Governors State University opens region's first charter school

With the recent opening of the Governors State University Charter School at its location at 1500 Sangamon Ave. in Crete, Ill., GSU reached yet another milestone — the launching of the first charter school in the south suburban region of Chicago. The GSU Charter School underscores the university's commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

Additionally, the Charter School demonstrates yet another successful collaboration between GSU and Crete-Monee School District 201-U. Stuart Fagan, president, GSU; Steve Humphrey, school district superinten-

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Since assuming the university’s helm in April, Stuart Fagan, who claims one of his favorite mottoes is the Latin phrase “carpe diem” or “seize the day,” has moved the university’s agenda forward at an impressive clip.

On Dr. Fagan’s short list of priorities is the development of a university-wide strategic plan.

The strategic planning process will lead to the development of a blueprint to link the university’s annual plans to longer-term priorities. In a one-on-one interview, Dr. Fagan talked about the importance of the strategic plan and its relationship to making sure that GSU maintains its status as a world class institution. Continued on page 4

Paul R. Keys named GSU Provost/ Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Paul R. Keys has been named Governors State University’s next provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"Paul Keys is a highly experienced and innovative academic administrator, with demonstrated success in academic programming and administration. I am very excited and pleased to be able to welcome Paul as GSU’s next provost and vice president for academic affairs," GSU President Stuart Fagan said.

Keys will assume his position on October 23. He succeeds Jane Wells, who has been serving as interim provost for the past year.

"I am honored to have been selected for the position. GSU is a very unique and well-respected institution, and I am looking forward to working with the GSU administration and faculty. I am committed to quality academic programming, increasing accessibility to higher education, promoting diversity and inclusion and community engagement - goals that are intrinsic to GSU’s mission," said Keys.

Keys comes to GSU from a successful career in higher education and human services. He leaves the position of associate provost, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and professor of social work at Southeast Missouri State University, where he has served since 1994.

As associate provost and dean at Southeast, his accomplishments have included developing a university-wide strategic planning process, shaping college plans and assessments for accreditation evaluations and developing model articulation agreements with community colleges in the region. He also led a university-wide task force that created Southeast’s evening program, and worked to develop a new school of extended learning.

Dale Nitzsche, chancellor, (and former president), Southeast Missouri

Continued on page 3
GSU reaccreditation through 2010 signals high confidence

The North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools has extended reaccreditation status to Governors State University through 2010 in a highly laudatory report.

The successful reaccreditation process follows a comprehensive examination by the NCA of all aspects of the university's operations. Included in the analysis was an examination of the quality of GSU academic programs, how well the university uses its resources, and the institution's ability to accomplish its purposes and strengthen educational effectiveness.

Among the university's strengths cited by the NCA are its enthusiastic and diverse faculty, the faculty's level of scholarly and creative activity, a motivated student body, new academic programs and a knowledgeable Board of Trustees.

"I want to thank the entire GSU community for participating in the process. The university's NCA steering committee did an excellent job preparing us for this important evaluation," said President Stuart Fagan, who added:

"The report is a resounding affirmation of our commitment to carry out the university's mission. GSU is a strong institution with a proven track record for developing quality academic programs in high demand. The fact that the NCA has given GSU a ten-year period before the next evaluation - the maximum allowable time frame - indicates a high level of confidence in our continued ability to fulfill our mission."

Additionally, William McGee, interim chairman, GSU Board of Trustees, commended the faculty and staff who, last year, began compiling numerous statistical and narrative documents for an extensive self-study that was reviewed by the NCA team to prepare for the reaccreditation evaluation.

The self-study and a subsequent site visit in April by NCA consultants/evaluators formed the basis for the NCA final reaccreditation results.

"This is a tremendous achievement for the GSU community and the region we serve. As we continue our university-wide strategic planning process, we will be able to use the NCA's reaccreditation report as a guideline to clarify GSU's strengths and challenges as we go forward," McGee said.

During its April visit, the six-member NCA team met with the GSU Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students to gain greater perspective. Additionally, the team reviewed financial audits, checked admission files, registration procedures and reviewed faculty credential files.

