This Week at GSU

19 GSU Alumni Association Phonathon, 5 to 10 p.m., Engbretson Hall. Continues through March 30.

20 College of Health Professions Job Mart, 3 to 9 p.m., Hall of Governors.

22 Board of Governors Affirmative Action Administrative Fellows Conference; “Inspiring Diversity in Academic Leadership,” 2 p.m., Sherman Music Recital Hall.

22 Applied Music Student Recital, 7:30 p.m., Sherman Music Recital Hall.

23 Campus Community Center Family Night, 6 to 10 p.m.

All events held at University Park campus unless otherwise noted.

Experts converge at GSU for computer conference

Computer experts will converge at GSU March 30 for the “1990 Midwest Computer Conference.”

An estimated 200 persons will attend the conference that includes hands-on demonstrations and discussions that will cover everything from information-modeling to computer viruses.

The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. NeXT Inc. will offer a special session on new developments in computer technology from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Phillippe Kahn, chief executive officer of Borland International, developer of TURBO PASCAL, will deliver the keynote address, “Software Craftsmanship for the 1990s,” via satellite from NeXT.

Scholarship winner ‘bit by education bug’

When Mary Ellen Fawk worked with gifted children for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, she says she got bit by the education bug. Today, thanks to the help of the Civil Service Scholarship at GSU, Mary Ellen is one step closer to receiving a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

Mary Ellen, BOG portfolio coordinator and professional Equity actress, says that while majoring in theatre at SIU in Edwardsville, she ran out of money and had to leave school just 28 hours short of getting her degree. This, however, led her down a new road in life in a slightly different direction than she had anticipated.

After leaving SIU, Mary Ellen began working for the Archdiocese of St. Louis with 4th to 8th grade gifted children. Through her knowledge of theatre, Mary Ellen taught them forensics, speech and dramatics. The combination of theatre techniques with education was very successful.

“I really enjoyed watching the children develop and the energy that came from them as they gained a love for the theatre,” says Mary Ellen.

Because the gifted program was forced to close due to a lack of funding in 1981, Mary Ellen decided to move to south suburban Chicago where her family lived. Although she continued working as an actress, Mary Ellen decided to go back to school and entered GSU in 1987. She also began working in the BOG office here that April.

GSU graduate students win 1st place in statewide competition

A video by three Governors State University graduate students was selected the first-place winner in the Illinois Coalition for Safety Belts statewide competition.

The film, “Shattered Lives - Shattered Dreams,” a video on the effects of drunk driving and the failure to use seat belts, was named the best project in the audio-visual category.

The film now will compete against presentations from 30 other states in national competition in Washington during "National Buckle-Up Week,” May 21 through 28.
Employee of the Month

Electrician feels job is more than a paycheck

By Roxane Geraci-Roche

Alexander Graham Bell probably would gasp in awe if he saw the kind of complex telephone system a university uses today. Hundreds of telephones... thousands of phone numbers... and don't even try to count the wires and their connections. Yes, old Al just might shiver in fear.

But GSU's March Employee of the Month Michael Knabjiam doesn’t gasp in awe or shiver in fear, because he’s the man who knows the phone system at GSU inside and out.

For the past 13 years, Mike has worked as an electrician for the Physical Plant Operations Office. He is responsible for the repair and upkeep of the 600 telephones located in the university. He is also responsible for maintaining the telephone equipment, along with the installation and hook-up of computers.

“On many occasions, Mike arrives at 6 a.m. to work on problem areas with the telephone equipment before the staff arrives,” said Ila Kline, PPO administrative clerk, in her nomination of Mike. “The university owns its own phone equipment, and aging has caused problems in the telephone service. Mike also faces problems of trying to purchase equipment and parts that are obsolete,” she added.

Ila is also quick to point out that Mike not only performs his job well, but is very dedicated in doing it.

“Mike never misses work and if he is off for any reason, he will call me in the morning to see how things are going. If there are any problems, Mike will come in,” says Ila, adding that he even plans his vacations around the university calendar making sure he is available for graduation and registration.

Mike, however, is very humble about his position and says he doesn’t see it as dedication. He feels that good service is what a job is all about.

“You have a responsibility in what you do—it’s more than just picking up a paycheck,” says Mike, adding that he really enjoys his work, the variety in it and the contact with the various people he encounters in a typical day.

As with all of us, there are days when things just don’t seem to be going too well. But when Mike experiences “one of those days,” it is usually on a grander scale.

“One morning I came in and the sprinkler line had frozen, then when it thawed, it put the whole telephone system down,” says Mike while talking about some of his memorable moments at GSU. “It took a day or two to get it working again.”

Another memorable moment for Mike was his selection as “Employee of the Month,” although, once again, his humility shined through when he was asked about the honor.

“I was surprised. I feel that there are many other people that probably could have received this award, this month or any month. There are a lot of good people here,” he said.

Mike also has his hands full at home. He, and his wife, Dorothy, are busy raising their seven children Danielle, Denise, Darcy, Helene, Michael, Kevin and Keith. Their ages range from one to 17 years old.

Born and raised in Chicago, Mike went to Kelly High School and Daley College. He has taken classes at GSU, including stained glass making.

“I’ve made several pieces and plan to do more when I have time,” he says, adding that he also would like to pursue a degree-seeking program at GSU.
The Grapevine

Creative Woman ‘one of the best little magazines’

Have you seen a copy of The Creative Woman lately? Bruce Allen wrote in the Christian Science Monitor Monthly Book Review that The Creative Woman is "...one of the best little magazines."


