Faculty Excellence: A Tribute To Quality

President Stuart Fagan has announced this year’s recipients of the Governor State University Faculty Excellence Awards.

Commitment to the underlying principles of GSU’s mission is a guideline in assessing excellence in the nominated candidates. Winners are selected by the Faculty Excellence Awards Committee based on outstanding achievement in teaching or performance of primary duties, research and creative activities, proficiency in use of technology, promotion of diversity and service to the community.

Cultivating an environment of academic excellence and scholarship is a hallmark of GSU’s new Strategic plan. The university is committed to attracting and retaining faculty who meet the highest expectation of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

This year’s award winners will receive a maximum of $1,500. The following are the 2000-2001 winners listed alphabetically.

Linda Buyer, professor of psychology, is commended for exemplary performance and service. Buyer is the coordinator for the undergraduate and graduate psychology programs. Additionally, she created the first program notebook that was used as a model by other program staff while working on addressing the requirements for accreditation.

Jon Carlson, professor of counseling, is commended for the outstanding quality of his research and creative activities. Carlson’s work in the area of counseling has enriched students, brought international recognition to (Continued on page 2)
GSU and significantly enhanced the reputation of the counseling program. He has edited four books, one of which was the featured selection of the Behavioral Sciences Book Club.

Russell Carter, professor of physical therapy, was commended for his outstanding service to both students and the university. In addition to his role as the director of the Physical Therapy Program, Carter teaches and contributes to numerous committees, including the University Budget, University Assessment, Student Conduct and Division Personnel committees.

Mercedes Graf, professor of school psychology, was nominated for exceptional research and creative activities. Graf’s research interests include the study of heroic women throughout history. As a result of most recent research efforts, Graf wrote *A Woman of Honor: Dr. Mary E. Walker and the Civil War* which was published this summer by Thomas Publications.

Reino Hakala, a professor of mathematical, physical and environmental sciences, was nominated in the area of excellence for exceptional program development. He was the chief researcher and author of the preliminary New and Expanded Program Request (NEPR).

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and the final NEPR for a New Unit of Instruction (RUNI) in the 1999-2000 academic year. The requests resulted in the establishment of a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a bachelor's in mathematics with a secondary teacher education sequence.

Elizabeth Hansen-Shaw, professor of library science and reference department head in the University Library, is commended for her admirable performance. Hansen-Shaw successfully dealt with the personnel issues that arise when so many staff members are involved in providing service to the public.

Brad Johnson, professor of accounting, is recognized for excellence in service to the university in the area of assessment. Despite the enormous time commitment to the assessment process, Johnson maintained his teaching excellence and interaction with students. He also managed to publish an original work in accounting, and is the co-author of a Federal Taxation Study Guide on Corporations, Partnerships, Estates and Trusts.

Diane Kjos, professor of psychology and counseling, is commended for her outstanding quality of service. Last year, Kjos was president of the National Career Development Association, a division of the American Counseling Association, whose mission is to promote the career development of all people over their entire life span. Kjos has co-edited her first book, Family Therapy and Strategy, to be published by Allyn and Bacon in 2002.

Larry Levinson, professor of political science, is commended for his superior service. Levinson possesses the vision and administrative skill to imagine and enact a University Hon-
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Board of Governors Program Marks 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts (BOG/B.A.) degree program in Illinois, a pioneering concept in adult learning. Since that time, approximately 15,000 students, primarily older individuals with full-time jobs, have earned BOG/B.A. degrees by taking advantage of the unique opportunity to earn college credits based partly on experience gained in the workplace.

On Monday, September 10, representatives from the state universities that have BOG/B.A. programs convened at Governors State University to set standards to evaluate the quality of their programs.

The meeting marks only the second gathering of the directors of the BOG programs in the state since former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar eliminated the Board of Governors University System in 1995.

The group discussed methods to evaluate the program to make sure it is consistent with the Citizen Agenda for Higher Education in Illinois, a statement of priorities outlined by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The IBHE requires that every program be periodically reviewed to see if it is meeting stated objectives. The BOG program is up for review by state higher education officials in 2005. The Sept. 10 meeting is one step towards preparing for the review.

"With a non-traditional program, it is extremely important that we ensure that we have the highest levels of program integrity and quality," said Dr. Kaye Woodward, director of the Board of Trustees Degree Program at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

The BOG program was instituted in Illinois following a massive study conducted in the late 1960s by the IBHE, according to Woodward.

