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Regional Videoconference

Imperiled:

Distressed Communities and Campuses at Risk

On April 6, an interactive live videoconference originated from GSU's television studio in an effort to discuss the roles that universities play in the communities that surround them.

The videoconference was underwritten by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at GSU and produced by GSU students in a Media Workshop under the guidance of Dr. Mel Muchnik.

Rapidly changing demographics, the relocation of the middle class and the businesses that cater to them, business disinvestment, deteriorating physical surroundings, inadequate school systems and housing issues are some of the risk factors that often threaten the relationship between the university and the surrounding communities.

"Colleges and universities have come to realize that they are interrelated to their surrounding communities. These surrounding communities also realize that their destiny is tied to the campus. These relationships are constantly being defined and redefined, sometimes in productive partnerships and sometimes in conflict," said executive producer, Dr. Mel Muchnik.

The videoconference was hosted by Monique Caradine, host of "Mo in the Midday," heard weekdays on WVON radio and a resident of the region that GSU serves.

President Fagan gave welcoming remarks and discussed a symbiotic relationship with the community. "Business disinvestment means fewer jobs for GSU graduates and erodes the potential donor bases for the university. In this case, it is in the best interest of the university to build a relationship with the community. The university must take on the responsibility to help address the needs of the community and work in partnership with the
community to promote human development, a better quality of life and to develop appropriate education and training responses."

The forum allowed stakeholders to address various issues and concerns. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. of the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois was featured as a panelist. Congressman Jackson gave the example of The University of Chicago and its impact on Hyde Park and Woodlawn as a reciprocal relationship. "As the university becomes a part of the community, people begin to feel comfortable within the context of the university," said Jackson.

John Swain, the director of the Institute for Public Policy and Administration also added, "A university that is completely isolated from the community is unrealistic."

Dr. Leon Finney, chairman of The Woodlawn Organization/ Woodlawn Community Development Corporation, (TWO) addressed the issue of the importance of community partnerships and how they must start with an organized community. Finney said, "The University of Chicago is sitting at the table with TWO because of people willing to stand and organize around issues and work towards community empowerment."

The videoconference had a knowledgeable and diverse group of participants. There was a problem presented; there was dialogue among panelists both locally and nationally, who have had direct experience and knowledge, and then viable solutions were posed, all within a two-hour time-frame. All participants were able to give their viewpoint and articulate how their organizations were positively affected by the communication or negatively affected by the lack of it.

It was the hope of the videoconference team that they would inspire further interaction in local discussions wrapping around the videoconference.
BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

We Will Continue To:

• Offer a quality, affordable, and accessible education to traditionally underserved populations.
• Do a comprehensive quality analysis on all aspects of the university's operations and use this to implement change.
• Provide academic degree programs that meet or exceed state and national educational standards.
• Institute university-wide quality control measures for academic programs and administrative functions.
• Attract and retain highly qualified and experienced faculty who are committed to excellence.
• Challenge students with an exciting and enriching educational experience which prepares them for successful professional careers.
• Enhance GSU's academic program offerings to meet the region's growing demand for excellent and skilled professionals.

GSU-COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Stuart Fagan, President

March 9, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Donna Graham Flowers and I graduated from GSU with a M.S. degree in Computer Science. I am writing this letter of support because of the negative publicity that the university has received in the past few months.

I received a high-quality education that allowed me to obtain an annual salary increase of more than twenty thousand dollars. I felt that GSU met my needs because of the flexibility in course scheduling and the professional "real life" attitude of the instructors. I truly believe that without GSU I would not have had the opportunities that are presented to me today. I felt so strongly about this matter that in 1999, I decided to show my appreciation by becoming a member of the GSU Alumni Board.

I know that the community needs an educational institution like GSU, and it would be a tragedy to continue this negativity. We all need to move forward with a positive attitude and show support for the institution that has given us the opportunity to expand our minds.

Thank you for making a difference in my life!

Sincerely,

Donna Graham Flowers

Letters to the Editor

Below is a letter in our continuing series of letters that will be printed in the .edu on a regular basis. These letters have been received from alumni following the first alumni reception and networking event that was held on campus in January.

