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Children reap benefits of south suburban treasure

The Center for Performing Arts gives area schoolchildren invaluable benefit of art

It is an increasingly familiar site: seeing primary and secondary school children streaming into The Center for Performing Arts for a show.

Whether it's a Saturday matinee or a mid-week performance, these children are receiving benefits not available to the average student.

Having an arts center nearby is one thing. Getting in to use it with such frequency is another. And as much fun as the shows provide, there are costs incurred. Corporations, politicians and councilors have been working very hard to make sure the kids get to enjoy the arts at The Center, allowing them to see or learn something new.

Just one example is the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's matinee performance especially for school children held in November.

During the two morning shows, more than 2,000 children from the region came and went through the theater.

A person that can be considered a friend of The Center is State Sen. Debbie Halvorson, D-Crete. She has provided excellent assistance through a substantial state grant on The Center's behalf, that helps certain financially strapped school districts see shows.

"It's such a great opportunity for all of the children to experience culture and see things that they would not normally get the chance to see. I believe in leveling the playing field, especially when it comes to education and

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cultural experiences," Halvorson said.

"And the kids really enjoy the programs that The Center provides. There is a great spectrum of shows that open all kinds of new worlds for them. The south suburbs are fortunate to have the theater here," Halvorson said.

Other funding sources include the Chicago Tribune Foundation and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. The traditional method of funding through ticket sales also occurs.


Burton Dikelisky, director of the CPA, says the children's shows are always a lot of fun to watch.

The theater recently hosted Child's Play, an interactive group that has members of the audience play along with the cast and work on the plot lines for skits. Programs like this are dear to Dikelisky's heart.

"For me, I've always been a big fan of interactive theater for children, especially when the child is not a passive observer. They get to write the play. They get into something that is literally child's play," Dikelisky said.

"Students get to see something different, and plays expose them to music they wouldn't normally listen to," Dikelisky said.

Karen Reid, chair of The Center for Performing Arts board, said the proliferation of children's shows has been wonderful.

"Children's shows have been a success in many respects. Our programs are always well attended, and having the children get the chance to have a fun and enjoyable theater experience is priceless," Reid said.

Jean Bernstein, a member of both The Center for Performing Arts board and Illinois Arts Council, said the shows have greatly helped the visibility of the university, and they make a great first impression on a possible future student.

"The shows provide an entertaining and educational option for students, and with the theater being such an impressive building, students can't help but have positive feelings about their experiences here. That is paramount," Bernstein said.
"Governor's State's original mission is the appropriate mission for public higher education today: pursuit of outstanding teaching for all students, emphasizing the needs of community college graduates, women, minorities, and older students seeking better skills for new or better jobs; multiculturalism and diversity; interdisciplinary learning; public service, breaking down the high and expensive walls between the ivory tower and the needs of society; and the use of the most current technology in achieving this mission. GSU will be a powerful example in higher education in Illinois."

That was what President Paula Wolff envisioned for GSU in the June 18, 1992 press release announcing her appointment. Read carefully, it is evident she never wavered in her objectives for the university. Whether it is resource allocation, a commitment to quality programs and accreditation, public outreach or tuition stability, the tenets that Wolff set as an example will remain beyond her tenure.

With a student population of 5,615 in 1992, the university has flourished over the last seven years. With more than 9,000 students enrolled annually at GSU, there isn't a more accurate gauge of a university's objective of meeting the students' needs than enrollment.

The budget has increased, from $24 million when Wolff took office, to more than $50 million.

With the new child development center and faculty offices coming to the university in 2000, it will be the largest capital project at the university since construction of The Center for Performing Arts, completed in 1995.

Wolff has maintained her emphasis on making education affordable. GSU still maintains its status as the most affordable university in the state. And with educational outreach programs such as Learning in Context, the dedication to diversity in education continues. Learning in Context offers students from Ford Heights the opportunity to receive a free college education if they maintain certain academic guidelines.

An education is also more accessible at GSU than before. There has been a successful marriage between the technological capabilities of offering and designing courses to fit those needs.

