Governors State University

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Holiday gathering cause for celebration

Gov. Edgar, Msgr. McDermott, several others honored for their hard work in and for university

At its December 10 holiday reception, Governors State University honored several important figures working both within and outside of the university. Their efforts in the fields of government, philanthropy and academia have helped to elevate the university.

Sally Jackson, president of the Governors State University Board of Trustees, presented the bas relief portrait of former Governor Jim Edgar for a position in the Hall of Governors.

Governor Edgar was an important contributor to Illinois Higher Education and Governors State in particular during his tenure.

Former Governor Jim Edgar (left) was on hand at the holiday celebration for presentation of his bas relief to be presented in the Hall of Governors (Below). Presenting the relief were President Paula Wolff (center) and Governors State Board of Trustees Chair Sally Jackson

Throughout his term, he was a steadfast supporter of the budget recommendations of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, providing a 22% increase in public university appropriations during his tenure.

During that time, GSU's appropriations increased an impressive 32%. He supported the creation of separate governing boards for each of the public universities and then the change to permit the student trustee to become a voting member.

Gov. Edgar and the General Assembly during his tenure also supported major capital projects for the university, including the Center for Performing Arts, the Outreach and Technical Services building, and the human anatomy lab.

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Celebration - Cont'd

President Wolff talks with Gov. Edgar and State Sen. Larry Walsh (right).

Also honored, albeit running a little bit late, was retiring Governors State University Board of Trustee member Frances Grossman. Grossman has been an integral element in the board’s development since its inception.

An original member of the board, Grossman served as head of the finance committee, and has assured sound fiscal management of the university’s planning and long-range fiscal policy. A person of great drive and energy, Grossman was recently named vice president of Chicago-based Shorebank, an institution known for its outreach efforts to struggling communities.

New to the GSU Board of Trustees is Harry Klein. Klein was introduced to the GSU community as the newest member of the Board of Trustees.

Klein, 61, is a lifelong resident of Homewood and successful businessperson. He is founder and president of Chicago Financial Enterprise.

Now retired, Klein said he is "looking forward to his work on the GSU Board." Mr. Klein’s term begins immediately, and runs until January of 2005.

Another integral member of the GSU community has been Richard Gibb.

Gibb was recognized after serving as president of the Governors State University Foundation board. A leader of industry, Gibb is currently corporate president of Federal Signal.

He has managed to provide the Foundation Board with a keen sense of focus and businesslike determination. Gibb believes in the importance of partnerships between industry and higher education, and has made great strides to forge such bonds. Recently, Federal Signal completed filming their institutional worker’s compensation video at Governors State.

Very few people have reached out to people in Chicagoland as much as Monsignor Ignatius McDermott: Still going strong in his nineties, his efforts to restore good physical and mental health to others continues to grow.

Through his decades of work as a priest, staff member at Maryville Academy, leader at the Chicago Archdiocese’s Catholic Charities, founding member of the Haymarket House, and creator of both the Central States Institute of Addiction and Intervention Instruction Inc., he has made a life of helping others.

Keeping Msgr. McDermott’s efforts in mind, Governors State University announces the four winners of the new Monsignor Ignatious McDermott Endowed Scholarship. The winners are: John Cebuhar of Chicago; Jerri Gantz of Tinley Park; Tiffany King of Chicago; and Victor Wabomnor of Country Club Hills.

The scholarship is awarded to degree-seeking students currently enrolled in the College of Health Professions’ Addiction Studies program; however, the scholarship is available to all CHP students.

"It is an honor to be a part of Governors State University’s all-American team, who through this scholarship will educate and train these counselors to assist fellow human beings whose lives have been mired in addiction," Msgr. McDermott said regarding the new scholarship.

Each of the four students will receive a one-time scholarship award of $500. Students must be in good academic standing at GSU or their former college/university with a 2.75 grade point average (4-point scale), and show a personal goal of assisting the underserved.

GSU Board of Trustees member and scholarship organizer Barbara “Bobbie” Peterson
Celebration - Cont'd

GSU Board of Trustees member Bobbi Peterson (above, left) turns the podium over to Msgr. McDermott (above, right). Rep. Phil Novak (bottom, left), President Paula Wolff and Sen. Larry Walsh stop by the Department of Public Safety office.

of Beecher is extremely pleased to see the scholarship come to fruition. "He has made a positive difference in so many people's lives, and with the scholarship we will have the potential to educate people that will carry on the tradition," Peterson said. "We are honored," GSU President Paula Wolff said "to establish this scholarship in the illustrious name of Monsignor McDermott. And congratulations to Bobbie Peterson, who had the vision and raised the money for the scholarship. Students for many years will benefit from this gift. These talented and deserving students embody the values and vision of Father McDermott. We are proud to award these scholarships to them." Honorary chairs of the scholarship include Lura Lynn Ryan, First Lady of Illinois, and Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.

