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GSU prepares to expand regional child care and education services with new Family Development Center

Renewing his commitment to provide the region with quality education opportunities for all ages, GSU President Stuart Fagan shared the podium with regional education and workforce leaders at the October 5th groundbreaking for the new GSU Family Development Center.

"The university is committed to providing a platform for higher education to join with elementary and secondary education to improve teaching and learning at all levels. We expect a very high rate of return among eligible children, and have received numerous expressions of interest by parents. We anticipate a school filled to capacity for the next academic year," said Dr. Fagan.

Dr. Hazel Loucks, deputy governor for education and workforce; Sen. Debbie Halvorson (D-40); Rep. George Scully (D-80); and Dr. Roberta Berry, superintendent, Crete-Monee School District 201-U, also delivered remarks at the gathering.

"Governor Ryan and I are strong proponents of the belief that both early education and family involvement are key components of a learner's success. The governor and I are extremely excited about the Family Development Center's concentration on these key components, and we look forward to fully supporting the education, care and family support services the Center will provide," said Dr. Loucks.

Sen. Halvorson acknowledged the important role of the Center in the region, calling it "invaluable to our social and economic prosperity."

Sen. Halvorson added: "For every dollar invested in high quality infant and preschool education, four to seven dollars are saved on later problems."

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Groundbreaking
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In his comment, Rep. Scully endorsed the new Center.

"From preschool through college, our children deserve the best education that this nation can provide. The Family Development Center will help to lay the foundation for our children to experience a lifetime of professional and personal achievement."

The Family Development Center reflects a continuing partnership with the Crete-Monee District 201-U. In her remarks, Dr. Roberia Berry, district superintendent, reiterated her support: "Charter schools encourage schools to examine what we are doing. I am proud of many things about public education, but we can and must do better. Charter schools can help us move in the right direction. I believe the concept of our charter school is excellent and hope for a long-term relationship that will benefit our district," said Dr. Berry.

The groundbreaking ceremony launches one of the university’s most aggressive capital development campaigns since it was established in 1969.

The $6.2 million Center will feature 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.

The Center will house the region’s first Charter School, the Smart Start Program for infants and toddlers, and the Child Care Center.

@govst.edu will always report accomplishments that help GSU meet its mission statement. Look for these icons which will indicate stories that directly relate to GSU’s four goals.

Governors State University

Public Affairs Department

Connie Zonka, Director
Carolyn Dennis
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November 2001
Convocation Highlights
Connecting to Excellence at Governors State

Under the theme "Connect to Excellence at Governors State University," officials held Fall Convocation on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, at 2:30 p.m. on campus in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

The event provided a forum to honor 15 outstanding GSU faculty for exemplary teaching or performance of primary duties, research and creative activities, proficiency in use of technology, promotion of diversity and service to the community.

Dr. Stuart Fagan, GSU president, also used the occasion as a time to acknowledge a range of accomplishments that have positively impacted the university community, and he briefly discussed important future projects and activities. Additionally, Dr. Fagan presented the Gerald C. Baysore Distinguished Service Award to two GSU employees.

Other convocation speakers included Dr. Paul Keys, GSU provost; Dr. Michael Dimitroff, the newly-elected president of the Faculty Senate; LouElla Rozier, president of the Civil Service Senate, and a representative from the Student Senate.

Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presented Faculty Excellence awards to Drs. Reino Hakala, Larry Levinson, Melvyn Muchnik, John Yunger and Jun Zhao.

William Nowlin, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration, gave Faculty Excellence awards to Drs. Brad Johnson, Zam Malik and Margaret Neumann.

Diane Alexander, dean of the College of Education, bestowed Faculty Excellence awards to Drs. Linda Buyer, Jon Carlson, Mercedes Graf and Diane Kjos.

Sandra Mayfield, interim dean of the College of Health Professions, presented Faculty Excellence awards to Dr. Russell Carter and Professor Nancy Shlaes.

Diane Dates-Casey, interim director of the University Library, gave an award to Elizabeth Hansen-Shaw.

Colleen Rock Hawthorn (l.) and Pamela Zener flank GSU President Stuart Fagan after Convocation. Both received the Gerald C. Baysore Distinguished Service Award at the event.

News/Happenings

Illinois' gubernatorial candidates discussed issues during a recent taping of Governors State University's cable show, "Issues & Impact."

Paul Vallas, Michael Bakalis, Roland Burris and Patrick O'Malley were the guests for the taping. Dr. John W. Swain, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Administration at GSU, was the moderator for the event.

