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Congressman Weller listens as GSU community speaks

You can set a watch by two things in springtime: nature in bloom, and harried political sessions.

Keeping this in mind, U.S. Congressman Jerry Weller, R-Morris, stopped by Governors State University last month to "listen very closely" to what students and university communities throughout his district had to say before heading back to Washington.

Both outgoing President Paula Wolff and President-Designate Stuart Fagan welcomed Weller to the university in what was his second such visit since his congressional election in 1994.

Staying well past his allotted time frame, Weller’s focus was drawn to the increasing gap of the “digital divide” as well as the importance of student loan programs.

A panel of three students and approximately 50 students, staff and faculty from Governors State, Prairie State College and Joliet Junior College voiced the concerns they face in their educational experiences.

Weller listened and took copious notes from the comments that were made during this comfortable arrangement.

Historically, Weller has been an ally of higher education, helping move and pass legislation regarding student loans. With Weller’s support, legislation was passed that allows recent college graduates carrying student loans to deduct up to $1,500 in loan interest.

According to Weller’s office, that credit applies to more than three million taxpayers nationwide each year.

“I know that Governors State students have concerns over financial aid, since they are part-time students with families, making their situation unique. I do understand your concerns regarding time of delivery for the loans and the loan availability, and I’ll keep that in mind,” Weller said.

In regard to accessing technology, Weller wants to make sure that everyone is given equal opportunity to access the Internet, especially in education.

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"Making access to computer hardware and the Web is a top priority of our high tech agenda that I would like to see addressed in the 106th Congress," Weller said. "It has not only become necessary in today's education, but crucial."

Part of that initiative includes delivering access to all levels of students in academia. With the average age of the student populat approximately 35 years of age, a possibility exists that some of the students have not been actively involved in computer use since their last educational experience.

"If we can have the students begin their working knowledge of computers at an early age in school, this can continue through their entire educational experience, be it higher education or a vocational technology program," Weller added.

Weller has become an influential mem-ber in his six years. He currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, the Social Security and Oversight Subcommittees. He was also elected to act as one of the three freshman representatives on the House Republican Steering Committee and is also an assistant Majority Whip.
GSU celebrates new honors program by hosting Illinois conference

Governors State University made a grand entrance when it joined the National Honor Society program by hosting the statewide annual conference on February 26th. With Dr. Larry Levinson of the College of Arts and Sciences heading up the program, the Saturday conference was well attended, with participating students from Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University and Western Illinois University making the trip to University Park.

Levinson, who has also been named president of the Illinois chapter of the society, has been working diligently to get students and faculty involved in the program. Right now, there are approximately 20 students enrolled in the program from GSU. Although GSU was late arriving to the program, Levinson feels their design for setting up the course work will benefit from others' experiences.

"I know we're one of the last, but I think that our program will be on the cutting edge of university honor programs. We hope to create a community of scholars and learners," Levinson said.

Undergraduate students looking for more breadth and depth to their classwork can contract with the professor to do the work. Work can involve research, internships, community service and a host of other options. The program is funded through the provost's office. Enrollment is open ongoing, and is available in each of GSU's colleges. For additional information regarding the program, contact Levinson at (708) 534-4578.

I remember, I remember

I remember, I remember, the day that Paula came,
The meeting where Admin group found life was not the same;
The good old boys of Leo's time found women taking power, and the need for diversity and youth held sway in Paula's bower.

I remember, I remember, recreating g-soo's vision;
In open meetings where passion flowed, we wrote again our mission.
Paula took our wondrous words, to cast them in Lucite;
And still today they stand as proof, G-soo's ideas are right!

I remember, I remember, the way Paula runs, with power base in Springfield, raising image as well as funds. She taught us all that "no" meant "no" when working on the budget; Unless you found a way to meet state goals and didn't fudge it.

I remember, I remember, Paula's charm at graduation, in searing heat and teeming rain, praised grads' success and motivation. I left while Paula was still there, still cheered and sometimes hissed, but even I, from distant shores, know Paula will be missed.

- Mary Howes, former acting dean of the College of Business and Public Administration, currently living in England
Governors State University announces tuition increase for Fall 2000

The tuition schedule per trimester for Governors State University is increasing by approximately 3%, to be implemented for the fall 2000 trimester. Governors State still maintains the lowest tuition and fees of any public university in Illinois.

Undergraduate tuition for a full-time Illinois student (12 hours or more) increases from $1,104 per trimester to $1,140 per trimester. Out of state full-time undergraduate student tuition increases from $3,312 per trimester to $3,420 per trimester.