The Public Affairs Department thought the entire GSU community would like to bask in the pride of GSU alumni.
Excellent Skills in Technology, Speaking, Reading and Writing Spell Success

Effective speaking and writing skills, as well as knowledge of new technologies remain the best method to get a foot in the door in today's competitive job market, according to presenters at GSU's recent Media Symposium.

The Symposium offered students information on converging technologies and the need for well trained media professionals. Presenters included Mark Hinjosa, editor for electronic news for the Chicago Tribune; Chad Baydian, a corporate trainer who uses multi-media concepts; and Carole Cartwright, who owns a production services company.

Baydian discussed the issue of specializing by saying, "Specializing can greatly increase your demand, expertise and income." He talked about the many areas of specialization existing in the production of corporate training materials and illustrated how creativity and problem solving play major roles in training.

Cartwright, who is also the former program director of KNBC-TV in Los Angeles and WYCC, Channel 20 in Chicago, said, "You must be flexible and prepared. Because there are now fewer dependable staff positions, job seekers must be willing to fill either short term positions or do free-lance work. There will always be a need for product programming. If you can produce it, there will be a market for it."

Additionally, presenter advised students on the need to be able to communicate well. Hinjosa, who is involved with The Chicago Tribune's Websites said, "Although The Chicago Tribune has had competition in providing news over the Web, they have prevailed as one of the most successful because, unlike other providers, they offer good reporting. The Tribune has survived because it has good stories and good journalists." He added, "Media moves and changes, but telling stories does not."

Salute to Graduates

As the excitement and anticipation of graduation begins to build, it is so fitting that Salute to Graduates brings big smiles and great joy. In preparation for commencement, which will take place on June 2 and June 3, 2001, graduate candidates were invited to attend a day of commencement preparation, to join career services workshops to help prepare for a professional job search and to take photographs with cap and gown. They ordered caps and gowns, personalized announcements and class rings. Graduates were able to make reservations for the upcoming graduation picnic that will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2001, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Learning In Context Celebrates Another Successful Year

The Learning In Context program is one of GSU's most successful programs for area youth. Through the efforts of its small and dedicated staff and the support of hundreds of volunteers, the Learning In Context program has helped to rewrite the story of Ford Heights which had been labeled as "America's poorest suburb."

The Learning In Context program is unique because it provides the key to open the door, and the support and nurturing that is needed for positive character development. Indeed, participants in the program--who successfully complete college--demonstrate a high level of commitment.

As exemplified by most truly valuable experiences in life, the Learning In Context program is not a free ride or a hand-out. It is a hand-up for people who refuse to be limited by their circumstances. It is for people who dare to dream and "act" upon their dreams. It is a safety net for people who otherwise would fall through the cracks of society.

In 1995, when the program was established, three individuals enrolled in the program. In the second year, 125 individuals received assistance. Today, there are more than 1,000 program participants who are benefiting from the program's emphasis on education and youth development. It is predicted that there will be steady growth in that number in response to the region's critical need for highly skilled and educated professionals.

Left: Superintendent Willie Davis of Ford Heights School District 169 and Samuel J. Lawrence III of Cottage Grove Middle School

Graduate Exhibit Presents
The Essence of a Woman

Rebeil graduated with a B.A. in Art at GSU in 1998, and this semester she will be completing an M.A. in Art concentrating on painting and drawing composition. She has been the graduate gallery assistant at the art gallery here at GSU.

Rebeil's outside interests include developing her own business working with embroidery and quilting.

Rebeil's future plans include teaching at a junior college and continuing with textile arts on her own.

Search for self can often be seen in the works of numerous artists. Ania A. Rebeil says, "As an artist, I am concerned with women's personal attributes. I focus on characteristics such as beauty, strength, will, fertility and love for tradition and nature." She describes her artwork as being closely related to her search for self. After the birth of her son, Rebeil says, "The importance of life and my roles as mother, wife and woman are constantly on my mind."

