"[Shostakovich was] a genius, but completely mad, just like the rest of us. Why did I say 'like the rest of us'? I'm not mad, I'm the most normal person you could imagine. I just mention that in passing. Perhaps I might have wanted to be mad. It's always like that...."

Sviatoslav Richter

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Update on Academic Program Review
Last Fall, President Stuart Fagan asked each of the colleges to review its academic programs and make recommendations for prioritizing, restructuring, and possible elimination. The request came as the result of significant reductions in state funding and followed inquiries by the Illinois Board of Higher Education as to the possible elimination of any academic programs. Following that review by the colleges, and after seeking input from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the full Faculty Senate, and the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee, Provost Paul Keys recommended elimination of the graduate sequence in School Psychology. The issue now goes to President Fagan for his decision. It will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting on Tuesday evening, September 21. A plan for teaching-out students currently enrolled in the sequence by the end of the Fall 2006 Trimester has been developed. And the university will assure that accreditation status will be maintained. Fagan said, "This was a difficult and painful decision. But given the university's mission, which requires that we invest our limited resources in ways which provide the greatest good for our students and the communities we serve, and in light of the current fiscal pressures and our commitment to the highest standards of academic quality, we had no other choice." In other actions, the Provost moved the Human Performance and Training sequence from "elimination pending" to "elimination watch list." And because of the significant increase in enrollment — currently 61 majors, up from 25 in August 2003 — the Bachelor of Social Work program has been removed from its earlier "watch list" status. As for next steps, Keys said, "We will focus on those programs and units listed as candidates for prioritization, as well as possible reorganization. Of particular importance is the continued progress toward offering doctoral degrees at GSU."

University Receives Gift of Portrait of Nathan Manilow
A portrait of Nathan Manilow now hangs in the atrium of the Faculty Office Center, a gift from his son, Lewis. The portrait was installed September 10. Nathan Manilow, a visionary real estate developer, created Park Forest, a community which was the subject of a landmark sociological study, and Park Forest South, now University Park. He also donated the 750 acres of land where Governors State is now located. Nathan’s son, Lewis, followed in his father’s footsteps. He has been a major supporter of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, currently featured in GSU ads in community college newspapers. Plans for the atrium are to add over time photographs of some of the sculptures in the Park, and a panel detailing the role of the Manilow family in the development of the South Suburbs. President Fagan said, "The Manilows should be honored for their vision, their philanthropy, and their generous support of art and education."

Hold Your Breath, Cross Your Fingers
Less than a week remains before the end of the 100 percent refund period and enrollment continues to run ahead of the same day last year. As of September 10, headcount was up just over two percent and schedule hours, the number that really counts, are up more than three percent. "For the past
several trimesters, there's been a steady erosion once classes start," said Larry Polselli, executive director of enrollment management. "We're doing some different things, including a phonathon where we're calling newly registered students to try to hold our gains." Biggest gains are in the College of Health Professions, where enrollment was suspended or limited in some programs a few years, and in the College of Business and Public Administration. Bucking a nationwide trend, undergraduate credit hours in business administration are up more than 18 percent, and graduate credit hours are up more than 10.74 percent.

Report on Advising Issued
The Graduate Council Subcommittee on Advising met with the president and the provost last week to discuss the recommendations in its report on academic advising. The report is the result of months of research, discussion, and debate, and reflects ideas, suggestions, and opinions from across the university. It calls for implementation of a system which will involve both faculty and professional advisors, and which will assure a more equitable distribution of advising responsibilities, as well as improved quality of advising for students. Fagan asked that the committee address questions of budget, obstacles implementation, and the application of technology before meeting with him and the provost again this Trimester. Todd Rohman, university professor of English and chair of the subcommittee, said, "The Report on Advising is one the committee should be proud of. It has received an on overall favorable reaction from Drs. Fagan and Keys and will serve as a guide to improving the quality and consistency of advising for our students."

Rhetorical Choices: Town Hall Meeting on the Teaching of Writing
GSU's Dr. Deborah Holdstein, oft published author on the subjects of literature and rhetoric, as well as current editor of the prestigious journal College Composition and Communication (CCC), will co-present "Rhetorical Choices: A Town Hall Meeting on the Teaching of Writing" on Thursday, September 30, along with well-known scholars Keith Gilyard and Charles Schuster. The event will be held in Sherman Music Recital Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., and publisher Longman Pearson will also be on hand with desk copies of Rhetorical Choices: A Reader for Writers, co-authored by the presenters. Holdstein said, "Keith Gilyard and Chuck Schuster are among the most respected scholars in composition studies today. They always have something intriguing and useful to say."

On October 7 GSU Charts Its Course into a Brave New World
Convocation is scheduled for October 7 at 3 p.m. in Sherman Music Recital Hall. The theme? The Brave New World. "At Convocation we'll focus on the future," President Fagan said. "We'll begin to shape GSU's vision of the brave new world this university will occupy one day. We have two models to choose from – Shakespeare's or Aldous Huxley's. I choose Shakespeare."

Like a Light Bulb Went On
The university has received a grant of $12,224 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to install more energy efficient lighting in the Center for Performing Arts and other areas of the main building. Chief Engineer Chuck DeBrizzio said that work will begin in the next few weeks.

Carlson Publishes Newest Book
Prolific authors Dr. Jon Carlson, university professor of Counseling, and Jeffrey Kottler have published their latest book: Their Finest Hour: Master Therapists Share Their Greatest Success Stories. The book is published by Boston's Allyn and Bacon and is available on Amazon.com.

Carlson Presents...
Carlson also offered a workshop at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, over the Labor Day weekend. The workshop was entitled "Living Love: The Ingredients of Successful Relationship Renewal."