"The survey revealed that the state was doing an excellent job of providing education opportunities for traditional age students -- those in the 18-25-year-old age group. However, there were individuals already in the workforce with a desire for continuing their education but the system was failing them," she said.
Africa at the Onset of the 21st Century: Facing the Development Challenges

Dr. Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, delivered the keynote address at the Conference on Sustainable Development, Governance and Globalization: An African Forum on Strategic Thinking and Acting towards the Earth Summit 2002 and Beyond, September 17 to 20, 2001, in Nairobi, Kenya.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our university to be in the spotlight at a major international development conference and I am indeed very proud to be involved in this endeavor as a representative of Governors State University," said Dr. Oden.

Dean Oden is also a professor of political studies at GSU. Additionally, Oden is the president of the Third World Conference Foundation, an organization that for the last twenty-eight years has organized the annual Third World Conference series. A unique forum on development, this conference brings together educators, academics, policy makers, diplomats, members of the media, members of the business community and community activists interested in development and public policy from the developing world, the United States, and Europe. In addition, he is the editor-in-chief of "Third World in Perspective: An Interdisciplinary Journal" and of the "Proceedings of the Annual Third World Conference." His book, Understanding Development in an Era of Globalisation, is forthcoming.

Tickets Available for November 4 Aid To America Fundraising Concert for Terrorist Attack Victims

To assist victims of the recent terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Somerset County, Penn., the Center for Performing Arts at GSU is donating its performance space and is recruiting some of the area's best local talent to perform free for a Sunday, November 4, charity concert, beginning at 3 pm.

Folk singer Anna Stang, the Great Lakes Naval Station Band and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Brass Ensemble will perform at the concert fundraiser dubbed "After the Attacks: Aid to America." Musical performance also will be provided by the Park Forest Singers and the Homewood/Flossmoor High School Band and Choir.

A minimum donation of $20 per reserved seat ticket has been established. For ticket information call the box office at 708-235-2222, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon.

All proceeds from the "Aid to America" concert will be donated to the Chicago Tribune Disaster Relief Fund, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

The foundation will match the first $5 million donated nationwide to the Tribune Disaster Relief Fund at a rate of 50 cents for each dollar it receives. One hundred percent of a donation — its match — will be granted to relief agencies to cover the costs of assisting those affected by the crisis.

Burton Dikelsky, director of the Center for Performing Arts, is in the process of confirming other well-known local performers for the charity fundraiser. For general information about the charity concert, contact the GSU Office of Public Affairs at 708-534-6366. To reserve seats, call the box office at 708-235-2222.
Opening night at the Center for Performance Arts

Shown from left to right are Comedian Mark Russel, Stuart Fagan, Micki Fagan, Jamie Fadim, Heather Sage Booth, and Karen Reid.

(l-r)
Mark Russell
and
Senator Debbie Halvorson

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ors Program and worked with a faculty committee representing every division to develop the policies, budget, and organization for the program.

Zam Malik, professor of management, has established a record of exemplary service that is recognized both for outstanding university citizenship and for external service that brings service to the university and provides linkages to the international community.

Mel Muchnik, professor of media communications, is commended for his superior service both within the university and the broader academic community. Muchnik has provided unparallel leadership in the field of academic technology and distance learning.

Margaret Neumann, professor of management information systems, is awarded based on her exemplary performance in teaching and primary duties. Neumann was a key person in the design and implementation of the undergraduate and graduate MIS programs. Under her leadership, the programs have expanded.

Nancy Shlaes, librarian, is recognized for her excellence in primary duties. Shlaes has created discipline and course specific web pages for biology, chemistry, integrative studies and communication studies as well as provided group and individual instruction to students and faculty.

John Yunger, professor of biology, is commended for excellence in teaching, research, and service. Yunger has assisted in the development of the south suburban region’s first university sponsored biology field research center. He has lead the implementation and the teaching of applications involving Geographic Information Systems, both on campus and online. Dr. Yunger’s research focuses on the effects of urbanization on vertebrates.

Jun Zhao, professor of management, is awarded for the high quality of her research and creative achievements. In the past year, Zhao has published extensively, including a work entitled Corporate Refocusing During the 1990's: A New Typology with an Empirical Investigation of its Performance Consequence. The work won the prestigious “Best Theoretical/Empirical Research Paper Award” of the Decision Sciences Institute.
GSU Hosts New Faculty Orientation Seminars

New GSU faculty explored a variety of topics at a two-day intensive orientation and information seminar held on campus in the E-Lounge September 13-14, 2001.

The workshop began with remarks from Dr. Stuart Fagan, GSU president; Dr. Paul Keys, GSU provost, and Dr. Eric Martin, assistant provost and director of the Center for Quality/Center for Teaching and Learning at GSU. The Center sponsored the event.

The opening roundtable discussion on Thursday, September 13, focused on GSU history, culture, service to the region and community college relations. The topic speakers were William Boline, professor of social work; Mel Muchnik, professor of communications; Nancy Shlaes, librarian and professor of library sciences, and Dr. Peggy Woodward, associate provost.