In their final report, the NCA team members wrote concerning GSU's self-study, calling it a document that "was reflective of a well conceived and detailed self-study process."

Keys named provost
Continued from page 2

State University, said: "Paul Keys has made significant contributions to Southeast and the region it serves. His record is one of innovation, quality and future-oriented academic program development. He has played an instrumental role in elevating Southeast's reputation as a valuable academic and research resource."

Keys holds a doctorate in urban education/human resource management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also served as a faculty member and chair of the administration professional curriculum area at Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work, City University of New York, and in a number of academic, professional and public service positions.

He is the author of three books, numerous journal articles, and serves on several editorial boards. He was founding editor of The Journal of Multicultural Social Work, an international journal devoted to ethnic issues in social work published by the Hawarth Press, New York.

Tuskegee Airmen promote diversity

Members of the Tuskegee Airmen - a group of fighter pilots who broke the color barrier in the U.S. during World War II -- discussed the role of diversity in classroom instruction during a special public forum held recently in the Hall of Honors at GSU.
Alumni Association Awards

The GSU Alumni Association helped 48 students cover the cost of tuition and expenses when they recently awarded $400 to each student. The winners met the Alumni Association Awards criteria, including having a 3.75 grade point average and being enrolled in a degree program for a minimum of 6 credit hours. Scholarship recipients will be required to volunteer at least two nights during the Alumni Association Phone-athon.

GSU Upward Bound Program Gets a Boost

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded the GSU’s Upward Bound Program a $10,000 grant to purchase new computers and educational software to help program participants bridge the digital divide.

The GSU Upward Bound Program is entering its second year. The program provides educational opportunities to students from low-income families, families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree, and low-income, first generation military veterans who are preparing to enter college.

From Beowulf to Don Quixote

Fall Classes at the Adult Learning Exchange (TALE) at Governors State University included a diverse array of courses that range from a study of Beowulf to “Learning from the Boob Tube,” an analysis of television documentaries. TALE is a resource for mature adults in the greater South Suburban and Northwest Indiana regions who want to pursue intellectual challenges and acquire and share knowledge. It is sponsored by the university in collaboration with the Anita M. Stone Jewish Community Center in Flossmoor.

Welcome Back Celebration

Before the ritual of classes and exams, the GSU community had an opportunity to ease into the Fall with Welcome Back 2000. The GSU Office of Student Services coordinated a day of activities on September 1, 2000. Entertainment was provided by blues guitarist “Chicago” Keith Scott and the Dave Rudolph Family show. A barbecue and an aquatic show were also on the day’s agenda.

A shared vision: an interview with President Fagan

Continued from page 2

edu:

Would you please explain the strategic planning process and the role of the university community in the process?

Dr. Fagan:

This is a very, very important issue. The strategic planning process will be open and inclusive, involving representatives from all of the university’s constituencies. It will involve forming a university-wide committee, discussion groups, task forces and college committees.

First, a series of discussion group meetings will be scheduled. Each member of the university community will be welcome to participate in the discussion groups to flesh out ideas, issues and future direction.

The collective wisdom gained from these discussion groups will be synthesized by the university-wide committee into several issue areas which will be assigned to an “Issues Task Force” for detailed analysis.

Second, members of the university community will be invited to join the issue task forces. The reports from the task forces will be combined into a single master draft strategic plan.

Third, the draft document will be widely circulated to the university community for review. Special meetings with each senate will be scheduled to allow for formal input.

Finally, once the strategic plan has been approved, committees from the colleges, divisions and units will develop specific action plans to ensure the strategic plan is fully operational. The bottom line here is inclusion.

Continued on page 5
A shared vision: an interview with President Fagan

Continued from page 4

.edu:
How does the strategic plan relate to GSU’s mission?

Dr. Fagan:
The process will result in a shared vision for the university. The vision will be related to the academic programs that we have in place now and those that we want to establish in the future. And certainly in that vision will be the university’s commitment to the mission, which is to provide a quality, affordable, accessible education.

