NCA Assessment: GSU Assessment A – O.K.
In 2000, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) challenged GSU to document program improvement consistently across all programs, noting at the time that the university had not tied assessment to program improvement or student outcomes. This week, the Commission notified the university that the report on assessment it submitted on June 30 has been accepted. NCA said, “No further reports are required. The institution’s next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2009-10.” Some of the positives NCA cited included the appointment of an assistant provost and the establishment of the Center for Quality, which “....demonstrate the University’s focus on assessment processes.” NCA also noted, “At GSU, assessment has become an institutional priority, a way of life.” Provost Paul Keys said, “NCA’s response is very gratifying. It is a tribute to the thousands of hours of hard work by faculty members serving on various committees. It’s a validation of our effort to put the right processes in place to assure the highest level of academic quality. It’s evidence of the progress we have made over the past few years.” Keys added a special note of appreciation for Dr. Eric Martin, assistant provost and director of the Center for Quality, and Professor Becky Wojcik, chair of the University Assessment Committee. “Dr. Martin authored this report, and the work he and Professor Becky Wojcik have done with assessment has been exemplary.”

Cream Rises to the Top
Sixteen faculty members received Faculty Excellence Awards this week for outstanding teaching, service, and scholarship. Deans who presented the winners from their colleges commented that it is counter-intuitive, but those professors who were the most demanding and who set the highest standards for performance received satisfaction ratings of 95 percent or higher from their students. This year’s winners are Anthony Andrews – University Professor of Economics – CBPA/CAS; Gary Cook – University Professor of Management Information Systems – CBPA; Heikki Heino – University Professor of Finance – CBPA; Frances Kostarelos - University Professor of Liberal Studies and Anthropology – CAS; Todd Rohman - University Professor of English and Composition – CAS; Bruce Wilson - University Professor of Criminal Justice – CAS; Gregory Blevins - University Professor of Alcoholism Science – CHP; Judy Lewis - University Professor of Alcoholism Science – CHP; Jay Shen - University Professor of Health Administration – CHP; Sondra Estep - University Professor of Educational Administration – CE; Mercedes Graf - University Professor of Psychology – CE; Karen Peterson - University Professor of Education and Director of the Alternative Certification Program; Elizabeth Ruiz - University Professor of Psychology and Counseling – CE; Catherine Sori - University Professor of Psychology and Counseling – CE; Linda Geller – University Librarian – University Professor of Library Science; and Mari Ellen Leverence - University Librarian – University Professor of Library Science.

Commitment to Faculty
Speaking at the Faculty Excellence Awards Ceremony, Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Friefeld told the award winners and audience that he was “…primed to go back to Springfield to lobby against further budget cuts, to lobby for additional funding – especially for salary increases....” In his closing remarks, President Stuart Fagan
told faculty that there would be an aggressive enrollment campaign for the Winter Trimester. He said that GSU will continue to seek new ways of doing business and told the group he would discuss his plans in more detail at Convocation on October 9. Echoing the remarks of Chair Friefeld, Fagan said, "I’ll be spending a lot of time in Springfield visiting with legislators to lobby against further budget cuts for the next fiscal year, to seek a restoration of cuts already made, and most important, to seek funding for salary increases. The legislature hasn’t appropriated funds for salary increases for the past two years. It’s time they do so now." Provost Keys also pledged increased support for faculty, promising to seek ways to find additional time for scholarship and research.

**In Production: Mediation Meets Neuroscience**

Professors Jon Carlson and Tony Labriola were at Harvard and Boston University recently filming interviews for *Personality Theories: a Multicultural Perspective*, a PBS teleclass coming together under the direction of GSU’s psychological and television production talents. Carlson and Labriola made it to MIT as well for the "Investigating the Mind Conference." Carlson said, "This was the most amazing conference I’ve ever attended." According to Carlson, the conference focused on integrating neuroscience with the 2,500-year-old contemplative tradition of Buddhism. It was filmed as part of the *Personality Theories* teleclass, which Carlson co-hosts with Division of Psychology and Counseling colleague Dr. Elizabeth Ruiz. "The conference presented mediation concepts that can bring a person to greater control over his or her mind," Carlson said, "This is life-changing stuff. We now know that meditation can bring about brain chemistry changes that affect happiness."

The conference included presentations from several Nobel Prize winners, including the Dalai Lama.

**ScholarShip Sails On: Communications**


**Responding to Terrorism**

CHP’s Department of Health Administration will host “Responding to Terrorism,” a comprehensive presentation by Will County Health officials on October 1. The topic: bioterrorism – monitoring and response strategies. “The threat of bioterrorism is a fact of life now,” said Dr. Ralph Bell, chair of the Department of Health Administration. “That puts health administrators on the front lines since they originate and implement the strategies for consequence management.” According to Bell, whether in nursing home administration or in the offices of state and local health departments, health administrators are integral to every level of consequence management, from detection to response. The “Responding to Terrorism” panel will address emergency planning, surveillance, and response. “Responding to Terrorism” is open to students, educators, as well as interested members of the community. See more at [http://www.govst.edu/dxl/bioterror_prep/bioterror_prep_ad.html](http://www.govst.edu/dxl/bioterror_prep/bioterror_prep_ad.html)

**Crank It: Film Series Ready to Make Noise**

As probably reported here previously (the editor’s memory is admittedly weak), the Intellectual Life Subcommittee of the Graduate Council has been kicking around ideas for the presentation of academically and intellectually interesting endeavors here on campus. The first of these – the GSU Film Series – is ready to go. Spearheaded by Dr. Todd Rohman, professor of English and composition and a Faculty Excellence Award winner, the idea has already generated enthusiasm among faculty, some of whom have signaled their interest in presenting films. The way it works: a faculty member picks a film that he or she finds interesting and worthy of discussion. That faculty member shows the film on a selected date to an audience of GSU faculty, staff, students, and community members and then leads a discussion about the film. The perspective can be academic – say a psychologically informed verbal romp through *Psycho* – or of a broader and less particular focus. However, the overarching theme will be “transformations.” And now the invitation is thus extended: if you,
gentle reader, have a film that you would like to present under the theme of “transformations,” e-mail your idea to Rohman at t-rohman@govst.edu. A schedule of films and presenters is soon to follow.

WISC-IV Workshops Launched This Week
The first of the Psychological Corporation’s GSU workshops for the new Weschler Intelligence Scale of Children (WISC-IV) were held Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Hosted by GSU as part of the School Psychology program’s partnership with the Psychological Corporation, the workshops train test administrators who have previously administered the WISC-III how to administer the newer version of the test. All 120 seats slated for the workshops were filled. “We’re being asked if we would consider offering additional training sessions by those who tried to enroll after we passed capacity,” said Dr. Linda Buyer, interim chair of the Division of Psychology and Counseling. Workshops on the Weschler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WIPPSI-III) are now scheduled for May 5 and 6 of 2004.

Not, I’ll Not Carry on Discomfort, Dull Chair, Not Seat on Thee
Sit you now amid and upon KI furniture
Newly installed in the FOC?
Sit not in ergonomic despair
Link to this set of KI furniture
Adjustment instructions, and furniture comfort
Will come to thee: http://www.ki.com/taskEngage.asp.
A perpetual state of ergonomic bliss awaits