Enrollment Picking Up
The most recent figures show that credit hours for the Fall Trimester are about equal to the same period last year and that the gap in headcount is closing. With the registration deadline extended to September 10, enrollment is expected to be about equal with last year. There is the possibility of a modest increase if additional courses are added to Block 3. That question will be addressed by the Dean’s Council, Provost’s Office, and President’s Cabinet in the coming weeks.

Enrollment Bright Spot
Enrollment for the College of Health Professions is up nearly 7.5 percent from last year. “Congratulations to the faculty, chairs, and Dean Samson,” said President Stuart Fagan. “Their hard work has paid off. It’s recognized and appreciated.”

Mark Your Calendars: Faculty Excellence Awards and Convocation
Faculty Excellence Awards will be presented at 2:30 p.m. on September 23 at a ceremony on the stage of the Center for Performing Arts.
Convocation will be held October 9 at 2:30 p.m. in Sherman Music Recital Hall. At Convocation, President Fagan will explain his plans for getting back to the basic principles that initially inspired GSU. “We’re spending more time than we should on finances and budget cuts,” Fagan said. “I don’t want us to lose our moorings. Our business is education. We need to re-focus on GSU’s original purpose – teaching, scholarship, and service. I’ll share my ideas on how to keep our focus at convocation.”

There Goes the Neighborhood
Faculty is now ensconced in the FOC. The Administration move will begin next week and will be completed the week of September 15.

Getting the Word Out: CHP’s e-Pulse
College of Health Professions students, prospective students, institutional and community partners, and state legislators will find the second issue of the college’s electronic newsletter in their inboxes soon. Distribution of the newsletter, the e-Pulse, is just one of the strategies CHP Dean Linda Samson is employing to raise awareness about both GSU and CHP. “We’re using the e-Pulse as a fast and cost-effective means to keep students up-to-date,” Samson said, “but the efficiency of the electronic medium also allows us to keep our name circulating among other audiences who are valuable to us.” Samson explained CHP is engaged in several projects that address healthcare’s and education’s most critical issues. “But out of sight,” Samson said, “out of mind. Raising our profile and offering proof of what we’re doing is vital to receiving not only continued support for our work, but increased support as well.” Samson said the ultimate goal is to see CHP’s ability to build community partnerships increase. “Certainly, every connection, every partnership, every grant and dollar puts us in a stronger position to improve health systems and education in our region,” she said.
National Honor Society Chapter Comes to GSU
Call them working adults, adult learners, non-traditional or continuing education students: the fact is, they make up nearly 48 percent of today’s college students. They’re highly motivated. They juggle the demands of families and jobs. And now there’s a national honor society just for them at GSU: the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, which will soon install its 300th chapter, Gamma Sigma Upsilon, at GSU. No easy trick getting in, though. The Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society has exacting criteria for membership. Potential members must be in the top 10 percent of the university’s very best undergraduate students – the top 10 percent of undergraduates who have achieved a GPA of 3.2 to 4.0. “We have about 108 students eligible to join Alpha Sigma Lambda at GSU,” said Lorraine Sibbet, executive director of Student Life. All have been invited by letter to attend an information session set for Monday, September 8. L. Kay Woodward, the national executive director for Alpha Sigma Lambda, will conduct the session and answer questions for potential members. “This is a great opportunity for students,” said Jim Howley, director of Career Services. Howley has been tapped to be GSU’s chapter advisor. “First, it’s great recognition for a student population that isn’t always recognized for its achievements. Second, it creates important networking opportunities. As a career services guy, I know how important that can be. In either case, membership clearly demonstrates that these students are top performers.” Sibbet, a former advisory dean for another honor society, has a particular passion for the installation of GSU’s chapter. “Our students deserve exactly this kind of recognition,” she said. “Time and again they go above and beyond, not only maintaining work and family, but achieving superior academic performance as well.” Sibbet said the installation of the chapter is tentatively scheduled for October 16.

ScholarShip Sails On: Counseling I
Dr. Hugh Crethar, from the Division of Psychology and Counseling, is the new editor of the newsletter for the Counselors for Social Justice (a division of the American Counseling Association).

ScholarShip Sails On: Counseling II
Psychology and Counseling’s Dr. Cyrus Marcellus Ellis is published in the new issue of CSJ Activist. His article, “Counselor Education and the Approach to Social Justice,” is included in the first issue of CSJ edited by Hugh Crethar.

ITS: Under Siege
As widely reported, colleges and universities across the nation were ravaged by internet viruses and worms during the month of August. At GSU, that meant (and still means) waves and waves of e-mails touting “Wicked Screensaver,” “Your Application,” and other irritating nonsense. Despite the irritants, however, one thing is certain: It could have been a lot worse had it not been for efforts of ITS. “There’s been a lot of press coverage on this,” said Pete Mizera, executive director of ITS, “so people know what we’re up against.”