The plan will also help us to remain focused on our uniqueness. We are a very, very unique institution. We combine the best of what public institutions offer — affordability — with low student-teacher ratio (17:1) which is one of the hallmarks of good private institutions. We make it possible for all citizens to access a quality, world class education.

.edu:
What is a world class education?

Dr. Fagan:
A world class education recognizes that college graduates have to possess excellent intellectual and critical thinking skills and technical expertise in order to carve out successful careers. It also recognizes that technology will continue to drastically influence how we will live, work and play in the short and long-term future.

We must help our students develop their problem-solving capabilities. We want to provide them with a superior upper-division and graduate school education. In short, we must make sure that GSU graduates are armed with a broad-based liberal arts education and technical or professional knowledge.

Finally, and this is very important, we have to educate them in technology. We have to make certain that GSU students are exposed to the latest technological advancements in areas that relate to their formal education. This issue of technological inclusiveness is a challenge since our students come from various economic backgrounds. Some of them have very good training and access to technology while others don’t. We have to make certain that we level that particular playing field so that all of our students are prepared to enter the "Information Age" with confidence.

We also have to make certain that the institution is technologically sophisticated. One of my goals is to strengthen our ability to offer full degree programs over the Internet. We have to use the technology to reach out to students who would otherwise not be able to get an education.

.edu:
What are some of the challenges that the university faces as we move into the millennium?

Dr. Fagan:
The challenge for GSU is making sure that we remain focused on the university’s mission: providing an affordable and accessible undergraduate and graduate quality education to its culturally and economically diverse lifelong learners.

The strategic planning process will help us to devise an action plan that will support the university’s mission. I can’t emphasize enough how important it is that we all take part in the process.

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GSU Selects
Alexis Kennedy As General Counsel

Alexis Kennedy recently assumed her position as the new GSU chief legal counsel. President Stuart Fagan selected Kennedy after an extensive national search that attracted a number of highly qualified candidates.

Prior to accepting the position at GSU, Kennedy was the senior attorney for the City Colleges of Chicago for more than five years. In that role, Kennedy’s duties included advising the chancellor and college presidents, ensuring compliance with state, federal and municipal rules and statutes and advising the board on employment and civil rights matters.

Additionally, Kennedy was an associate at Friedman and Holtz in Chicago, Ill. She also has served as first assistant general attorney and acting general attorney for the Chicago Park District.

Kennedy has a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana and a J.D. from the University of Chicago, School of Law.

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dent; and Sharifa Townsend, principal, GSU Charter School, delivered brief remarks at the school’s launch. Parents, community leaders, GSU administrators, college deans and special guests were among those who attended the historic event.

The GSU Charter School distinguishes itself from more traditionally defined classrooms because it empowers students to take a greater role in directing the learning process.

Generally, classroom teachers establish the learning goals and strategies based upon a prescribed curriculum.

In his remarks, President Fagan used his own childhood school experience to illustrate the contrasting approaches.

"When I attended grade school, the environment was very regimental. We sat in straight-backed, wooden chairs that were arranged in neat rows. We were encouraged to speak only when we were responding to the teacher. On the other hand, the GSU Charter School teaching philosophy encourages enhanced student participation and creativity. It is an academically challenging and exciting process," Dr. Fagan said.

The GSU Charter School enrollment consists of 66 kindergarten through fourth grade students. The school will provide practicum experience for GSU early childhood student teachers and graduate-level practicum students from related fields.

After remarks were given, parents and guests were treated to a tour of the classrooms. The tour revealed classrooms that feature modern art posters and light tables where students busily examined colored glass beads and smooth rock samples. One classroom featured an indoor tent that doubled as a reading room. The tent was furnished with colorful throw pillows and piles of fiction and non-fiction books.

Loretta C. Jones is the mother of five children. This school year, three of her children – Mollie Jo, 11, Brandon, 10, and Olivia, 7, are attending schools in Crete-Monee. Olivia is in the inaugural class at the GSU Charter School.

"We believe that the GSU Charter School will create an environment that will parallel Olivia's learning style," Jones said.