Governor's State University's state legislators, Senator Larry Walsh and Representative Phil Novak served an integral role in allocating more than $900,000 in funding to upgrade the fire safety equipment at GSU.

Sen. Walsh currently serves on the Agriculture and Conservation, Financial Institutions, and Local Government committees. He is the minority spokesman of the Local Government Committee.

Rep. Novak serves on the committees on Environment and Energy (Chair); Financial Institutions, Veterans' Affairs, Electric Utility Deregulation (Chair), Committee of the Whole; Registration and Regulation, and Tobacco Settlement Proceeds.

Governors State student honored with Lincoln Laureate award

Senior Communication Disorders student Mildred Herbst was selected to receive the prestigious Lincoln Laureate Award. The award, presented to her by Governor George Ryan, is given to students excelling in both curricular and extracurricular activities within the university.

The Oak Forest resident is currently the vice president of the Student Senate and a student senator. In addition, she serves on the Academic Accountability Advisory Group, and is actively involved in the Muslim Student Organization and the National Student Speech Hearing and Language Student Associations.

She was also instrumental in getting students from GSU involved in the Rich Township Unity Diversity Day celebration. Herbst came to GSU from South Suburban College, where in addition to schoolwork, she worked as a paid tutor for students.

These activities have not kept her from her course work, as she has maintained a position on the dean's list with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 on a 4-point scale.

Herbst, center, poses with the governor and a representative from the Lincoln Laureate program.
Morrisons continue support, announce endowed scholarship winners

From left to right are: Donald and Helen Morrison, scholarship recipients Jean Knight and Roxanne Easter, GSU President Paula Wolff, and GSU Foundation President David Barr.

Two south suburban brothers and their families have been instrumental in supporting the education of students at Governors State University.

Donald and Helen Morrison and Wilbur and Sharon Morrison have been supporting endowed scholarships for students in the 1990s and into 2000 with endowed scholarships

Last month, they took time to have lunch and visit with the most recent recipients of each family's endowed scholarship.

Jean Knight (winner of the Don and Helen Morrison award) and Roxanne Easter (Winner of the Wilbur Morrison award) both expressed their gratitude for the scholarship.

Jean Knight, a returning student who first came to GSU in 1978, said “The scholarship has provided me the opportunity to continue - and complete - my degree in higher education. Easter agreed, adding that “I would not have been able to finish if it weren't for the scholarship.”

University seeks third party input

Governors State University, in its mission to assure academic quality, will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit, April 4-17, 2000, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Governors State has been accredited by the commission since 1970.

Its accreditation is at the bachelor and master’s degree level and includes degree sites at various other locations within the state.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of six accrediting agencies in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis.

Institutional accreditation evaluates an entire institution and accredits it as a whole. Other agencies provide accreditation for specific programs.

Accreditation is voluntary. The Commission accredits approximately 950 institutions of higher education in a 19-state region. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

For the past year and a half, Governors State has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission’s requirements and criteria for accreditation. The evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the college; following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action. The public is invited to submit comments regarding Governors State University:

Public Comment on Governors State University:
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Written, signed comments must be received by March 17, 2000.

Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.
December employee of the month

Andrea Gaz, a 12 year veteran of the business office at Governors State, said she was so surprised to be the December employee of the month that she "almost fell over."
"I was shocked, and totally surprised," Gaz added.
Gaz, who enters student information for the business office, says the numbers work is something that really makes her enjoy her work.
"I've always liked working with numbers. It's enjoyable work for me."

Civil Service Day a rousing success

Governors State University's 16th Annual Civil Service Day provided a time of celebration, music, shopping and entertainment for the more than 240 civil service employees here at the university.
The GSU Civil Service group was not alone in the celebration, either, as civil service representatives from Chicago State and Northern Illinois Universities came to GSU for the good times.
"It was definitely a successful event, with great university participation," Civil Service Senate President Lou Ella Rozier said. "We found out that we have several multi-talented people working among us."