Counting Down: Hands Across Southland Unity Day at GSU
GSU and the Village of University Park will host the Unity Coalition of the South Suburb’s Hands Across Southland on campus on September 14, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. For more information go to www.govst.edu/users/gwelcome/handsacross.htm or call 708.534.4125.
Moving Ahead
As reported last week, President Stuart Fagan told the Board of Trustees that he will immediately initiate a review of all aspects of GSU’s policies and processes with an aim to improving the quality of the academic experience, reduce costs in some cases, moderate cost increases in others, and improve the level of service to students. Fagan told the Board he would discuss his plans in detail at the Convocation on October 9. This week, he told the Administrative Group that he will move quickly, working through university-wide task forces and existing GSU committees. He then reported that he has already asked the Graduate Council to establish a sub-committee to examine the issue of advising at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, and to make both short and long-term recommendations on ways to improve the advising process.

GSU Runs the Table
On September 15, Fagan and Kankakee Community College President Jerry Weber signed a dual admissions agreement. With that act, GSU now has dual admissions agreements with each of its five partner colleges. The university also has agreements with the City Colleges of Chicago and other schools in the region.

We Call it “Distance Learning,” But it Should Be “Nearby Learning”
Fagan and Weber announced that beginning in January, Governors State would offer business courses at the KCC campus in a new program called “University Fast Track.” The program had been in the works for more than two years. A joint GSU/KCC task force investigated the program’s feasibility, surveyed KCC students and graduates, and recommended moving forward. There was a very strong demand for business courses, though education and health professions were not that far behind. If there is sufficient interest, GSU and KCC will consider adding programs. Fagan thanked CBPA Dean Bill Nowlin for his leadership and persistence in making University Fast Track a reality.

Building a Relationship with High Schools
More than 250 high school counselors visited Governors State Thursday for the 2003 State Articulation Conference. The counselors were able to get the skinny on all of the state colleges and universities in a series of presentations by said colleges and universities. President Fagan, Executive Director of Admission and Student Recruitment Larry Polselli, and Assistant Director of Admission Sharon Evans seized the opportunity to explain why high school counselors should encourage students to attend a community college and complete their baccalaureate degrees at GSU. Evans emphasized that it was a hassle free process because of the articulation agreements with the community colleges which assure community college graduates a seamless transition to GSU. Fagan told the counselors that GSU rates among the elite schools in the country because of the high
quality of its faculty and the university’s academic programs. To prove the point, he reeled off the string of recent accreditations and high rankings of academic programs in national surveys. Fagan also pointed out that some students come here because they have positive memories of visits to the chemistry and biology labs or the Center for Performing Arts when they were in high school. Building closer relationships with high schools is part of the long-term strategic plan for marketing and enrollment.

Are We Prepared for the Worst?
Find out on October 1, when the Department of Health Administration and the College of Health Professions offer the program “Responding to Terrorism,” with presentations by the Will County Emergency Management Agency and the Will County Health Department. The lead presenter, Harold Damron, chief deputy director of the Will County Emergency Management Agency, has been working in the field since long before 9/11. Damron is also a part of the GSU community as a student in the BOG program. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Moving into the 21st Century
At last! The current catalog is now available on CD-Rom. “Putting the catalog on CD-Rom reduces costs,” Polselli said. “More important, libraries, community colleges, and many students prefer the CD-Rom to the printed catalog.” Anyone wanting the catalog should contact the Admission Office.

Please Take Notice, Governor Blagojevich
Hilary Burkinshaw, director of the Small Business Development Center, reports that 10 new loans for businesses in the area totaling nearly $4 million have been approved. Four other loan packages, with a value of $2 million, are about to be submitted to the Small Business Association. So far this year, the Center has helped arrange for a total of $16,999,107 in small business loans and created or preserved about 358 jobs. Loan approvals are up $3,737,072 over last year.

Training Camp’s Over, the Season’s About to Begin
And we don’t mean the NBA. John Swain, director of the Institute for Public Policy Administration, reports that the Institute has scheduled 11 workshops from October through January. Subjects include the basics of Word, Excel, and Access. There will also be a from-the-ground-up Website creation class that will teach participants how to design a fully-functional, three-page Website; how to purchase a domain name and Web hosting services for the site; and how to market the site. See the complete workshop listing at http://www.govst.edu/users/gwelcome/workshops.htm.

GSU Scholarship Sails on – the HMS Health Professions

In our next issue, we’ll trail the wake of the HMS Arts and Sciences in our GSU Scholarship Sails on Series.