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Governors State community welcomes future President Fagan

Future President Stuart Fagan and current President Paula Wolff share a laugh during the press conference in the president's office recently.

After myriad appearances, walk-abouts and face-to-face interviews, Stuart Fagan is getting himself prepared to take over the position of president at Governors State University after being appointed by the GSU Board of Trustees.

Serving as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Roosevelt University in Chicago's south Loop for the past six years, he is ready to take over from current President Paula Wolff on April 1.

Looking for a 'Smooth transition' into new position

"The typical students at Governors State, much like Roosevelt, are serious adult learners who know what they want. They want a high-quality, accessible and affordable education, a superb faculty, and a small class size, and GSU provides that. My job is to tell that story," Fagan remarked.

Wolff, who had not formally met Fagan prior to his arrival on campus, felt that "The university is in extremely capable hands with Stuart Fagan. His past ac
complishments make him an excellent person for the position, and I believe the transition will go quite well.”

That eye on the future includes several plans, including creating a five-year strategic plan and beginning searches for key positions.

With Wolff’s current five-year plan coming to a close, Fagan said much of his time will be researching and listening to what is happening in and around the university.

“I’m committed to walking around and discussing what each of the colleges and divisions are doing. That type of input is invaluable,” he said.

Other issues he would like to address before arriving on April 1 include the start of searches for three positions at the university: provost; vice president of administration and planning; and dean of the College of Health Professions.

“The university is in the fortunate position of having incredibly skilled people serving on an interim basis in all of the positions, but I would like to see the search processes get underway before April 1,” Fagan added.

While he does consider himself a “hands-on administrator,” Fagan realizes that a university president cannot be everywhere all at once. “You will see me walking around, that is something I want to do.

“But a person cannot, and should not run everything, and I don’t want to. One needs a strong administrative staff.”

Sally Jackson, chair of the GSU Board of Trustees said she and fellow board members “look forward to a quality relationship between the office of the president and the board, and hope to continue the pattern of success at Governors State.”

Faculty Senate President Jagan Lingamneni said he is pleased with the Board’s selection of Fagan, adding that he “is understanding of the diverse issues faced at a university, and brings a strong sense of
leadership to GSU."

"The construction and maintenance of external relationships with community-based organizations is another essential that must be created and maintained. You need to have someone running the ship during that time."

As for the organizational aspects of the university, he sees it as "not atypical," and does not foresee any radical changes at this time.

And, like Wolff, Fagan plans to teach. He is looking to teach a class that will allow him to draw on an extensive background that includes political science, collective bargaining and the politics of international debt.

He also plans to become a resident of the south suburbs. He and his wife, Ora Simcha-Fagan, are currently looking in the region.

Simcha-Fagan commented that she enjoys the academic atmosphere Governors State exudes, and has a fondness for the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

"The people of Governors State seem to be very professional and enjoy their work here," she said.

"The sculpture park also gives the university an added dimension of culture and uniqueness."
GSU offering leadership training course for people with disabilities

Governors State University’s South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center is now offering a course in leadership training for people with disabilities.

The three-credit course is designed to enhance the leadership skills of people with disabilities and those involved with people with disabilities. Leadership will be explored in terms of both public issues and pragmatic skills.

A broad spectrum of course topics will include human rights, human relations, regional issues, volunteerism, organization and mechanics of meetings, and the challenges of group work.

Course instructors will include experts from the south metropolitan region. Many of these instructors have disabilities. Their experience will enhance the learning experience for all those who participate.

The course (PSYC 500) will be held during the Winter session, Block 3, on Fridays from March 3 to April 14, 2000. For additional information, please contact GSU’s South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at (708) 534-4487.

Diversity Dinner participants wanted

The South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Council (SMRLC) at Governors State University is again in the process of arranging the annual Diversity Dinners event, which is scheduled for April 6.

With a focus on bringing together Continued on p. 5

Illinois Governor George Ryan and local legislators recently visited a site that is the beginning of a groundbreaking educational concept.

With the collaborative efforts of Governors State, Crete-Monee School District 201-U and legislators, the framework has been laid for a new charter school and family development center for children in the south suburban region.

The Family Development Center and Smart Start programs, currently housed at the former Crete-Monee Middle School site, address the needs and education of parents and children ranging in age from newborn to toddler.

After receiving majority approval from the 201-U school board, the charter school program is ready to move forward this fall.