Part-time tuition for an in-state undergraduate student increases from $92 per credit hour to $95 per credit hour. Part-time tuition for an out-of-state undergraduate student increases from $276 per credit hour to $285 per credit hour.

Graduate student tuition for a full-time in-state student (12 hours or more) increases from $1,176 per trimester to $1,212 per trimester. Graduate student tuition for a full-time out-of-state student increases from $3,528 to $3,636 per trimester.

Part-time tuition for an in-state graduate student increases from $98 per credit hour to $101 per credit hour. Part-time tuition for out-of-state graduate students increases from $294 per credit hour to $303 per credit hour.

The cost of courses in the College of Extended Learning and Communication Services (CELCS) has also increased. The rate for in-state and out-of-state students in the CELCS program is the same.

Tuition for a full-time undergraduate CELCS student increases from $1,104 per trimester to $1,140 per trimester. Part-time tuition for an undergraduate CELCS student increases

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Open Space Congress focuses on smart growth

On March 11, more than 100 planning professionals, open space advocates and concerned south suburban residents came together to learn about the Open Space Congresses “Growing Smart Locally.”

The event also drew the likes of Congressman Jerry Weller, a person who has become concerned about finding the balance of open space, economic development and ecological preservation.

The congress began with opening remarks from Weller, who made a point to discuss proposals for open lands investment and rehabilitation of abandoned land tracts, better known as brown sites. According to Weller, House Bill 701 - better known as the Conservation and Reinvestment Act - would provide federal funding for land preservation.

Other presenters included Mahender Vasandani, chief planner for the DuPage County Department of Development and Stormwater; University of Illinois - Chicago professor Robert Bruegman; Mary Sue Barrett, president of the Metropolitan Planning Council; and Philip Rohvang, director of planning, building and development for Lake County.

Following the morning session, three afternoon sessions further developed the ideas initiated by the earlier speakers. The sessions focused on regional transportation issues, conservation standards and practices, and smart growth in the suburbs.

Bus arrives

In one of her final appearances at Governors State University, former President Paula Wolff took part in ribbon cutting ceremonies for a new handicapped-accessible bus.

The bus, soon to be in service, will be running students, staff and faculty to and from locations such as the University Park Metra station.
Students in the Division of Liberal Arts of the College of Arts and Sciences had a chance to show their hard work and inspiration in the E-Lounge gallery recently, where their work was on display and juried by Columbia College photo/art teacher Judy Natal.

The March 10 show was organized by CAS Professor Joyce Morishita, and was cosponsored by the art department and the student art association.

The event is unique, in that the students choose the jurist, and the students do not have to have their work screened by their professors.

Morishita also noted that the program, held each March, is more than 15 years old, and is open to all students enrolled during that year.

Exchange students share stories

Each student that comes to Governors State University has a story to tell. Some of those students include foreign exchange students traveling a long distance to receive an education at GSU.

Recently, German exchange student Nicole Wesemann discussed with a group of students in the loft of The Center for Performing Arts what daily life is like for a German student, as well as the working world.

Keeping true to the exchange concept, GSU student Chrystal Sanks discussed her experience as an American studying in Beijing, China. International Student Coordinator Vreni Mendoza hopes to make the informational gatherings a regular event.

Jurist Judy Natal critiques a student piece in the E-Lounge.

Tuition - cont'd

from $92 per credit hour to $95 per credit hour.

Graduate student tuition for a full-time CELCS student (12 hours or more) increases from $1,176 per trimester to $1,212 per trimester. Part-time tuition for a CELCS graduate student increases from $98 per credit hour to $101 per credit hour.

Two fees have increased by $1 each. The Student Center fee is now $21, and the counseling and career services fee is also $21.

"Caregivers" conference set for May at GSU

Are you looking to control your own health, release negative emotions, increase your energy, eat right and laugh?

The Division of Extended Learning at Governors State University's conference Caregivers Caring for Self will address those very issues.

On May 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., presenter Victoria Koestler will demonstrate and discuss techniques designed to relax and replenish emotional and psychological wellness, as well as designing a new personal plan for health.

Cost to attend the conference is $110 per person. Current GSU students interested in receiving one hour of continuing education credit can contact (708) 235-8887.

Those wishing to receive credit as a new student, or to attend on a non-credit basis, may contact (708) 235-2184.

Student Nicole Wesemann talks about Germany.

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Multicultural wellness conference set for June

It is difficult to maintain physical and mental health while meeting the rigors of work and everyday life.

