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"Follow your bliss."
Joseph Campbell

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Getting to Know You
More than 40 administrators from Joliet Junior College visited the campus Monday, October 24 to tour GSU's facilities and learn how we do business. Annually, JJC administrators visit another institution to share ideas on the best ways to run the administrative side of a college or university. The administrative team was especially interested in seeing the new Faculty Office Center, the upgraded television studios with their state-of-the-art editing capabilities, and the plans for relocating and renovating the science labs. In welcoming the administrators, President Stuart Fagan emphasized that GSU is the only university in the region, if not the state, that is not in competition with JJC. "We are partners, not competitors," he said. As evidence of the partnership, Fagan said that the second dual admission agreement GSU signed was with JJC and that more students from Joliet participate in that program than from any other community college.

Security Getting Tighter – Or Did Anyone Say “Lock Box?”
ITS reports that it is adding a layer of security to the GSU website where there is an interface with university databases, such as Student View, the online schedule, the online faculty directory, etc. The affected areas will be configured with a Secure Socket Layer, which provides 128-bit encryption of the data – the standard in industry. (I don't have the foggiest notion what I just wrote, gentle reader.) With this security upgrade, a dialogue box may pop up, informing the user that he/she is entering a secure site. In addition, the beginning of the URL will change from http:// to https://. Type in either URL. You'll get where you want to go. No need to change bookmarks, either.

Deadline for Scheduling Smart and Genius Classrooms
There will 17 smart and genius classrooms available for the Winter Trimester. Requests for use of a Technology Enhanced Classroom must be to Diane Dates-Casey, library director and coordinator of Academic Information Technology, by the end of the day, Monday, November 8. No requests received after November 8 will be considered for full trimester assignment to technology enhanced classrooms. Requests must be signed and prioritized by the Division/Department Chair and the day/time verified and signed by the appropriate Course Scheduler before being sent to Dates Casey.

As Reported Last Week...
... the U.S. Department of Education has awarded a significant personnel development grant to the College of Health Professions. The grant, written by Sandra Mayfield, professor of Communication Disorders, will assist M.S. in Communication Disorders students with tuition and educationally associated expenses. (For a fuller treatment of the subject, read the GSU press release). Interested students can apply for scholarships under the grant at www.govst.edu/cdm/cttw/a:twAmamlsfcdis/. For more information, contact Mayfield at extension 4598.

Pringle Scholarship Winner: Dwayne Williams Part 1
The Board of Governors Degree Program has selected BOG student Dwayne Williams to be this year's Pringle Scholarship winner. Robert Pringle, in whose name the scholarship is awarded, helped create the Board of Governors Program in Illinois 30 years ago. "The Pringle Scholarship is awarded to adults who have shown the determination to overcome barriers to earning their college degree," said Diane Balin,
director of the Board of Governors program. Dwayne fits the profile to a T. Family responsibilities, jobs, and his dedication to community service made it difficult for him to complete his degree. He decided not to let that stop him.” Balin said Williams lived in Madison, Wisconsin, heard about the flexibility of the Board of Governors Program, and moved here to enter the program and finish his degree. A senior, he is on track to graduate from the BOG with a minor in Business Administration in June.

Lincoln Laureate: Dwayne Williams Part 2
The Pringle Scholarship is just part of the Dwayne Williams story this week. President of the Black Student Union, Ronald E. McNair scholar, founder of the GSU Physical Fitness Club, Boys and Girls Club mentor and basketball coach, founder and president of the Elizabeth Williams Foundation for Needy Families – these are just a few of Williams’s activities and accomplishments. Now add Lincoln Laureate to the list. “Dwayne is an articulate, involved GSU student,” said Lorraine Sibbet, director of Student Life. “He is professional and always encourages service participation. For this, we applaud him.” The Lincoln Laureate is awarded through the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Students receiving the award must demonstrate not only excellence in their academic performance, but in extra-curricular activities as well. He intends to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation.

Grad Council Film Series Returns
The Graduate Council’s Intellectual Life Subcommittee’s (say that 10 times fast) “Transformations Film Series” will be back in action beginning November 18, at 4:30 p.m. The first film, to be presented by Jim Howley, director of Career Services, will be Jeffrey, a comedy about a gay man’s decision to become celibate in the age of AIDS. Adapted for film by Paul Rudnick, playwright of the off-Broadway hit the film is based on.

ScholarShip Sails On: Alternative Teacher Certification
GSU’s Larry Freeman, recently retired from the College of Education (but neither forgotten nor fading away), and Karen Peterson, professor of Education, have co-authored a chapter for the Association of Teacher Educators’ 2005 Association of Teacher Educators Yearbook titled “The Performance of Candidates in an Alternative Certification Program.” The Yearbook will be released at the the organization’s 2005 Annual Meeting, in Chicago, February 12-16.