Veronica Hunt's son, Joshua, 9, attends the GSU Charter School.

"During the tour of his classroom, Joshua found a basket of baseball cards that sparked his interest. One of his teachers started talking to him about baseball and let him know that they could play sometimes. Well, that excited Joshua. Then he noticed live bugs in jars that were for science class. That really got him going. I could see at that point that the school was living up to the information I read. Joshua had the opportunity to do hands-on, make up his own mind about the school, and enjoy what he was experiencing in just a couple of hours there," Hunt said.
Convocation sets the stage for "New Beginnings"

The Convocation’s theme of “new beginnings” aptly describes a year of remarkable change at Governors State University. The changes ranged from the appointment of a new president - Dr. Stuart Fagan - to lead the university into the next millennium to the recent selection of Dr. Paul R. Keys as GSU’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

In launching the annual Convocation September 27, Fagan focused on the need for change at GSU if the university is to maintain its competitive advantage and carry out its mission more effectively.

“As an institution, we need to work together to develop strategies for recognizing and addressing change - change in the economic, demographic, political, technologies and competitive arenas that impact us. This is the challenge we face, and this is the challenge which I ask the university to engage in during this academic year as we undertake a major strategic planning effort,” Fagan said to faculty, students and staff gathered at the Center for Performing Arts for the event.

In his closing statements, Fagan noted, “GSU has been self-consciously an innovative university, an ‘experimenting’ university. Of GSU’s many strengths, this is our greatest, for we have within us the power to change, the power to grow and the power to achieve a new vision for GSU. Join me in this new beginning.”

LouElla Rozier, president of the Civil Service Senate, sounded a similar theme in her remarks.

“New beginnings are a time to em-

Major grant supports balanced growth in Southland

The south metropolitan region is now, and is projected to be, the fastest growing area in the Chicago metropolis. The area’s potential brings with it much needed opportunities and complex challenges. In response, the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center (SMRLC) at Governors State University is launching the South Metropolitan Balanced Growth Initiative to address these challenges. The project will be conducted in partnership with the Corporation for Enterprise Development.

In large part, the balanced growth initiative was made possible by a grant from the Joyce Foundation to the Regional Leadership Center. Consensus building is an objective of the initiative. It will entail exploring the development of new region-wide projects and establishing a Council for Balanced Growth. The initiative will focus on the region south of Chicago, principally south Cook and Will counties.

“The Joyce Foundation grant will help us build bridges, set principles and establish an action plan. The region needs to engage in constructive dialogue on the development choices that are currently being made and that will appear in the coming years. The outcome of the dialogue should be an informed and connected group of leaders committed to balanced growth and a regional development plan,” said President Stuart Fagan.

The grant will cover the activities of SMRLC and CFED over the next year. As a first step, the groups will convene forums for the area’s leadership. The process will help:

- Clarify views about growth;
- Portray trends affecting growth;
- Set principles for growth; and
- Identify positive balanced growth steps, and outline ways to measure progress.

James Gaffney, president, Lewis University, has been serving as the chairman for this regional initiative. Initially, selected representatives from across the south region formed a working group to identify basic issues and objectives related to balanced growth in the region.

“This assessment phase showed us that there is a great deal of interest in creating a process for improving dialogue and communication and undertaking more collaborative regional balanced growth actions. It also demonstrated that the planning process could be enhanced by strong minority participation,” Gaffney said.

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GSU's capital plan anticipates student, faculty growth

With an approved capital budget exceeding $38 million, Governors State University officials are positioning the university to accommodate an anticipated growth in student enrollment and faculty and staff population. Internal forecasting reports show a significant increase in the GSU student population by 2005 from over 6,150 currently to more than 10,000.

To prepare for the future, GSU administrators have charted a plan for facility planning and space use that combines new construction and major rehabilitation efforts.

"A strong higher education institution is critical to promoting a prosperous regional economy," said Stuart I. Fagan, president, GSU. He added: "The plan prepares GSU for dynamic and sustainable growth, meets the region's demand for quality services, and the university's need for state-of-the-art academic and administrative facilities."