The 12-year-old magazine was the brainchild of Dr. Helen Hughes, retired professor from the Division of Psychology. She now devotes most of her time to the publication. Each issue is designed by the staff of the Instructional Communications Center and printed at the University Print Shop.

If you'd like to subscribe to the publication, or give a year's subscription to a friend, send a check for $12 to The Creative Woman office here on campus.

Annuity plan changes must now be handled by rep

If you're thinking about enrolling in a tax-sheltered annuity plan, or if you want to make changes in your current plan, you must have the signature of the plan's representative. Changes and enrollments can no longer be handled by the GSU Personnel Office staff. The plan's representative must sign the retirement annuity plan form for any transaction increase, decrease or cancellation.

If you have questions about the policy, contact Willette Jones in the Personnel Office on extension 2194.

Members of the TIAA-CREF plan must also notify their representative. Details are available from Willette.

Credit union offers free seminar on tax planning

The Will County Credit Union is offering a free seminar “Tax Planning Tips” at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the credit union office, 2350 W. McDonough St., Joliet.

Carl F. Vandy, the newly appointed Plan America Financial Services representative, will be the presenter. He previously worked for 17 years in the insurance industry and had operated his own financial planning service.

Reservations are requested and can be made with the credit union staff at (815) 725-5901.

‘Handicapped students’ topic of March Colloquium

"Handicapped Students in the GSU Classroom" will be the topic for Peggy Woodard's Colloquium presentation at 3 p.m. March 26 in the Hall of Honors.

Peggy, the counselor in Student Affairs and Services who is working with handicapped students, will discuss changes in attitudes and academic accommodations since the passage of federal laws mandating handicapped accessibility.

Her discussion will focus on issues including the university's responsibility to provide accommodations such as alternate course requirements, untimed tests, course substitutions for core requirements and others. She will also discuss both student expectations for reasonable accommodations and faculty expectations of disabled students.

Volunteers still needed for annual alumni calling

With two weeks remaining in the annual Alumni Phonathon, volunteers still are needed to help with calling, especially for Sundays and Fridays.

The volunteer callers contact GSU alumni from across the country asking for pledges for the annual alumni fund drive.

Individuals interested in participating in the phonathon are asked to contact Katie Ball at extension 2215.

Scholarship winner combines theatre with education

(Continued from page 1)

Today, Mary Ellen is nearing completion of a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She plans to use her education to help her further her career at GSU and is considering going on for a master's degree in theatre or communications.

With theatre still being her first love, Mary Ellen continues working in the field and recently completed two industrial films for a Chicago production company. She says she would also love to see an outdoor theatre and a Shakespearean festival on the grounds of GSU.

"I think that this campus is one of the south side's best kept secrets. There's a good feeling here," says Mary Ellen about GSU.

And Mary Ellen also has a good feeling about being awarded the winter trimester Civil Service Scholarship. The money will pay for a class she is taking next trimester and will help with the cost of textbooks.

"I was really thrilled when I received the scholarship. It is a real good thing," Mary Ellen said. "Sometimes you forget what is available. It's a good opportunity to take advantage of."

The Civil Service Scholarship is presented each trimester to an employee or dependent who is a student working on a bachelor's degree at GSU or any other accredited college or university. The student must have a "C" or higher average. The award is given to civil service employees with at least two years service, or their dependents who are 23 years old or younger.

Applications are being accepted through April 13 for spring trimester scholarships, and are available from Fran Lindsay in the Personnel Office.

Applications should be accompanied by a transcript and the student's one-page essay describing educational and career goals. For more information on the scholarship, contact Jean Johnson, chairperson of the Civil Service Scholarship Committee, on extension 2241.
Grad students win first place

(Continued from page 1)

Graduate students John Kulidas of Crete, Peter McDonough of Orland Park and Louis Schultz of South Holland, worked on the film as an independent study project in television production under the direction of Dr. Sam Enyia, professor of media communications. Special assistance was given by media lab assistant Audrey Gaines.

The film was produced for the Combined Agencies to Reduce Trauma/Local Alcohol Awareness Program (CART/LAAP), as a public service piece to be shown to high school students, local organizations and other audiences. It also will be shown on several cable television channels.

GSU alumna Marjorie Owens, public information coordinator for the Village of Orland Park and a member of CART/LAAP, suggested GSU's participation in the project.

The film opens with a counselor being interviewed on the work he does with victims of drunk driving. The film then moves to a surprise 21st birthday party for Jim. When the host runs low on beer, Jim and two friends agree to go out for more. But on the way, Jim gets into an accident with another car.

Jim, his front-seat passenger, the mother driving the other car and her 6-year-old seated next to her were not wearing seat belts. All are rushed to the hospital. Jim is treated and released, but his passenger is badly injured, and the mother and child die later that evening.

Police charge Jim not only with drunk driving, but also with two counts of reckless homicide.

Throughout the film the counselor's voice is heard giving statistics of deaths and injuries that result from drunk driving and a failure to wear seat belts.

"The people from CART/LAAP wanted an emotionally dramatic presentation," video director McDonough explained. The film gives the viewer the impression that it is a true happening in part because an accident scene was staged with the assistance of the Orland and Palos Fire Protection Districts which closed off a road and brought in two junked cars for the accident scene.

A host of emergency vehicles at the scene and emergency room medical personnel at Palos Community Hospital brought the accident and hospital trauma to life.

Computer experts hold session at Governors State

(Continued from page 1)

his California office.

Dr. Ali Setork, professor of computer science, is conference chairperson and Dr. Akkanad Isaac, professor of MIS, is on the conference committee.

Committee members are Dr. Reino Hakala, professor of mathematical, physical and environmental sciences,