The candidates had an opportunity to present their positions on a variety of critical issues impacting Illinois citizens.

A public affairs program produced by Governors State University, "Issues & Impact" focuses on local, state and national public policy issues and the impact of those issues on the Chicago Southland region. It is broadcast locally via cable on GSU Channel 26 and is seen in Crete, Flossmoor, Hazel Crest, Lansing, Matteson, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park, Thornton and University Park.

The Renacer Boliviano Ballet Folkloric Dance Troupe, Project HOPE (Hispanic Opportunity Program Enhancement) participants and Governors State University students, staff, faculty and the general public recently shared in an evening of fun and cultural music.

The Renacer Boliviano dance troupe exhibited their considerable talents in a musical celebration of the beauty and uniqueness of Bolivian culture. Admission was free and open to the public.

In order to promote Bolivian culture Renacer Boliviano Ballet Folkloric was created in March of 1989. Since its inception the ballet troupe performed at various cultural centers in the Chicago area, as well as in other states.
Chicago Southland Alliance and the Metro Southwest Alliance Hold Health Care Forum at Governors State

Governors State University’s strategic plan embraces a commitment to helping Illinois business and industry to sustain strong economic growth, particularly in the south suburban region.

A recent example of this commitment was demonstrated when GSU officials participated in a health care forum on the economic role that hospitals play in the region. The Southland Health Care Forum was sponsored by the Chicago Southland Alliance and the Metro Southwest Alliance. GSU President Stuart Fagan and Sen. Debbie Halvorson were among the legislators, business leaders and hospital administrators attending the event.

The eight hospitals located in the region comprise a powerful economic engine with combined expenditures totaling more than $1.2 billion annually. Using a conservative multiplier of 3.5, this translates into an economic impact of more than $4 billion per year. The region’s hospitals are also among the largest employers, with a workforce of around 15,000 area residents.

“Hospitals are often the anchors of the communities they serve. They maintain a high level of community involvement, and their services enhance the quality of life here in the Southland - an intangible that most business leaders rate high when making site selection decision,” Sherry Marnell, executive director of the Chicago Southland Alliance, wrote in a published article. In her remarks at the forum held at Governors State University, area legislators were asked to support a legislative agenda that included:

- Expanding family care for families that qualify for KidCare (SCHIP) Medicaid;
- Beginning to reform the Medicaid inpatient payment system. Supporting a Cost-of-Caring Adjustment for a health Medicaid delivery system.
- Supporting college and hospital initiatives to increase recruitment and educational programs to address current and future health care staffing needs; and
- Continuing to work with the Department of Insurance on the development of a plan to provide access to health insurance for all Illinoisans.

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The Office of Career Services at Governors State University sponsors a Job Fair

More than 150 students attended the Office of Career Services' job fair for part-time jobs and internships. The event was held recently at GSU in the Hall of Honors.

There were 28 registered employees from a variety of organizations attending who represented industries from health care to communications.

The following represents a good cross-section of companies attending the job fair: Citizens Financial Services, Lansing Police Department, Federal Express, Pixel, Washington Inventory Services, Toys R Us, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Walgreens, Friedman & Huey of Homewood, United Parcel Service, Trinity Services, Family Services Center of Crete and Gordon Food Services.

"In spite of the tight economy, we had a very good turn out of students and employers. We only had a very small drop-off in attendance of employers when compared to last year. We had about 30 or 31 then," said Jim Opon, office of Career Services director.

To find out about other job fairs that will be sponsored by Career Services, just log-on to the GSU Internet address at www.govst.edu and open the Career Services icon. You can also call the Office of Career Services at 708-235-3974.

GSU Provost Forums

Dr. Lorraine Sibbet, Director of Student Life, served as the facilitator for one of the Provost's Forums held recently at GSU. Dr. Paul Keys, GSU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, set the stage for open and candid communications in his introductory remarks. He also introduced administrators and deans from the university who were in attendance.

The newly-elected president of the GSU Student Senate, Stephen O'Connor, said a few words on the accomplishments thus far: the election of officers and the establishment of an ad hoc committee for bylaws. O'Connor also indicated that the senate hopes to raise money to aid victims of the September 11th tragedy.

Dr. Sibbet also introduced Kenny Soyege, the Illinois Board of Higher Education student representative. Soyege expressed a need for solidarity between all faculty, staff and community so that a difference can be made here at the university.