The university has five major projects that have been scheduled for completion by 2003. The GSU capital spending plan includes $6.2 million for a new Family Development Center/Charter School; $13.5 million for a Faculty Office Building; and $6 million to rehabilitate the university’s laboratory facilities.

It also includes $6 million to remodel two wings that currently house the Colleges of Health Professions and Arts and Sciences respectively.

Additionally, the plan entails spending $6.5 million to reprogram the space that will be made available by the move of the faculty to the new Faculty Office Building.

On a faster track, the university plans to install new exterior signage by December 2000 and upgrade the university’s fire alarm system by mid-2001. The signage project consists of installing two directories at the campus main entrances that are easily accessed from the main roadway and five lighted directories at the north ends of all parking lots. Another eight signs will be installed for direction to off-site campus buildings and parking lots.

Similarly, by June 2001, a new fire alarm system is on-line for installation. Innovative Engineering has been selected to design the new fire alarm system which will make it possible to pinpoint, with greater accuracy, the location of emergency fire problems while reducing response time. The project also entails installing new sprinkler systems in the cafeteria and in certain areas in the main building.

An exterior emergency communication system will be designed by Innovative Engineering and integrated with exterior signage located in campus parking lots.

Additionally, project specifics - architectural design, construction timetables, etc. - have been finalized for the new Family Development Center. The Center will contain the GSU Charter School - which is currently in rented space at the Crete-Monee Education Center - and office space for human service professionals.

"We have reached consensus on a design for the Family Development Center, and we plan to proceed with construction bidding by March 2001," said Tim Arr, interim vice president, planning and administration, GSU.

The architectural design selected by GSU officials for the Center features an elongated building of 29,000 square feet that contains classrooms, a library, administrative offices and other support units. The classrooms will run east to west on the south side of the Center and will be connected along a corridor by a series of three greenhouse type environments and a shared courtyard.

Representatives from the architectural firm of Ross, Barney + Jankowski will be meeting with university officials later this Fall to close on the final design choice for the Family Development Center and the Faculty Office Building and to chart the next steps in the process.

Barbara Peterson leaves GSU Board of Trustees

Barbara “Bobbie” Peterson recently resigned her position as a member of the GSU Board of Trustees to serve as Governor George Ryan’s appointee to the Illinois Civil Services Commission. The new appointment is a paid position. Illinois law prohibits Peterson from serving in both capacities.

Commenting on Peterson’s resignation, Fagan said: “Bobbie Peterson has served the GSU community extraordinarily well. She has been a tireless advocate for GSU in Springfield. She has helped the university to acquire the resources and support that it needs to fulfill its mission of providing an affordable, accessible, quality education to GSU students. I know she will bring the same level of incredible energy and dedication to her new position. It has been an honor and joy working with Bobbie. We will all miss her energy and enthusiasm.”

Additionally, William McGee, acting chair, GSU Board of Trustees, praised Peterson’s efforts:

"On behalf of the board, I want to congratulate Bobbie on her new appointment. Through her efforts at GSU, she

Continued on page 9
leaves behind a legacy of great accomplishments and a demonstrated commitment to providing Illinois residents with the opportunity to secure a quality education."

Serving since 1996, Peterson was a founding member of the board. Over the years, she has carved out a distinguished track record. Peterson also was the guiding force behind establishing the Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott Endowed Scholarship which provides financial support of up to $1,000 to qualified GSU students. McDermott, who's in his 80s, received an honorary degree from GSU in 1999.

Peterson also has served as the chair of the board's personnel committee since 1996 and has worked closely with the civil service merit board to ensure that GSU civil service employees were treated fairly.

Additionally, Peterson was actively involved in the implementation of two new degree programs at the university - occupational therapy and physical therapy.

$100,000 grant boosts GSU science program

A grant from the National Science Foundation is being used by the Science Department at Governors State University to establish a regional nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) center on campus. At the heart of the center will be a new NMR instrument that can be accessed via the Internet by students at colleges and universities throughout the south metropolitan region.