With the Board of Governors degree, Internet offerings, telecourses and myriad off-campus sites, GSU has managed to bring education to the student, as well as expanding the University Park facility.

GSU has the highest percentage of faculty in the state holding a doctorate degree. Each of the programs requiring accreditation out of the 46 offered at the university is accredited. The university also maintains the lowest student to instructor ratio in the state, with an average class size of eighteen students.

When former GSU President Leo Goodman-Malamuth II learned of the appointment of Paula Wolff as the university's new president, he stated "I feel confident in entrusting the university to her very capable hands."

It appears his projection was accurate.
News/Happenings

Communication Disorders program receives reaccreditation

Governors State University's Communication Disorders programs recently received an eight-year reaccreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

CAA is an "officially semi-autonomous council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)" according to Governors State Professor Jay Lubinsky.

Students in the fields of audiology and speech pathology must graduate from a CAA accredited program in order to receive a certificate of clinical competence from ASHA.

"We're delighted to have it," Lubinsky said in regard to receiving the eight-year approval. "It is critical that we have it."

The College of Health Professions' programs were accredited by CAA in 1987, and again in 1992. The first term of accreditation is always five years, with subsequent approvals lasting eight.

In order to receive accreditation, faculty had to prepare an application based on a rigorous self-study of the program. Two site team members spent two days on campus interviewing faculty, students, practicum supervisors and administrators in the program for a thorough review.

Governors State's facilities for the Communication Disorders programs were the first in the nation to receive CAA accreditation without having an on-campus clinic. Since then, the University of Pittsburgh and Rockhurst University in Nebraska have followed suit.

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Black Colleges and Universities fair gives south suburban students good look at schools

A student makes a careful selection (above) on his application, while representatives from Fisk University and Smith College talk to students.

More than 500 students from surrounding high schools took a trip to Governors State University to take part in the Black Colleges and Universities Fair on Nov. 12. Nationally renowned institutions such as Howard University and Spelman College were on hand to meet students.

Master's level Physical Therapy program receives full accreditation status

The College of Health Professions received word Nov. 15 that the master's-level Physical Therapy program has received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

The program has been operating under "Probationary Initial Accreditation" status from CAPTE, a standard procedure for new programs.

Students graduating from Governors State since the programs' inception have excelled when taking their state and national board exams in their respective fields.

GSU students in the College of Health Professions have achieved a 94 percent success rate when taking their licensure exams for the first time.

Russell Carter, Physical Therapy program coordinator, is extremely pleased with announcement of the status, and sees this as an endorsement of the college as a whole.

"The awarding of full initial accreditation status to the Physical Therapy program at GSU is a significant achievement for the university, the College of Health Professions and our interim dean, Ami Wang, and the program faculty," Carter stated. "It clearly indicates that the program has met the high standards for a quality education established by the physical therapy professions accrediting body (CAPTE).

"The accreditation status assures the community and our students that our graduates have received a quality education and have been well prepared for the practice of physical therapy. Moreover, receipt of this status reflects the continuing commitment of GSU to serving the community and our students."

Wang, echoing Carter's sentiments, added that the accreditation "is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the physical therapy faculty to create such a strong program."
University surprises new faculty member with outpouring of support for her former homeland following earthquake tragedy

“There is a feeling of genuine concern and care from everyone here,” said Governors State University Professor Julia Yang as she worked through her “Trauma Relief Initiatives” outline and itinerary. Yang, a professor in the College of Education’s Psychology and Counseling program and a specialist in trauma counseling, moved to Flossmoor from Taiwan just before the start of the fall trimester.

Shortly after leaving, a massive earthquake devastated Taiwan. With a recorded death toll of more than 2,300 and another 100,000 left homeless, the physical and emotional trauma is sweeping and massive.

Rescue relief efforts from approximately 20 countries worldwide came to the region to aid in any way possible. Yang and several other faculty and students at GSU can be included among them.

While they could not be there physically, faculty from the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences’ computer sciences faculty and her cohorts in the Psychology and Counseling programs have created a website for victims of the Taiwan earthquake.

