where he has served as an expert on the U.S. economy for CBS radio affiliate WBBM-AM and its public affairs programming.

**Zam Malik**

College of Business and Public Affairs Professor Malik is recognized for his countless efforts in the area of service to the university. His work in the Faculty Senate, evaluation of the university president for the Board of Trustees, work on the University Personnel Committee and numerous search committees keep him very active. His most recent project is to begin a distance learning project that the World Health Organization is considering for use. The program would involve a student and faculty exchange with the Management Development Institute, New Delhi, India, where he has an offer of a visiting professorship.

**Brad Johnson**

An accounting professor in the College of Business and Public Administration, Johnson's efforts to design and monitor a continually exciting and challenging student-focused learning environment have been successful. Based upon student evaluations, more than 74% said they were extremely satisfied with him as a professor. Dr. Johnson has incorporated technology into all of his classes. And after taking one of his classes each student raised his/her level of computer literacy and proficiency.

His outstanding service includes his work as member of the Kankakee Community College Accounting Advisory Committee, the University Advisory Audit Committee, and the Faculty Senate among others.

**Mary Washington**

As a university professor in accounting, she consistently scores in the 4.0-5.0 range in her accounting courses. Also, Dr. Washington has developed pre-testing procedures for intermediate accounting students, and has also developed integrative final exams for both ACCT813 and ACCT865, which serve as the first and last courses in the M.S. in Accounting program and has proven a good fit with GSU's focus on outcomes assessment. In service to the university and students, Dr. Washington has arranged for two paid internships for accounting students at South Holland Bank and is currently working on developing several more paid experiences for students.
The Governors State community welcomes the several new faces who have joined us in recent months:

Deborah Barnett  
Family Facilitator  
- COE

Constance Crim-Grimes  
University lecturer  
- COE

Margaret Cundari  
Pre-kindergarten teacher  
- COE

Martha Gainer  
University lecturer  
- CHP

Jo Ellen Gisler  
Site coordinator  
- CELCS

Cassandra Morales-Howell  
Assistant to the director  
- COE

Michaell Mott  
University professor  
- COE

Renee Nash  
University Professor  
- CHP

Ellen Pensinger  
Associate Pre-kindergarten teacher  
- COE

Rose Ramey  
Family Facilitator  
- COE

Jill Thompson  
University professor  
- COE

Dorothy Washington-Calvin  
Academic advising  
- CBPA

Julia Ruey-Ju Yang  
Professor  
- COE

Cheryl Hague  
Professor  
- CAS

Donna Nieckula  
Professor  
- CAS

Two well-known faces at Governors State University were named 1999’s recipients of the Gerald C. Baysore Endowed Distinguished Service Award. Ilia Gallagher of Physical Plant Operations and Gloria Schuler of the Center for Extended Learning and Communication Services’ Board of Governors program received the prestigious award during Convocation on Sept. 8 in The Center for Performing Arts.

Gallagher has worked at the university since 1972, where she was a library clerk until she moved to Physical Plant Operations on October of 1975 as a secretory. She held several positions including chief clerk, secretary and administrative clerk. She graduated from GSU in 1989, and was named assistant to the director that same year. “I was totally surprised. I guess I didn’t expect it; I perform a service for the university, and that’s part of why I like it here,” she said. “I wasn’t expecting that honor.”

Gallagher lives in Monee, and is currently working on a master’s degree in the new Management Information Systems program introduced this fall.

Schuler, who is acting director of the Board of Governors degree program, said she was “totally shocked” when she found out she was receiving the award.

“The long-time Park Forest resident and 21-year veteran of the university said the award means a great deal to her.

“I’m delighted to receive the award,” she said. “I knew Jerry (Baysore) when he was here, and I knew that he was an excellent administrator and person. I’ve never heard an unkind word said about him. I am honored to receive the award bearing his name.”

Governors State University brought together top-ranking political and higher education officials to discuss plans for higher education at GSU as well as statewide work.

Among those in attendance were Keith Sanders, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, State Senators Lawrence Walsh and Patrick O’Malley and State Representatives Maggie Crotty and Philip Novak.

Among the topics of conversation was the increased demand for higher education, and how IBHE and its universities plan to work with the demand. Governors State was able to demonstrate the commitment to positive growth, discussing at length the current plans for a new early childhood development center and faculty building.

GSU was also given the opportunity to thank Sen. Walsh for his efforts to obtain financing for a new fire alarm system, arriving at a cost of approximately $900,000.
Globalization the focus of GSU Millennium conference featuring Jean Bertrand Aristide

The approach of the new millennium and globalization inspires hope and expectations along with concerns and fear. Will the global marketplace do for the citizens of the world what the free market did for the United States: improve the standard of living dramatically and build a prosperous middle class? What will be the impact of globalization on health care?