NMR technology produces structural information about chemicals, with resolution down to the atomic level. For students pursuing careers in medicine or the sciences, the ability to research and interpret data using NMR technology is critical. The new addition replaces NMR technology acquired by GSU in 1978.

"Any institution that does serious research in chemistry must have modern equipment like this," said GSU professor Greg Moehring who spearheaded the project in 1996 and who has since worked in collaboration with faculty at the University of St. Francis and South Suburban College to implement the center.

Students at GSU will be given hands-on opportunities to work with the NMR instrument. Students at other institutions will be able to schedule time on the instrument and use an Internet connection to access and control the NMR instrument.

Moehring said the ability to connect other universities and colleges to the technology via the Internet was one of the "compelling" aspects of the proposal to NSF, resulting in the recent $100,000 award.

"Using the Internet to share expensive analytical technology provides an innovative and cost effective method of improving the science education of college students throughout the region."

The center will serve 225 student per year. A grand opening for the Center is planned for October 27.

The area academic institutions that will have Internet access to the NMR technology are: Prairie State Community College, South Suburban Community College, Kankakee Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Joliet Junior College, Olivet Nazarene University, Trinity Christian College, Lewis University and the University of St. Francis.

The Center receives $65,000 grant

The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University has received a state grant for $65,000 from State Rep. George Scully (D-Flossmoor) for a new acoustical band shell for the Center's main stage.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to help GSU and the Center secure funding for the new band shell. This project will definitely enhance the cultural opportunities in the south suburbs and benefit many of our local arts organizations," Scully said.

The funding source for the grant is the Illinois FIRST program — a five-year, $12 billion program designed by Governor George Ryan to build, repair and upgrade Illinois' critical infrastructure.
The Center for Performing Arts launches new Season

The Center for the Performing Arts continued its legacy of excellence with an opening night performance by Bobby Caldwell on September 23. Prior to the concert, invited guests gathered for a reception. Shown (l-r) are Karen Reid, who chairs the Center's Board of Directors, Bobby Caldwell, Kathleen Field Orr, a Center boardmember and President Stuart Fagan.

Performance Schedule
October - December 2000

- The Flying Karamazov Brothers
  Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m.

- The 5th Dimensions
  Saturday, Nov. 4 at 8 p.m.

- Late Night Catechism
  Friday, Nov 17 at 8 p.m. and Saturday Nov. 18 at 8:30 p.m.

- George Winston
  Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m.

Congratulations To GSU's Outstanding Employees!

June
Employee of the Month
Diana Ivy

As assistant director of employment services, Diana Ivy's performance has been outstanding. Ivy demonstrates strong management and organizational skills. In her position, she has successively worked to ensure that all office processes run smoothly. As a result, the human resource staff has been able to more effectively concentrate on providing exemplary service to the GSU community.

Ivy is the type of outstanding GSU employee who recognizes that going the extra mile makes all the difference in quality work performance and superior results. Additionally, she maintains a high level of professionalism and customer service skills.

July
Employee of the Month
Donald Bell

Donald Bell is the program director in the Office of Student Life. This self-styled "events specialist" has performed in an exemplary fashion to help make a vision become reality.

Bell's project management skills are often put to use in a variety of arenas. In pursuing his duties, he does not hesitate to assume additional responsibilities if it means getting the job done in a quality and timely fashion.

He works tirelessly to help faculty, staff and students to bring their events and projects to a successful completion. Bell is a true professional with a congenial demeanor that has been instrumental in creating a pleasant work environment.

August
Employee of the Month
Mary Hellings

In her position as secretary for the Department of Communication and Training, Mary Hellings is an efficient, creative and enthusiastic team player. Her most notable professional qualities is staying highly informed about departmental matters -- a characteristic that has endeared her to faculty and staff.

She is often at the center of managing the implementation of departmental programs and activities.

Most recently she assisted in the implementation of the National Videoconference on School Violence and the 2000 Media Symposium.

September
Employee of the Month
Norbert Iwinski

Norbert Iwinski is a true "star" among the housekeeping staff. He demonstrated that during the recent North Central Association visit.