"My son and family are my inspiration," says Rebeil. She says that images representing them appear in her work often. Her son and family are often surrounded by small "worlds" and personal spaces. These worlds are ever changing in her ongoing search for self.
GSU student is the first to receive Chartered Financial Analyst Scholarship

GSU student Labeeb F. Shareef has been selected as the first GSU student to receive the Chartered Financial Analyst Scholarship, cosponsored by the Investment Analysts Society of Chicago (ASC) and the Association of Investment Management and Research (AIMR). The $1,000 award recognizes academic strengths, work experience and ethical standards. A resident of Harvey, Ill., Shareef is studying for a bachelor's degree emphasizing finance.

Additionally, Shareef is preparing to take the first CFA exam on June 2. Passing a series of three, daylong, practice-oriented exams over at least three years is one of the major requirements for earning the prestigious CFA charter. This year's exams will be given simultaneously at 210 test sites in 74 countries or territories.

"My professors are helping me to get ready for the test. I feel very optimistic about taking the test. It took a year of hard study to get to this point," said Shareef, who works in computer operations at the Northern Trust Bank Worldwide Technology Group.

"My goal is to become a certified financial analyst at an investment bank and a contract computer programmer," said Shareef.

The CFA program is administered by the AIMR, a 49,000 member, non-profit organization with a global mission of raising professional, educational and ethical standards of investment professionals.

As part of the College of Health Professions ongoing commitment to provide innovative approaches to education, on March 28, 2001, the Physical Therapy Department of the College of Health Professions hosted noted international journalist, television reporter and proponent of understanding the needs of the disabled John Hockenberry via GSU's Interactive Video Classroom. It was presented in cooperation with the Division of Extended Learning and the South Metropolitan Regional Higher Education Consortium, (SMRHEC) and Teachers College, New York. Hockenberry spoke for two hours to the PT students and OT and PT faculty members from Teachers College in New York. Hockenberry discussed his views of life with a disability and the rehabilitation process following a spinal cord injury at the age of 19. As part of the course curriculum for PHYT 766, students are required to read Hockenberry's novel, Moving Violations. The book details Hockenberry's experiences of rehabilitation and life in a wheelchair.

Dr. O'Shea contacted Hockenberry at his Dateline NBC office and proposed that he speak to the class. Hockenberry agreed to the idea and an adventure was born. The SMRHEC staff provided expertise and guidance for the videoconference and worked diligently with the Teachers College technical staff to provide a rewarding and high quality educational experience to the students. This was the first videoconference that Hockenberry had ever conducted with any students.

Hockenberry spoke briefly to the students and then opened the floor to questions and discussions with the PT students. Hockenberry candidly addressed issues of the rehabilitation process, difficulties with accessibility in the U.S. and abroad, his experiences covering news stories in the U.S. and the Middle East while being in a wheelchair and ways to inspire and motivate clients in the rehabilitation setting. The students reported that the experience was thrilling and unique; they enjoyed the opportunity to speak directly with the author of their reading material.

The College of Health Professions is proud to offer courses that support innovative and quality instruction at convenient times and modes for students in a variety of disciplines. Courses are offered via conventional face-to-face lecture discussion, the Internet, television, independent study by correspondence, extended campus and special topics/short course.
April
Employee of the Month

Police Officer Debra K. Boyd is a 21-year veteran of law enforcement. She is a proud graduate with two degrees from GSU. Boyd is the oldest of eight children and the first of her family to graduate from college. She is married and has one daughter.

To keep herself occupied on her off duty hours from DPS, Boyd currently teaches two classes in the College of Arts and Sciences - Stained Glass and Stress Management. She is also in the process of developing a stress and law enforcement workshop which is scheduled for Winter 2002.

Boyd is also a certified advanced master gardener who volunteers more than 60 hours per gardening season to community service. Many GSU employees have had Boyd water, prune and diagnose their ailing plants, with a bonus of receiving plants from her garden.