The group had an opportunity to share ideas regarding teaching and learning best practices at GSU. Facilitating the discussion were Diane Balin, director, Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts (B.O.G./B.A.) program; Diane Dates Casey, interim director of the university library; Elizabeth Ruiz, professor of psychology; Paul Schranz, professor of photography, and Becky Wojcik, professor of physical therapy.

Woodward and Marsha Katz, faculty union representative and professor of management, closed out the day with an insightful presentation about portfolios and union contracts.

Beginning the second seminar day with continental breakfast and collegial chat, the new faculty members launched into a discussion of the new role of scholarship at GSU. Specifically, the group discussed the new mission statement, faculty senate recommendations on scholarship, grant support and faculty development. On the panel were Karen D’Arcy, professor of analytical chemistry; Shelly Kumar, professor of organic chemistry; Larry Levinson, professor of political science; David Parmenter, professor of production management, and Regina Dixon Reeves, grant writer.

The nuts and bolts of where to go for what services defined the final presentation on GSU activities and services. The divisions represented included the University Library, Human Resources, Registrar’s Office, Student Life and Student Development.
GSU applauds, students, donors at Foundation Scholarship Reception

The Governors State University Foundation recently held a reception to honor the recipients of scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year. The event was also a time to honor donors, many of whom attended the affair.

Dr. Stuart Fagan, GSU president, opened the occasion with remarks that urged students to continue to strive for excellence.

"You are the role models for other students. You have set high goals for yourself, and you have been successful in reaching your goals. On behalf of the entire GSU community, I congratulate you on your selection as a scholarship recipient," said Dr. Fagan.

Ronald Bean, chair of the GSU Foundation Board, also delivered remarks at the event: "I have been blessed to have been born in this country and to assume the benefits of an American citizen. It's been my pleasure to be able to give back," said Dr. Bean.

Brandon Senter, vice president for development and public affairs at Governors State, acknowledged the donors making scholarships possible.

"We are very fortunate to have the commitment of men and women who work diligently on behalf of our scholarship efforts. I want to thank them for their compassion and their expertise," said Senter.

Scholarship Winners

Odell Brown
Megan Lee
Claramae Wentworth
Thomas E. Sweeney
Heather Mortel
Felicia Williams
Adina Wender
Jamie R. Janusz
Carole Sharwarko
Patricia Hayes
William Bromlett
Jennifer Dryja
Vanessa Wiggins
Jason Rasmussen
Carol Shrove
Judith Gibbs
Melanie Courtrell
Marianne Zelisko
Celia Kaposi
Lelah Thompson
Amy Gasbarro
Linda Smith
Anna Rooney
Debra Majewski
Donna Robertson
Christian Collins
Cynthia Jacobson

Veronica Hunt: September 2001 Employee of the Month

Veronica Hunt, administrative secretary, office of the Provost, is a whirlwind of activity. Between organizing the office, interacting with faculty and staff and preparing for any number of meetings and special events, she always has a kind word for those who drop by.

"I am so excited to be selected. I really want to thank all of those on my work team who really make it possible for me to excel," said Hunt.

Hunt is an asset to the community. As a result of understaffing, she recently assumed more responsibilities. Hunt scored high marks in the following job areas: demonstrates exceptional ability in tasks associated with assigned position; consistently courteous and helpful to fellow employees, faculty, students, retirees and GSU guests; displays a high level of motivation and willingness to assume additional responsibilities.
Meet...Arthur Stark

Arthur Stark, a long-time resident of Flossmoor, Ill., welcomes new challenges. In February 2001, he climbed Mount Kilamanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain and the 8th tallest free-standing mountain in the world.

Stark, who recently joined the Governors State University Foundation, is also committed to the idea of community service.

He had been involved with the community, both local and international, serving as a board member and/or executive committee member for numerous organizations, including the State of Israel Bonds, Boy Scouts of America, Anita M. Stone Jewish Community Center, American Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Cultural Art Center of Homewood.

Stark is the past president of the Prairie State College Foundation; a member of the executive committee of The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra; a member of the University Park, IL 60466-0975 U.S. Postal Service Customer Advisory Council and the Greater Southland Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, he is the owner of Homewood Travel Service in Homewood, Ill. and The Cruise Corner and Vacation Center in Wilmette, Ill.

On the subject of higher education, Stark speaks bluntly.

"I think that we are dead without higher education. If people want to move forward in the job market, they must continue to upgrade their skills to be able to deal with modern technology and professional requirements. Governors State is a fine university. I think it meets the needs of the community and gives residents an opportunity to augment their education and meets the needs of an increasingly demanding job market," he said.