About Time. A Budget at Last.
The state has finalized a budget for Fiscal Year 2005-06. Funding for higher education overall is generally flat with this year. However, a few public universities, including Governors State, have been appropriated additional funds. In GSU’s case, the university will receive a significant supplemental appropriation targeted to special program areas that, in consultation with President Stuart Fagan, the Legislature has identified. Fagan will hold a university-wide meeting no later than the week of June 13 to present the community with the details of the budget and plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

Provost Appointed Chair of Homeland Security task force
The Illinois Board of Higher Education has appointed Provost Paul Keys chair of a new IBHE Statewide Task Force on Homeland Security. Keys was appointed on May 1. The task force will work to tap into the research resources of Illinois’ institutions of higher learning. “Illinois’ state universities have the research capacity to bring hard data to the problems the nation faces in terms of Homeland Security,” Keys said. “More important, we have the expertise to find real world solutions for national security interests.” Keys said the task force was created in response to Governor Blagojevich’s emphasis on developing infrastructures within the state that can aid national Homeland Security efforts. “The Governor has plans to make Illinois a national center for Homeland Security and research,” Keys said. He explained the effort will benefit Illinois job development and economic growth. “The potential for business and industry is significant,” he added. The task force held its first meeting on May 5, in part to coordinate its efforts with the Governor’s Office and the Illinois Department of Community and Economic Opportunity. The task force includes representatives from every public university in Illinois.
Trustees and Senates Meet, Discuss Issues
Members of the Board of Trustees met recently with the Faculty and, later, the Civil Service senates. Though each senate discussed some issues specific to its constituency with the trustees, there were four subjects that both senates raised. First, there was concern that the new tuition payment procedure would have a negative impact on enrollment. But to everyone's relief, it turned out not to be the case. Schedule hours for the Spring/Summer Trimester are up more than two percent. Second, there was concern over state appropriations and the impact of further budget cuts. The meetings were held prior to finalization of the FY 2005-06 budget (see first story), and President Fagan reported that there had been, at that time, no progress in Springfield; however, he stated that there were no plans for layoffs and that he did not anticipate any staff reductions or cuts in service. Third, both senates raised the question of civility. Provost Keys said that a policy on civility had already been reviewed and accepted by the Coordinating Council and that it would be issued in the near future. Fourth, both senates asked about safety and security. Vice President John Tuohy said that a committee working with him and Faculty Senate President Gary Lyon had agreed on a plan which would be released to the university community within the next few weeks.

Commencement This Week-end
More than 500 students will graduate this trimester and nearly 400 will participate in the commencement ceremonies on June 5. TV newscaster Bob Petty, a GSU graduate, will be the commencement speaker. The student speaker is Don Olund, who is graduating from the College of Education with a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. Olund earned his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from GSU in 2002.

Coming Soon to a GSU Near You: "Art and Spirit World of New Guinea: Art and Artifacts"
Arthur Bourgeois, professor of Art History, reports a coup for the GSU Art Gallery. "Art and Spirit World of New Guinea: Art and Artifacts," an exhibit from the Lawrence P. Kolton Collection, will be on display in the Gallery from July 7 through July 29. The collection will be supplemented by pieces from the Governors State University Foundation Collection. Capitalizing on the exhibit, Bourgeois will teach "Art and Cultures of the South Pacific" (ART521, Reference No. 304869) in Block 2. An opening reception will be held for the exhibit on July 7th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in E-Lounge.

Coming Soon to a Family Development Center Near You: The Great Safety Adventure Mobile Field Exhibit
If you've ever thought, like Bilbo Baggins, that safety and adventure are mutually exclusive terms, think again. The Home Safety Council has constructed a traveling home safety adventure exhibit for kids called the "Great Safety Adventure," and it's coming to GSU's Family Development Center on Tuesday, June 7. The exhibit is pulled behind a tractor trailer and is set up like a real home indoors. There, children are treated to fun lessons in home safety. While fun is the attraction, it's serious business, too. According to the Home Safety Council, 2,000
children suffer fatal injuries in the home every year, and a staggering
3.4 million suffer nonfatal injuries. Cheryl Poulos, interim coordinator
of the FDC, reports the exhibit is free and designed for kids in Pre-K and
up. For more information, call Poulos at extension 7329.

Elected Vice President: CDIS's Catherine Balthazar
Catherine H. Balthazar, professor of Communication Disorders, has
been elected vice president for the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing
Association's Division of Professional Relations. Balthazar is also chair
of ISHA's Publications Committee and edits the organization's
newsletter.

Check It Out: CAS Degree Expo
The College of Arts and Sciences will hold a Degree Expo on
Wednesday, June 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. The
Degree Expo will feature information about the college's 10
undergraduate and seven graduate programs. Larry Polselli, executive
director of Enrollment Services, said the Expo is a new way of looking
at the information session. "The colleges often go through a lot of
expense and preparation to put information sessions together for single
programs," he said. "Often, he turn out isn't what we'd like to see. So
the idea of the Expo is to create a broader scope and bring in potential
students for all the programs the college has to offer, undergraduate
and graduate." Polselli said R.S.V.P.s would be appreciated. To
R.S.V.P., call CAS's Dean's Office at extension 4101.

Check it Out: CBPA Graduate Open House
In a vein similar to the new CAS Degree Expo, CBPA has a standing
tradition of holding open houses for all of its graduate programs: MBA,
MPA, MS ACCT, and MS MIS. The next one will be held June 18. For
more information, e-mail BPA-INFO@govst.edu or call 708.534.4934.

Smart Start Grads Walk the Aisle
Forty eight upstanding graduates of GSU's Smart Start Program
walked the aisle in the Hall of Governors on Friday to receive their
degrees. Accompanied by a waddling line of ducklings (hatched and
raised by the graduates themselves), the red-capped scholars made
parents and guests proud. "We were too big this year to have the
ceremony a the Family Development Center," said Cheryl Poulos,
interim coordinator of the FDC, "So we walked in the big building." Poulos added that 14 of the new grads have been with Smart Start
since birth. By our calculations, that makes for five years and just
enough time for an earnest student to graduate with a Bachelor's and a
Master's degree.