“Tragedies and disasters force everyone to face their own vulnerability and mortality, and have overwhelmed our ability to cope. Such a sudden and totally unexpected trauma disrupts an adult and child’s sense of control and belief of how the world around us works,” Yang said.

“The traumatic memory of the panic, chaos and deadly scenes can echo in the future, and manifests itself in physical and psychological illness.”

After originally using conventional telephone conversations to conduct grief counseling and offer advice to her former peers at the University of China - Taiwan, the cost became exorbitant. The need for assistance, however, was growing. And with the help of the GSU community, the website was developed.

The goal, Yang said, “is to provide practical and accessible information and support for the victims and trauma workers in the Chinese and English speaking communities in the areas of self-help, helping others, training, and spiritual help.”

The development of a website is a large task that had to be completed in a short amount of time. And Yang said it couldn’t have been done without the help of several others.

A Unix account was opened immediately from Information Technology Services.

Graduate student Jason Chen offered his knowledge of computer skills after learning of the project from College of Arts and Sciences Professor Dr. Yun-Yau “Steve” Shih. Cindy Trudell and Beverly Bronson, graduate students in the Division of Psychology and Counseling, are assisting in ongoing research and resource collection for the site.

While there is the obvious situation of limited access to the Internet, Yang and others have been working to get help for the Taiwan-ese in other ways.

Yang authored a leaflet, which was translated into Chinese and distributed to each junior high and elementary school in the town of Kaohsiung, where children were transported for schooling.

David Ainsworth and the rest of the staff in Communications Services donated their time and efforts to develop a video dealing with trauma. Main points on the video included understanding tragedy and stress, patterns of family responses to stress, children’s post-trauma perceptions and behaviors, and spirituality in a time of crisis.

Psychology and counseling Professor Diane Kjos, who has been actively involved in the counseling efforts, will accompany Yang to Taiwan in the first two weeks of December. There, Yang and Kjos will lead several trauma relief training workshops.

Those workshops include the Chinese Guidance Association annual conference, as well as addressing junior high school counselors in two regions of the country.

During the presentations, Kjos and Yang will rely heavily on both the website and the video.

“Without the support of Dean Diane Alexander and the faculty from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education, I don’t know how we could have gotten this done,” Yang said. “It shows that people really care for others.”
The Presidential Search Committee announced that three candidates for GSU president will be interviewing on campus between December 1 and December 7.

The search committee screened nearly 50 resumes and conducted two-hour-long interviews of-campus with 11 very strong candidates. There is also 2 one additional off-campus interview scheduled; if appropriate, the candidate will be invited for on-campus interview.

Candidates have been asked to make a 20 minute presentation on the topic "What are the major challenges and opportunities of higher education today?" The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

The candidates are as follows:

Dr. Beverly Schmoll, who will be on campus Dec. 1-2, has served as the interim chancellor at the University of Michigan-Flint for fourteen months and has just returned to serve as the dean of graduate programs and research in the Physical Therapy Department.

Dr. Wilton Bradshaw, who will be on campus Dec. 2-3, is currently provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and has served in this role since 1995.

He has also served as vice president and dean for graduate studies and research at Georgia Southern University and dean and assistant dean of graduate studies at Florida Atlantic University.

He has been a professor of psychology at Georgia Southern University and a tenured associate professor of psychology at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Bradshaw has a Ph.D. in psychology (neuroscience) from the University of Pittsburgh and has an M.A. in experimental psychology and a B.A. in psychology from Florida Atlantic University.

Dr. Stuart I. Fagan, who will be on campus Dec. 6-7, is currently provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of political science at Roosevelt University. He has served in this role since 1994 and serves as the chief executive officer of the university.

He has also held a number of administrative positions at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and was an associate professor of political science there.

He has held a number of positions at Columbia University and was an assistant professor of political science. Dr. Fagan has a Ph.D. and an M.A. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.A. in government from Boston University.

Students come to "Discover the Possibilities" at GSU

Students came in droves to "Discovery Day," Governors State University's open house for prospective students on Nov. 6.