“This family center is exactly the type of community program we need to help strengthen families, reach our children early and give them the best,” Gov. Ryan said during his Feb. 4 visit addressing students, parents and the school’s staffs.


Governor State President Paula Wolff thanked Gov. Ryan and the legislators for their foresight and commitment.

“We are pleased to have all of you here. The support you have provided in Springfield for programs such as this has been invaluable, and we are deeply gratified,” Wolff said. “It will provide students young and old the opportunity to learn in a creative and groundbreaking environment.”

The program is a center for perpetual learning, where students enrolled in colleges throughout Governor State have the chance to learn from children ranging in age from newborn to fourth grade.

The charter school will be housed at the Crete complex until a new, state-of-the-art facility will be completed at GSU (slated for fall of 2001).

The school will initially accept 66 applicants from 201-U and surrounding school districts.

The two programs were created to achieve three goals:

1. To provide a state-of-the-art program for
GSU students to get practical experience in serving children and their families.

2. To provide early childhood and family support services to eastern Will County, which has high demand but is lacking in needed services.

3. To provide high-quality, low-cost childcare and health and social services to Governors State University students, who are predominantly female (70%) and many of whom are single heads of households with two or more dependents.

The FDC will also serve GSU employees and the socio-economically needy families in the region.

All aspects of the children’s development are addressed at the FDC, from infant massage and motor skills to reading and sharing.

GSU has added new academic degree programs in fields that support the work of the Family Development Center, which include: Early Childhood Education; Social Work; Occupational Therapy; and Physical Therapy. With existing degree programs in Nursing, Counseling, Addictions Studies, among others, GSU has a comprehensive array of service programs.

The Governor and General Assembly have provided support through the Illinois FIRST program to construct a state-of-the-art facility on GSU’s campus to house the program. Nearly $14.0 million has been appropriated through Illinois FIRST to support phase I construction of a new teaching/learning complex on GSU’s campus. This includes nearly $4.0 million for the Family Development Center.

Phase II of the project, which is included in the Governor’s FY 2001 capital request, includes an additional $2.6 million for the completion of the Family Development Center building.

In FY 2000, the FDC received over $300,000 in support from the Illinois State Board of Education to operate parent training, pre-kindergarten, and prevention services. The program currently serves over 400 families.

The FDC is also supported by a multi-year grant from the Irving Harris Foundation, and has received program development support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, making this a public-private partnership.

The FDC has also had past support from the Illinois Department of Human Services through the Child Care Quality Enhancement grant program.

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**EconomicsAmerica uses family farm as learning focus**

EconomicsAmerica and the Office of Economic Education at Governors State University will hold a spring conference, “Helping Meet State Standards in Economics.”

The event, April 4 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will use “Economics and the Family Farm” as the featured platform.

At the conference, speakers will address topics that relate to economics and agriculture, such as the effect of NAFTA on farmers in the Midwest, the future of the family farm, and farm subsidies. In addition to current data, there will be ideas about the ways to link Illinois State Goals and Standards projects to the economics of the family farm.

At the end of the day, each participant will receive a copy of the curriculum. Fee is $25 for IASET members, $35 for non-members. For additional information or to register, contact the Office of Economic Education in the College of Business and Public Administration at (708) 534-4925.

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**News/ Happenings**

**Salute to Graduates**

As an aid to students entering the next phase of their careers, GSU is offering a host of activities and services.

On April 5th, GSU will host Commencement Preparation Days in the Hall of Governors, beginning at 10 a.m. The featured topic will focus on Internet-based job searches, and will be offered at three different times throughout the day: 11:15 a.m., 2:45 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.

Graduating students can also register for GSU’s resume referral program, offered through the Office of Career Services. Your resume can be referred for positions that are advertised through the Career Services Office. To register, students need to submit a resume and complete the Career Services registration form.

Photo services will also be available through Chappell Studios. Students will be provided a cap and gown for the photo session. Jostens will be on hand for students to order caps and gowns, personalized announcements and class rings.

On the lighter side, graduating students are invited to attend the graduation picnic to celebrate their academic achievement on May 20, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free; however, a reservation is required for admission. For registration or any additional questions regarding the picnic, contact the Student Life Services Office at (708) 534-4550 before May 13.

**January Employee of the Month**

Mark Hampton

Mark Hampton, library operations assistant in the University Library, said he is pleased to be named the February employee of the month, but said there is a downside.