Other interests include creating stained glass artwork, collecting butterfly motifs in all shapes and fashions and crocheting. She has donated afghans to the CBPA Silent Auction and the Civil Service Senate Employee Scholarship Fundraisers.

Boyd says, "I was truly surprised to be awarded this honor. This is the second time I have received the Employee of the Month Award. This time, the nomination came from another police officer. To be recognized by one of your own is a special blessing."

GSU scholarships available for new and continuing Latino students

For new and continuing Latino students at GSU, there are two additional resources for financial assistance. GSU is seeking applications for the Latino Achievement Scholarship Program (LASP) and the Rey B. Gonzalez scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded to cover full tuition for a maximum of six trimesters. The deadline for submitting applications for the scholarships is two weeks before the start of the trimester.

In order to qualify, a student must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident; have a grade point average of at least 3.0; be admitted to an undergraduate or graduate degree program, and be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours. Additionally, applicants must be Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of another Latino culture or origin or descent, regardless of race. Scholarship recipients are required to participate in the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS).

To apply, eligible students must complete an application and submit a letter describing educational and career goals, community services and extracurricular activities. Applicants also must describe how the scholarship will help in achieving educational and career goals. Additionally, two letters of recommendation are required from persons who are familiar with the applicant in either an educational or work setting. All completed applications will be reviewed and recipients selected by a screening committee.

The Latino Achievement Scholarship Program is sponsored by GSU's Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and the Alumni Association. The Rey B. Gonzalez Scholarship is sponsored by GSU in collaboration with ALAS.

For applications or additional information, stop by the Financial Aid Office at GSU.

GSU scholarship winner draws closer to realizing dream of helping children to heal

Over the past two years, Kathy Freeman, a graduate student in psychology at GSU, has helped to change the lives of neglected and abused children as a substitute teacher in Chicago's public schools. The 39-year-old Chicago resident was recently awarded a scholarship from the Illinois School Psychologist Association for her efforts. The $3,000 scholarship recognizes academic achievement and contributions to the community.

"I developed the passion to work with children early on in my life from my experiences at home and at church. Children need nourishment and support, and I see a lack of that so much in my experiences in the classroom," said Freeman, an aspiring school psychologist who anticipates earning a master's degree in psychology from GSU in Spring 2003.

Freeman has taught English, math and other subjects to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students while working as a substitute teacher in schools primarily located in disadvantaged communities. She began her teaching career shortly after earning a bachelor of arts degree in human services and social and behavior studies from National Louis University.

"Too many students come to school with all of their experiences of abuse and neglect. When they have emotional problems, it becomes hard to teach them. Their readiness to learn has been damaged. I want to help them to heal," she said.
Meet...Charles Connolly

Charles H. Connolly accepted President Stuart Fagan's invitation to join the GSU Foundation Board in October 2000. Connolly, who is a public affairs consultant and author, retired from Whitman Corporation (now PepsiAmericas Corporation) as senior vice president - Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations, in December 2000.

Prior to joining Whitman in 1982, Connolly served with Chrysler Corporation for 18 years, where he held a series of increasingly responsible positions in employee communications and public relations before becoming director of public relations planning and research and chief speechwriter to Chairman Lee Iacocca.

Before joining Chrysler Corporation, Connolly held editorial positions with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Columbia Records.

Connolly graduated from Fordham University in 1957 with an A.B. degree in English and Philosophy and continued his study of English literature at Columbia University.

Connolly is the author of Air Pollution and Public Health (Dryden Press). He is a director of The Chicago Council on Urban Affairs, a trustee of Roosevelt University, a former trustee of St. Xavier University, and a former director of South Suburban Hospital.

Connolly is a resident of Homewood, Ill., and Montgomery Village, Md., married, with four children and has two grandchildren.

He is the proud parent of a GSU alum. His son, Evan, graduated from GSU several years ago.

"GSU is one of the key drivers in the south suburbs, providing stimulating energy and vitality. The university provides culture, training and promotes intellectual opportunities. All of these factors work together to improve the quality of life in the region while also spurring economic growth. I am very much looking forward to working with the board to help raise the profile of GSU."