News/ Happenings

GSU plans Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events

Governors State University is continuing its tradition of honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with a community gathering on Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon in The Center for Performing Arts. The event is free of charge.
Philanthropist, law student and former Chicago Bear Chris Zorich will give the keynote address during the gathering. Zorich is known for his tireless support of those in need of assistance, giving both time and effort.
Among the several participants include the Rich Central High School and Kenwood Academy Choirs. For additional information, contact (708) 534-5000.

Early Childhood Conference coming in March

Governors State University and the South Suburban Association for the Education of Young Children present their second annual early childhood conference, "See How They Grow... Meeting the Needs of Young Children."
Conference - cont'd

The conference on March 18, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will be held throughout several locations at GSU. The keynote presentation will be given by the Public Policy Theatre, using theater to teach and to heal has lead them to perform in a variety of child advocacy arenas.

In addition to the keynote, there will be a total of 34 conference sessions offered at four different times. Topics range from storytelling and book making, to teaching and addressing issues regarding the autistic student. Other topics include: AD/HD behavior; reading; sexual abuse prevention education; outdoor learning environments; arts and crafts; and infant massage. Sessions will be based on available seating.

The conference also has a special lunchtime feature with nationally renowned educator, Dr. Lillian Katz. Dr. Katz will share her views on changes in early childhood education and what has remained constant. Dr. Katz is professor emerita of Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and is author of several books and articles. Her current role includes serving as editor for the first online peer reviewed Early Childhood journal Early Childhood Research & Practice. For 13 years she wrote a monthly column for parents of three- and four-year-olds in Parents Magazine.

For further information or to register, contact the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at Governors State University, (708) 534-4487, or fax (708) 534-1165.

GSU continues to build on future

After presenting several options for the new faculty offices, architect Carol Ross-Barney of the firm Ross-Barney/Jankowski presented a concept that has been met with wide acceptance. To be located south of the main entrance of the university, the offices would be accessible through the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health Professions.

The mostly glass, 4-story structure would allow faculty and students the accessibility of the current structure, while being located close to the parking lots. Other features of the building include a courtyard between the new and old building and bridge spans across the current loading dock and the College of Health Professions. The plan will again be shown at the next Governors State Board of Trustees meeting on March 17.

GSU continues to build on future
Occupational, Physical Therapy graduates celebrate with pinning ceremony

The pinning ceremony for Governors State University’s second occupational therapy and physical therapy graduates was filled with mixed emotions.

While the programs received full national accreditation status from the Center for Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), the graduating class mourned the loss of fellow student Rich Glogowski.

Illinois Lt. Governor Corrine Wood keynote the event, talking first-hand on how important both physical and occupational therapy was to her when she was recovering from treatment for breast cancer.

“It was one of the most difficult times in my life, and it would have been impossible without the help of people like yourselves,” Wood said. Wood was also emotional when she mentioned that she would be re-familiarized with the therapy process, after recently receiving word that her mother would be undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

The event was not without emotional moment, physical therapy program director Russell Carter acknowledged Rich Glogowski, who lost his life while in his first year of classes. Glogowski’s wife and family were in attendance during the ceremony.

“He was a hard working and well-liked. We all miss him very much,” Carter said.

Student Jim Donahue addresses the audience during the ceremonies.

Santilla Terry entertained the crowd with song.

New faces at Governors State University

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

Marlene Castellanos
Admissions counselor
-Student Affairs Services

Linsey Cuti
Research associate
-Student Affairs Services

Stefanie Coleman
Administrative specialist
-College of Arts and Sciences

Phyliss Johnson
Special project manager
-Center for Extended Learning and Communication Services

Dianne Kronika
Assistant to General Counsel
-University Legal Counsel

James McGee
Police Officer
-Department of Public Safety

Charles Nolley
Director of Communication Services
-Communication Services

Cori Orlando
Early Childhood teacher
-College of Education

Dion Paul
Assistant to Development Director
-The Center for Performing Arts

Allan Roth
Management system specialist
-Center for Extended Learning and Communication Services

Jeffrey Slovak
Associate director of planning
-Budget and Planning
After months of hard work, the Governor's State University Presidential Search Committee completed their report in time for the Dec. 10 Board of Trustees meeting. The report included qualitative assessment statements from GSU employees that attended the meetings and interviews with the three candidates. The report did not include a recommendation for any specific candidate, but related qualitative information acquired through results of surveys handed out to the GSU community. The group of 20 included at least one representative from all governing bodies at GSU.