The conference "Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges for the 21st Century," in The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University on Oct. 30, will address those issues. The conference will begin with a welcome from Governors State University President Paula Wolff at 9:30 a.m., followed by the keynote address of The Honorable President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Aristide is a recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights and is former president of the Republic of Haiti.

As president of the Aristide Foundation for Democracy, he is dedicated to opening avenues of democratic participation for those who traditionally have had no voice in national affairs. The foundation also strives to foster dialogue across class and social lines. He is widely considered an expert in the fields of global democracy and political policy.

Following the keynote address by Aristide, there will be several plenary panels and workshops designed to spark lively discussion on issues such as education, globalization and transportation, challenges for labor, economic factors and human rights issues.

These plenary panels and workshops will feature distinguished guests such as Dr. Marvin Zonis, professor at the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago, David Ranney, professor in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois - Chicago, and Mary Houghton, president of Shorebank.

Zonis is critically acclaimed for his classes in international political economy and the psychology of politics and leadership.

Ranney is considered an expert in the fields of community and labor organizations concerned with job creation, retention and assistance to displaced workers.

Houghton is recognized for her work with Chicago based Shorebank, which invests its own resources and attracts external resources to underinvested urban and rural communities in Cleveland, Michigan, Washington state, and right here in Chicago.

Conference registration including lunch is $25 per person, $5 for students.

For information, contact (708) 534-4487.

September employee of the month

Cathy Taffora

You may not recognize Cathy Taffora's picture right away, but her voice is quite familiar. Taffora who's been at Governors State University for 16 years, is the telecommunications specialist at the university. If you call the operator during the off-schedule hours, you will hear Taffora's voice. If you hear the GSU News recordings, several of them are Taffora's. If a student or potential student or student needs to be directed to the right place, she's the one to handle the call.

Recognized for the level of commitment to the job as well as an upbeat personality, the Park Forest native and mother of two says the amount of time she's worked at GSU is testament of her feelings about working here.

"I like the people I work with, and I like the people who work at the university," Taffora said. "It's been a very positive experience, and I really enjoy it."

GSU News

Albert Tuskenis
University lecturer
- COE

Barbara Winicki
University lecturer
- COE

Saul Alvarez
Financial aid advisor
- SAS

George Carpenter
University lecturer
- CAS

Mona Douglas
Secretary IV
- SAS

April Harper
University research associate
- President's office

Jolander Jeffries
Debt management, veteran affairs
- SAS

Rosalyn Malysiak Bertram
University lecturer
- CHP

Ronald McDavid
Graphic designer II
- CELCS

Karla McKinley
Collection Specialist
- Business Office

Latrina Washington
Secretary IV
- University Library

Tracy Connor
Chief clerk
- CELCS

John DeYoung
Technical assistant
- University Library

Maurice Hill
Police officer
- DPS

Atha Hunt II
Police officer
- DPS

Linda McCann
Secretary IV
- CHP

James Parker
Teacher/trainer
- CELCS

Leora Pedric
Police officer
- DPS
Discovery Days coming in November

You may just be starting your fall trimester or completing your summer graduation, but it's never too early to consider the possibilities of an education at Governors State University.

GSU is opening its doors to area prospective students on Nov. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to noon for Discovery Day.

All of the colleges within the university—Education, Arts and Sciences, Health Professions and Business and Public Administration—will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about their programs. Tours of the facilities will also be available for interested students.

And if you have any questions about on-campus activities, clubs or events, the staff of Student Affairs will also be on hand to give you the necessary information.

For further information on the event or to register, call (708) 534-4490, e-mail at gsunow@govst.edu or visit the website at edu www.govst.edu.

Meet... Carney Barr

Carney Barr is one of the original members of the Governors State University Foundation Board of Directors. Carney, along with his brother and fellow foundation board member David Barr, have been actively involved with GSU since 1975.

Barr is currently the finance manager for the Rich Township offices, and has been in the position for the last four years.

Prior to his position in the Rich Township offices, Barr worked as the coordinator of governmental affairs at the Amoco Corporation for 17 years.

The Flossmoor resident has also lived in Rich Township his entire life, giving him more than adequate background of the communities he works with.

"I remember coming to the university 15 years ago, and you could park pretty close to the building during the daytime hours," Barr said. "Now, that isn’t the case."

"There has been a substantial growth in the university over that period of time, and I think it’s a positive sign entering the new millennium. The future looks great, and the university keeps getting better and better."

Barr added that the work the Foundation and GSU President Paula Wolff have managed to accomplish, such as scholarships for students that don’t meet the traditional full-time student, has been great.

"The work that Paula has done here has been tremendous, and has benefited the university greatly," Barr said.