Dr. Michael Toney, executive director of enrollment services in the Office of Admissions, along with the entire admissions staff made the event successful. Faculty, administrators and staff were on hand to describe the programs and answer any questions prospective students may have had.
Campus landmark gets overhaul, keeps old principles intact

Fast becoming a fixture of rural landcapses past, the traditional American barn could almost be considered an endangered structure style. Recognizing this, Governors State University is taking careful steps to restore one such classic barn on university grounds near the University Parkway entry.

Considering it has been subject to more than 100 years of hard use and inclement weather, the barn has held up quite well. Like a crack in an egg, however, once a weakness is exposed, the deterioration process is accelerated and almost impossible to stop.

That's why GSU sought out barn restoration expert Bob Przewlocki of Wayne, Ill. Przewlocki's company, Preservation Trade, specializes in barn restoration, and understands the historical nature of barns.

This is important, as the barn's original building, there are some antiquated processes that have to be retraced in order to ensure authenticity. Instead of using things like metal bracing and other framing techniques currently employed in the construction industry, the barn uses the classic notch-and-peg style of joining the structural beams.

Lightning rods and cupolas, now used more for decoration than for functionality, will also be replaced to their original condition.

"Great detail and consideration has been given to bring this barn to the way it appeared decades ago, and the work of Mr. Przewlocki will make that possible," Tim Arr, interim vice president of administration and planning, said.

News/ Happenings

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Muchnik invited to Australia for conference

Dr. Mel Muchnik, professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been invited as a guest of the University of South Australia in the capacity of chair of the Board of National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN).

The world conference in September of 2000 will focus on the issue of distance education.

New faces at Governors State University

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

Kyusuk Chung
University professor - College of Health Professions

Todd Tucker
Library technical assistant I - University Library

Colleen Buche
Police telecommunicator - Department of Public Safety

Pamela Wells
Research associate - Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services

Phyllis Bacon
Research associate - Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services

November

Employee of the Month

Annie Ware

A person who has been recognized as going above and beyond the call of duty for a student, Annie Ware knows what it's like to be in that position. It was "not too long ago" that Ware was a student at Governors State, where she received two master's degrees, one in Psychology and one in Visual Arts.

Ware, employed as a library technical assistant III, has been working at GSU since May of 1990, and says it's the closeness of the co-workers and the ability to help the student that makes her so energetic.

"I really enjoy the people here. Being so close to my co-workers, I feel like they're family to me," Ware said.

"But I think the biggest enjoyment is helping the student, and being able to find what they need, and see their faces go from panic to relief. I know the feeling."
Woodard appointed interim associate provost

Governor's State University interim Provost Jane Wells recently announced the appointment of longtime GSU employee Dr. Peggy Woodard to the position of interim associate provost.

Woodard, an employee of the university since 1983, is director of student development in Student Affairs and Services. She will assume that role once again when a permanent associate provost is chosen. "I'm honored to have been chosen, and hope to be able to contribute as much as possible," Woodard said.

Woodard is a 1998 recipient of the Bayshore Award for integrity, competence, dedication and civility, given annually at GSU. She was also recently appointed to the presidential search committee.

"We are fortunate to have someone like Peggy Woodard as a member of the Governors State community, where we can all benefit from her knowledge and hard work," Wells said.

Meet... Billie Paige

A successful attorney and important figure in Illinois politics, Governors State University Foundation Board member Billie Paige is a staunch proponent of Governors State University for several reasons.

An assistant to former Governor Jim Thompson during his administration and formerly the assistant director in the Department on Regulation in Education, Paige has been with the Foundation Board for five years.

"Governors State University has done an excellent job in its commitment to diversity. The university is an accurate reflection of the surrounding communities and the people who are working in them every day," Paige said. "And I believe that is extremely important. The other thing the university is managing to do, is to get grants and scholarships into the hands of students who need them. This is an extremely important and relevant issue. "("President) Paula Wolff has been working extremely hard, and with success, to make this happen."

The board has also been able to raise money for scholarships, something Paige sees as "one of the successes" she and other board members have managed to accomplish as of late.

A Crete Township resident, Paige is married to husband George, and has two sons, Steven and Gary.