"There are so many of my co-workers that have not had the opportunity yet, and they definitely deserve it," he said. "They all work very hard, and go unnoticed."

Hampton has been working at Governors State for the last 24 years, working the entire time for the library.

"I like the diversity of people. I've met so many people from different countries, worked with people from all over. It has given me the chance to learn a lot from all of them," Hampton added.

**Ethnic Heritage Ensemble lets students get in on the act during concert, presentation**

The Student Life Division at Governors State University provided some students a unique opportunity to participate with the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble musical group on February 3 in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

A select group of students from Project HOPE, Learning In Context and the International Student Services Office at Governors State learned how to build homemade instruments under the direction of the ensemble on January 29.

And during the performance, they were asked to come on stage and take part in the musical festival.

Students also learned several African and African-American traditions with a dramatic musical program led by Chicago percussionist, vocalist, teacher and artist Kahil El'Zabar. The students worked for several hours, learning the culturally diverse backgrounds of the music and the instruments they made for the presentation.

Students practiced hard (top) before they performed in front of the audience (above).
"Creating Connections" delves into safety of schools

After the first successful town hall meeting regarding School and Community: Changes and Challenges, Governors State University kept the focus on the safety issues facing students and educators in primary and secondary schools.

On Feb. 24 in the Sherman Music Recital Hall, renowned education consultant Gary Goldman discussed "Creating Connections." Goldman, along with the participants tried to focus on the issues involved and the relationships necessary for connections to be made with students, and a possible plan of action.

Goldman is a recognized leader and author in the field of education reform. His innovative curriculum educates adults and students in total quality, leadership development, interpersonal collaboration and empowerment.

The College of Education at Governors State is offering one credit hour to educators who complete the series of seminars. The third event is tentatively planned for April 2000.

For further information regarding credit, contact the College of Education at (708) 534-4050. To attend the April meeting or for any additional questions, contact the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at (708) 534-4487.

Watershed workshop assesses programs, plans for the region

The Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership, a conglomerate of civic organizations in the region, gathered on Feb. 24 and 25 in The Center for Performing Arts lobby to identify issues surrounding the region.

The group has been meeting regularly in recent months, identifying projects and plans that can be submitted in grant form to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

In December of 1999, the partnership received a $10,000 watershed planning grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The purpose of the event was to identify ecosystems problems and concerns, determine causes, develop solutions, and set strategic goals resulting in a strategic planning document and action plan for the partnership.

The South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center of Governors State helped provide the technical writing support for the production of a watershed plan.

Governors State University science professors Jon Mendelson (above left) and Karen D'Arcy (far right) chat with those in attendance at the watershed planning workshop.
Upcoming events at The Center for Performing Arts

The following is a list of upcoming events at The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University.

The Irish Rovers
- Saturday, March 11 at 8 p.m.
Enjoy St. Patrick's Day with the international ambassadors of Irish music who have been performing for more than three decades.

Pump Boys and Dinettes
- Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m.
Come see a fun, entertaining and nostalgic song and dance show featuring waitresses and gas station attendants that was a five-time Tony Award nominee.

For additional information and ticket purchases, contact the Center box office at (708) 235-2222.

Meet...Jack Beaupre

Jack Beaupre is Governor State University's newest Board of Trustee member as appointed by Gov. George Ryan.

Beaupre, 63, is a resident of Bourbonnais and has been practicing law for 33 years as a sole practitioner in the Kankakee area. He formerly served in the Illinois House of Representatives and was special assistant to the Illinois Attorney General.

"I am pleased to be appointed to this position, and hope to contribute to the strong foundation of Governors State University," Beaupre said.

Paula Wolff, President of Governors State, welcomed Mr. Beaupre.

"He brings a commitment to public service, experience in the private sector, and a strong familiarity with education and with the region. "The university will benefit greatly from having Mr. Beaupre as a member of the Board of Trustees," Wolff stated. "We welcome Mr. Beaupre. His experience with policy-making in the higher education and other public arenas make him an invaluable asset to the board," said Sally Jackson, chair of the GSU Board of Trustees.

During his service as a legislator, Mr. Beaupre served on several committees, including the Illinois House Committee on Higher Education. He is also a charter member of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys, and organized and served as general counsel for the Elementary District Organization of Illinois.

Mr. Beaupre is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School in 1966, and a lifelong resident of Illinois. He has been married to wife Faith, for 38 years, and has two daughters, Susan Lindholm and Nancy Waldschmidt.