He knew the NCA representatives would be using the conference room throughout the day so he cleaned the room in between meetings without being told.

Additionally, he took the lead in preparing for Dr. Stuart Fagan's move into his office following his appointment as GSU's new president.

Norbert often takes the lead in fulfilling his assignments. He is a detail-oriented and well organized individual.
GSU gets $250,000 for Virtual Library

The Governors State University Library has received $250,000 from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to fund a virtual library.

The initial proposal for the virtual library was submitted to the state legislature in March 1999. Final approval was received in April 2000. The first installment of the IBHE grant — $90,000 — was received in July 2000 to cover project expenses for fiscal year 2001. GSU’s Center for Extended Learning and Communications Services cosponsored the proposal.

“The library is beginning to put the money to good use. We are adding permanent staff to perform work that is related to distance education, online resources and online technical support. These positions include a distance education librarian, microcomputer support specialist and a library technical assistant,” said Rebecca Bostian, director, GSU Library.

GSU’s virtual library will be accessible through the Internet and will include interactive features, video streams, gateway links to related sites, on-line tutorials and on-line reference tools.

Convocation

Continued from page 7

brace change as an opportunity to move in a better direction. It’s like spring cleaning. You might not like it, but it clears away a lot of clutter,” Rozier said.

For the first time, Convocation featured remarks by representatives from all of the university senates. Rozier, David Parmenter, president of the Faculty Senate, and Dorothy Ferguson, president of the Student Senate, were included as speakers in this year’s program.

Additionally, Convocation was a time for pride and appreciation as 17 members of GSU’s faculty were presented with Faculty Excellence Awards. However, the presentation was marked by sadness. Professor Mohammed Kishta, College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Burton Collins, College of Education, were recognized for their great contributions to the GSU community with posthumous Faculty Excellence Awards.

The remaining recipients of this year’s Faculty Excellence Awards are:

From the College of Arts and Sciences (Presented by Dean Roger K. Oden): Karen D’Arcy, Adriela Fernandez, Deborah Holdstein, June Patton and Bruce K. Wilson.

From the College of Business and Public Administration (Presented by Dean William Nowlin): David Curtis, Charlie Olson and David Parmenter.

From the College of Health Professions (Presented by interim Dean Ami Wang): William Boline and Judith Lewis.

From the Center for Extended Learning and Communication Services (Presented by Dean John Stoll): Gary Fisk and Tony Labriola.

From the University Library (Presented by Rebecca Bostian, director): Diane Dates-Casey and Lydia Morrow-Ruetten.

Convocation concluded with the presentation of the Dr. Gerald C. Baysore Distinguished Service Award to Nicholas Battaglia, College of Education program advisor.

Leila Kishta, and her son, Balal attended Convocation to accept the Faculty Excellence Award presented posthumously to Professor Mohammed Kishta. Shown standing (l-r) are Jane Wells, interim provost, Leila Kishta, Balal Kishta, Dr. Stuart Fagan and Roger Oden, dean, College of Arts and Sciences.
Meet...Ron Bean

Ron Bean is outreach director for the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center, GSU's grant-supported community organizing program. Additionally, Bean is director and treasurer for the GSU Foundation and an adjunct professor in the College of Arts and Science.

Outside of GSU, Bean has served as the executive director of the Illinois Development Financial Authority. His current organization affiliations include serving as president of Access to Care, director of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, director of the Bank of Matteson, director of the Great Lakes Bank Corporation and chair of the Olympia Fields Business Development Corporation. Bean is also a member of the School District 162 Board and a member of the PACE Bus Advisory Board.

Among his achievements at GSU, Bean said hosting last year's Diversity Dinners was a notable experience.

Some 540 people attended the Diversity Dinners held in more than 50 homes in Crete, Flossmoor, Glenwood, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Matteson, Park Forest, Olympia Fields, Richton Park and University Park to discuss racial and cultural issues.

"The Diversity Dinners were extremely successful. They set the stage for critical dialogue within the region that is essential to building community cohesiveness and a sense of shared purpose among people of different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds."