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For more than two years, faculty, staff, and administration at Governors State University have been preparing for the week of April 16. The North Central Association's accreditation visit from April 16 to April 19 was well-anticipated, with a two-volume summary regarding virtually every aspect of the university prepared for the six-member site team.

The NCA site team's visit is a crucial one to any accredited college or university, since they -as a peer group- make the recommendation regarding future accreditation status. The number of site team visitors - six for Governors State - remains the visit standard according to team leader Dr. Edward Garten of the University of Dayton, Ohio. With the site team members coming from higher education institutions throughout the country, it is virtually assured that they will not know one another personally.

With that in mind, Garten and the other five members of the team gathered at the Holiday Inn in Matteson on Sunday evening, April 16th to receive the summary report from the GSU liaisons and to get to know the other members of the team.

Referring to the summary as a report in and of itself does not address the gravity of the document. Countless hours were spent by several people at GSU, whether authoring a department's report, editing drafts, collecting data, posting announcements, or actually physically constructing the report.

Leading efforts at GSU were Dr. Debbie Holdstein, professor of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Michael Toney, director of the Office of Admis-

Continued on page 2
The daunting task was to ask, receive, edit, and assemble reports from every single department and college within the university. Holdstein served as chair of the NCA committee, with Toney serving as co-chair.

"I feel very proud that our previous provost gave me the opportunity to lead the process," Holdstein said. "There are many people at GSU who worked very hard toward this end. It's really been a privilege. We need to celebrate the people around the university community who made this happen, especially those who were asked to do special work and followed through with it. It would have been impossible and foolish to think you could do it alone."

Toney concurs with Holdstein, adding that "the university's collaborative efforts made this possible. It was, and is, truly a massive task."

Deborah Holdstein, NCA Chair and Michael Toney, NCA Co-Chair (above) Sally Jackson, Chair of GSU board of

Apparently the 'massive task' managed to net a more than positive return during the exit interview given to GSU President Stuart Fagan, the Board of Trustees, and deans at GSU.

President Fagan stated that the site team cited eight major points for which the university should be commended:

1. The institution has within its strategic plan the goal to integrate cultural diversity into all facets of university life. The university is well along in meeting this goal.

2. In most respects, the university has an enthusiastic and highly diverse faculty and a motivated, diverse and inclusive student body. These characteristics can be seen throughout the university and were notable to the team.

3. Funding has been made available to address space needs, especially for faculty offices and classrooms. Board members and the new president expressed high satisfac-
tion with the new funding made available from the recent legislative session, giving them the ability to now address space needs.

4. Despite instability in the Provost's Office, faculty have taught their classes, developed curriculum, including new program initiatives, engaged in substantial levels of scholarly and creative activities and performed significant service. There is similar evidence of ongoing high performance and commitment among staff.

5. The level of scholarly and creative activity is greater than reflected in the mission statement of the university or in the self-study report. Grants and contracts have grown to more than $8 million in 1999. Copies of a large number of faculty-authored texts and reference books were available to the team. Faculty vitae reflect a suitable level of scholarly activity for faculty teaching at the master's level.

6. The university has managed to implement some financially challenging new programs, including the occupational therapy, physical therapy, and management information systems programs.

7. The Board of Trustees is enthusiastic, highly knowledgeable about the university and committed to its mission.

8. The new president demonstrates a comprehensive vision and focused agenda that should serve the university well in the future.

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**Clifton Taulbert, Father Clements to deliver commencement addresses**

The 2000 graduating class at Governors State University will have the privilege of having Father George Clements and Clifton Taulbert as its keynote speakers at Commencement.

**Father George Clements**

Father Clements has long been viewed as an advocate for the young and those facing life's struggles.

In 1981, he became the first priest to adopt a child. He subsequently adopted three other children. He founded "One Church - One Child," a program dedicated to finding adoptive parents for homeless African American and biracial children. More than 60,000 children have been adopted as a result of the "One Church - One Child" program.

For more than a decade, Father Clements has been active in the anti-drug campaign. He mobilized a successful drive to enact laws forbidding the sale of drug paraphernalia. Since 1993, he has been developing and implementing "One Church - One Addict," a project which recruits faith communities to participate along with health care and educational agencies in supporting recovering addicts.

A Chicago native, Father Clements was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1957, and has served as pastor of Holy Angels Church from 1969 to 1991.

**Clifton Taulbert**

A successful banker and businessman turned inspired author, Clifton Taulbert has achieved success in virtually every pursuit. After service in the 89th Presidential Wing of the United States Air Force and completing his undergraduate degree at Oral Roberts University, Taulbert obtained a graduate degree in bank marketing from Southern Methodist University. He was one of the first African American bank officers at a major bank in Tulsa.

It was his forays in writing, however, that have given him a national forum. As a journalist, Taulbert has written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlanta Constitution*, *Parade Magazine*, *The Oxford American* and many other news outlets.

His first memoir, "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored," became an international best-seller and the basis for the critically acclaimed film of the same name. His follow-up memoir, "The Last Train North," was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and won the Mississippi Institute of the Arts and Letters award. The third book in the series, "Watching Our Crops Come In," also garnered critical acclaim. He has also written children's books such as "Little Cliff" and the "Porch People," and inspirational books, such as "Eight Habits of the Heart."

Awards Taulbert has received include the 1996 NAACP Image award, the National Arthritis Foundation Volunteer of the Year and the Presidential Scholar for Southern Literature at Oklahoma State University - Tulsa.
GSU was awarded $2,358 as part of the "Educate & Automate" grants awarded annually by the Secretary of State's Office. The grant program is designed to improve access to electronic information. The University Library will receive the grant money.

After the massacre at Columbine High School, schools, parents and administrators were paralyzed with fear as they sighed with relief that it wasn't their children, or their school.

But, at the same time, they began to wonder, what if.... It was at this time that the staff at Governors State University, the College of Education and the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at GSU decided to take a proactive approach to the problem in question.

Once again, GSU wanted to be out front in demonstrating concern for the community it represents. The talks began, and a series of seminars were developed to address the issues and concerns relating to the safety of children in our nation's schools.

The videoconference entitled "Dealing with School Violence: An Agenda For Action" originated from GSU on April 10, 2000. The interactive live event created an opportunity for participation in the videoconference via telephone lines to the studio. The videoconference helped catalyze the development of action plans that are appropriate, effective and responsive. The videoconference also provided a forum to cope with school violence by sharing experiences and information.

The first segment of the program was devoted to defining the problem. The panelists included Jackie Mullany, professor of criminal justice from Indiana University Northwest, who talked about the difference in how boys and girls vent their anger. Ken Peterson, professor of education at Governors State University, spoke of the misconception of there being more violence in urban schools than in suburban schools.

David Lewandowski, school psychologist from Crete-Monee High School, talked about Dr. William Glasser's developmental issues and how the media has impacted our kids with more violent music, games and television. He also spoke about our kids not having good problem solving skills today. "It appears that kids are acting out on what they see in the media as methods to solving their problems."

Excerpts from a pre-recorded interview with Dr. Bennet Leventhal, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Chicago, were also aired during the videoconference.

The second segment focused on detecting the problem. The panelists included Prentiss Lea, the principal of Rich East High School, who places great emphasis on building relationships with students. Koran Nolan, the dean of students at Homewood-Flossmoor High
School, warned against categorizing kids and further alienating them.

She spoke of reaching out to those who you think might appear to be disconnected. Commander Tom Flemming, a school liaison officer from Park Forest, tried to give some insight as to the point where there needs to be crisis intervention. He talked about detecting early warning signs as well as ways to make kids feel safe in school without feeling oppressed. Arlene Kadar, a parent and the president of the Homewood-Flossmoor Parent Association, talked about the importance of parents being involved in the schools and how important it is for parents to have a good relationship with their kids' teachers.

The third segment encouraged participants to speak out on how we should face the problem. Guests included Jerry Newberry, director of the Safe Schools Now Network for the National Education Association in Washington, D.C., via satellite, who created a video series on the best ways to create safe schools for kids. Also in Washington, D.C., was David Imig, president of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, who spoke about the importance of training future teachers so that they are better equipped to handle the changes that are occurring in today's classrooms across the country.

Tim Nelson, a teacher and prevention services coordinator at Bloom Trail High School, talked about Operation Snowball, a prevention program and how it has been effective with students. In addition to Operation Snowball, Nelson also made mention of how valuable mentoring programs are in terms of effectively establishing relationships with students.

The moderator of the videoconference was Monique Caradine from WVON talk radio in Chicago. Caradine lent her talents to GSU keeping the dialogue open and on track. Caradine received several calls from various sites throughout the country that the panel addressed.

The videoconference was the third event in a yearlong series entitled "School and Community: Changes & Challenges." The first event was presented by Dr. William Glasser, a psychiatrist and educator who addressed the issues of school violence by giving us "The Lessons of Littleton." He talked about how adults missed the messages that those children at Columbine were sending.

The second event was a town hall meeting and students were given a platform to share their feelings and concerns and how they relate to school violence. Gary Goldman, the moderator for the evening, brought children up front on stage in the Sherman Music Recital Hall and asked them if they thought adults knew just how smart kids are? There was a resounding, "NO!" He then asked the question, why not? The children responded with "They don't listen." The point made was quite ironic, since adults are constantly saying that young people don't listen. It was as if a huge light went on in the room. Participants noted if we want young people to listen to adults, adults must listen to them as well.

It was the mix of conversations from this second event that helped to set the stage for the next event in the series entitled "School and Community: Changes and Challenges." The videoconference team thought it was imperative to focus on how adults can work to build relationships in order to reconnect with our youth.
Native American art courses for Spring/Summer

The art department of the College of Arts and Sciences at Governors State University is offering two special Spring/Summer courses.

"Topics in Art: Images of the Masculine in Art and Popular Culture," is Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:30 p.m. - 10:20 p.m., from May 22 to June 22. The three-credit course focuses on male and female masculine imagery in the visual arts and popular culture. Images and film will be used to gain insight into collective attitudes, feelings, politics, tensions, contradictions, and the ambivalence of masculinity.