The Division of Psychology and Counseling of the College of Education at Governors State is addressing those very issues at the Second Annual Multidimensional Multicultural Wellness Conference on June 23, 24, and 25. The first day of the conference runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The schedule for the two following days is 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The three-day workshop, instructed by the nationally renowned Division of Psychology and Counseling, focuses on ways to address and manage stress and how to maintain a positive approach.

Cost for the event is $100 for registrants before May 1, $110 after May 1. Lunch is included for the second and third day. Those attending all three days of the workshop are eligible for continuing education credits.

If you would like to register or receive additional information on the event, contact the Division of Extended Learning at (708) 235-2184.

March
Employee of the Month

Gail Mosier

Gail Mosier and her family believe in Governors State University. Evidence? Her husband, Mike, received his undergraduate degree from the College of Education in December; Her first daughter, Renee, received her Board of Governors Degree in 1998; second daughter, Amy, plans to enter the College of Education after finishing up at Prairie State College; and her sister is currently enrolled in the BOG program.

Mosier has spent the last 2-1/2 years of her 4-1/2 years at Governors State in the College of Health Professions. She started out in the office of Admissions, where "I learned a lot about the university. I think it was a great place to start and learn all of the different aspects of the university."

Mosier added that she was "honored to be nominated, especially by Interim Dean Ami Wang. It's nice to be acknowledged by people like Ami," she said.

GSU Phonathon a ringing achievement

According to Director of Alumni Relations Rosemary Hulett, the month-long phonathon fund-raiser generated approximately $84,000 in pledges to go toward scholarships, faculty development, library support, and many other functions.

Each night, Hulett and volunteers from throughout the university had the 25 phones in Engbretson Hall running almost constantly.

"I really would like to thank the faculty, staff and students in the university who came out and worked with us, above and beyond their normal duties at the university. Their efforts are greatly appreciated," Hulett said.

Each year, the Pink Pig award - in addition to a check for $1,500 - goes to the college or department that raises the most money.

This year's award goes to the College of Education, with the College of Health Professions receiving a $1,000 check for their second place efforts.

The College of Arts and Sciences, who received the pig last year, finished in third place, and will receive a check for $500.
Early education conference a booming success

In only its second year at Governors State University, the South Suburban Association for the Education of Young Children's conference, "See How They Grow... Meeting the Needs of Young Children," could only be considered a success.

An estimated 750 people came to campus to attend the conference, which featured 34 conference sessions with topics ranging from storytelling and book making, to teaching and addressing issues regarding the autistic student. Other topics included: 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 had a special lunchtime presentation, featuring nationally renowned educator, Dr. Lillian Katz, who was honored for her years of hard work and creating positive change in the field of early childhood education.

Dr. Katz is professor emeritus 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, and has been a featured columnist for several magazines.

More than 750 people were on hand to attend the SSAEYC conference. Several breakout presentations, such as GSU professor Sharifa Townsend's (center, right) were offered, as well as vendors in the Hall of Governors (center, left).

The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. Lillian Katz (bottom, center), shown here chatting with College of Education Dean Diane Alexander and professor Diane McClellan.

New faces at Governors State University

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

John Buenger Director of Technical Services - Information Technology Services
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 Joffrey Ballet
- Saturday, April 15, at 8 p.m.
Chicago's world-renowned Joffrey Ballet is the company to watch for graceful, beautiful and impeccable performances.

Judy Collins
- Saturday, April 29, at 8 p.m.
Collins returns to The Center for the fifth anniversary celebration. This five-time Grammy nominated artist will perform hits from a career that spans 35 years and 29 hit albums.

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

Meet...Lori Kooi

Loreen (Lori) Kooi of New Lenox is one of the newest members of the Governors State University Foundation Board, coming on board with the group in the fall of 1999.

A resident of New Lenox, where she resides with husband, Randy, and daughter, Emily, Kooi became involved with the university after being contacted by the president of First Midwest Bancorp.

Kooi, a 1983 graduate of the College of Business and Public Administration with a focus on accounting, was considered a perfect fit for the position.

"I grew up in Joliet and went to junior college at Joliet Junior College. I didn't start pursuing a college degree until after I was married, and there are definite benefits to going to school locally."

"I was one of the students that I think GSU serves most often. I was looking to get a degree after completing junior college, and it seemed like a natural progression," Kooi said.

Another aspect Kooi considered was the affordability.

"GSU was nearby, and I was paying for school myself. A college education can be very expensive, and that is a consideration for most any student," Kooi added.

Happy to help out her alma mater, Kooi said she noticed vast differences since being on campus in 1983.

"When I was here, things looked much different. There are new buildings, The Center for Performing Arts, and the entry. The exterior of the building looks different as well. When I was there, it was still the Cortan steel building."