"We must be one community working toward one goal," said Soyege.
ComEd Supports GSU Foundation with $10,000 Donation

The Governor's State University Foundation received a check for $10,000 from Commonwealth Edison recently. At the Foundation's October board meeting, Frank Clark, president, Commonwealth Edison and a member of the Foundation's board, presented the check to Dr. Stuart Fagan.

In October 2001, Clark was named President, ComEd, assuming the leadership of an 8,000 employee company that provides electricity to more than 3.4 million customers throughout northern Illinois. ComEd has annual revenues of approximately $6.3 billion. Clark is also senior vice president of Exelon Corporation, parent company of ComEd.

He serves on the board of trustees of Adler Planetarium and Roosevelt University; board of directors for Metropolitan Family Services, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, and the Chicago Legal Clinic; and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Economic Club of Chicago, and the Executives' Club of Chicago. Clark and his wife, Vera, have two sons.

Governors State University Student Senate

The swearing in of the 2001-2002 GSU Student Senate was held recently in GSU's Cafeteria Annex. Kudos to all who ran for a seat, who voted and who will support the newly elected GSU student senators. The following students have been elected to the 2001-2002 Student Senate: Janet Hicks-Patterson, Alisher Bozorov, Muhammad Fahad Khan, Ronke Thanni, Jill Reidenbach, Kelli Sykes, Amy Hardwidge, Gail Kallend, April Evang, George Ceska III, Verna Jackson, Samuel Gaines, Steven O'Connor, Claude Hill, Toure Peck, LaTonya Holmes, Ramota B. Soyege, Kevin Hodur and Evelyn C. Taylor.

Employee of the Month

David Weinberger, GSU's financial aid advisor, is the outstanding employee for October 2001. His nomination is based on demonstration of exceptional ability in tasks associated with his assigned position. Moreover, Weinberger is consistently courteous and helpful to follow employees, faculty and students.

One student has particularly benefitted from her interactions with Weinberger. Rosa L. Johnson, a GSU student, writes of Weinberger's positive behavior in her nomination form.

"His customer service skills were always top notch. He was concerned not only with completing and submitting the proper paper work but with addressing the needs of the individual as a whole. Being 900 miles away in Dallas, Texas, he made the difference in my being able to complete my degree through the BOG program."
GSU Hosts Student “Teach In” and Community Forum on terrorism

On Monday, October 22, GSU hosted two forums to discuss the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Both events were free and open to the public.

From 2 - 4 p.m., GSU hosted a community wide teach-in on the current crisis of global terrorism. The event was held in the Hall of Honors at GSU.

A panel of speakers including Dr. Larry Levinson, professor of political and justice studies; Dr. Donald Culver, professor of political and justice studies; Dr. Mel Muchnik, professor of media communications; Dr. Carl Stover, professor of public administration, and Alisher Bozorov, graduate student, discussed varying aspects of “Global Terrorism: Causes and Reactions.” According to Dr. Levinson, the purpose of the teach-in was to provide an arena to share information and participate in a dialogue on one of the most critical issues of the day.

From 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., the university held a community forum entitled “After the Attacks” to continue the dialogue on the pervasive impact of the September 11 attacks. Sponsored in conjunction with the Star and Daily Southtown newspapers, the evening forum was held in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Dr. Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and political studies professor at GSU, discussed the impact of the terrorist attack on U.S. foreign policy. Dr. Adriela Fernandez, professor of Latin American Studies/Integrative Studies addressed immigration concerns. Dr. Carl Stover provided an analysis of United States military activity and options available in the short term. The topic of new alliances and efforts to suppress terrorism was discussed by Dr. John W. Swain, professor of public administration and director of the Institute for Public Policy and at GSU.

The forum was moderated by Dr. William Nowlin, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration.
Meet...James P. Bartley

James P. Bartley is a member of the Board of Directors of the Governors State University Foundation. He is also a member attorney of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins Law Firm.

Born in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Bartley was admitted to the bar in 1976 for Illinois, Nevada and the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Loyola University in 1968 and a juris doctorate with high distinction in 1976 from the John Marshall Law School.

Bartley was a member of the John Marshall Law Review from 1975-1976.


Bartley is also a member of the Chicago, Illinois State and American Bar Associations; State Bar of Nevada, and the Illinois Council of School Attorneys. His area of practice is in public sector labor and employment, school law and municipal law.

Bartley's firm — Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd. — has been representing local governments throughout the Chicago area and Illinois, as well as a broad base of individual and private corporate clients since 1935.

Today the firm represents a large number of municipal bodies, including cities, villages, fire protection districts, police and fire boards, library districts, and school districts.