"Native American Art and Societies," Monday and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. - 10:20 p.m., will survey North American Indian art from prehistoric contents to the 19th century. The focus will be on the eastern, southwest, prairie, plain, and pacific regions of the United States. The course will also include the study of certain Native American ceremonies.

For detailed course information, contact Dr. Arthur Bourgeois at (708) 534-4012. For other registration information, contact the Office of Admissions at (708) 534-4490.

Kevin Doyle, police officer in the Department of Public Safety, said he is very happy to be named the May Employee of the Month.

Doyle has been with the university since November of 1998. He was shocked and did not expect it at all, said Doyle. In his position as a police officer at GSU, Doyle says the people he meets are more like co-workers as opposed to being citizens within the community, which would be the case if he were a police officer in a municipality.

"I am able to deal with people on a more personal basis. I know a lot of people's names, and they know me by name. That makes it nice."

Doyle equates his job here at GSU with that of an old-fashioned foot patrol officer where the community embraced the presence of the police. The GSU community gives Doyle the same comfort. Those who nominated him spoke highly of his courteous manners and his helpfulness.

Want to avoid long book lines?

GSU is offering students the opportunity to buy books online.

Students who are comfortable making purchases online can go directly to efollett.com to place their orders.

Those who are not as comfortable on-line can access the GSU Website, download an order form and fax pertinent information to the bookstore.

The bookstore's site can be found under resources at govt.edu. The program will be piloted for the summer semester.

By fall, this new electronic means of ordering books should be more efficient and become a more standard way of buying books for classes.

Above, students line up to return books at the GSU Follett's Bookstore, while manager Ron Murray checks out orders.
Students ready for graduation

The time is rapidly approaching for graduates at Governors State University to prepare for the future. As an aid to students entering the next phase of their careers, GSU offered a host of activities and services.

GSU hosted Commencement Preparation Days in the Hall of Governors for two days. Graduating students were able to register for GSU's resume referral program, offered through the Office of Career Services.

Resumes that were posted were referred for positions that are advertised through the Career Services Office.

Photo services were also available through Chappell Studios. Cap and gown were provided.

Bachelor's recipients considering the pursuit of an advanced degree were able to talk to an admissions counselor regarding admission to GSU graduate programs.

On the lighter side, graduating students are invited to attend the graduation picnic on May 20, 2000 to celebrate their academic achievement. It's 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.

Governors State University hosting Education career fair

In an effort to bring qualified educators together with regional school districts, the College of Education and the Office of Career Services at Governors State University are hosting an education career fair.

The fair slated for May 2 on the GSU campus, will begin with lunch at 1 p.m.

Educators will have the opportunity to interact with members of the GSU faculty and staff and meet with representatives from other school districts.

From 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., educators will have a chance to visit with the school districts and learn of the opportunities available.

For additional information on the event, contact James Opon in the office of Career Services at (708) 235-3974.

News/ Happenings

Continued from previous page

Centerpoint at Governors State University offers training

Centerpoint at Governors State University is offering two seminars designed to aid and inform first-time business owners.

"Writing a Business Plan Made Easy," a two session practical seminar, aims to simplify the planning process and help produce a working plan for the business.

Cost for the seminar is $50, and meets from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 3 and May 15.

The "Franchise Business Seminar" is designed to help future business owners determine if owning a franchise is the correct choice.

The seminar covers the history, myths and regulations of franchising, along with vital information about what is included when purchasing a franchise.

Cost of the seminar is $30. The seminar is 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and is available May 17 or September 13.

Presenter Gerald Moriarty is president of the FranNet Franchise Network Corporation, an organization of independent franchise consultants with offices in the United States, Canada and South America.

For additional information on the seminars, or to explore the other services Centerpoint provides for small businesses, call (708) 534-4929.
Meet the new president of Governors State University, Stuart Fagan. “I immediately felt comfortable here,” he said of his arrival on campus.

He promises a hands-on presidency that perpetuates existing, and develops new, partnerships with school districts, community colleges, businesses, local governments and non-profit organizations in our region. “I’ll be walking around the campus” observing operations first-hand, he said, while emphasizing relying on a top-notch administrative team to handle the details.

Fagan has stressed his belief that GSU is unique in the community of Illinois colleges and universities: that it is pre-eminent in offering an excellent and well rounded education to a diverse and educationally serious student body in small classes and at reasonable tuition rates. He said a key mission of GSU under his watch will be to educate “not on a narrow scale,” developing in students competency in writing, reading, computing, communicating and how to participate in our American democracy, in addition to preparing them for the workforce.

Fagan has studied and served in a variety of places in the Americas, with especially meaningful experiences in places like Venezuela and Peru, working to break international economic, monetary and educational conundrums for governments and systems there. His teaching career has taken him from New York to California, to foreign places and back to the States, before he landed in the provost’s job at Roosevelt University in Chicago in 1994. GSU’s presidency is his first top job, but one that he is quite capable and qualified to take on.