8-23-1993

F.Y.I., 1993-08-23

Office of Public Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/fyi

Recommended Citation

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in F.Y.I. by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.
Happenings at GSU

8/28 Civil Service Picnic, noon to dusk, Somonauk Park, Park Forest.
9/7 Fall trimester begins.
9/9 “The Spirit of Peace” Russian folk dancers, noon and 7 p.m., GSU Theatre, free.
9/14 The Adult Learning Exchange (TALE) program showcase, 10 a.m. to noon, GSU Theatre.

Two selected for VP, dean posts

President Paula Wolff has announced the appointments of Dr. James Alexander as vice president of administration and planning, and Dr. Cecilia Rokusek as dean of the College of Health Professions.

The appointments follow national searches.

“I am excited and honored to make these appointments,” Dr. Wolff said. “Both of these administrators will share their expertise, good judgment, knowledge and innovative ideas with me and the GSU community.”

Dr. Alexander, who begins his duties Oct. 1, will be responsible for the GSU Business Office, Physical Plant Operations, Personnel Office, Comptroller and Public Safety.

The new GSU vice president leaves his position of vice president of business and finance at Illinois State University where he has worked since August 1989. He has been responsible for the Division of Business and Finance with five units reporting to him.

GSU archaeological dig unearths Illinois secrets

BY MARILYN THOMAS

Governors State University’s latest summer workshop was hidden in a cornfield in rural Kankakee County.

For six weeks, as the sun beat down on them, volunteers uncovered a few new secrets of Illinois’ past through a GSU-sponsored archaeological dig given under the direction of Robert Gergen of Kankakee, president-elect of the Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology.

The band of hearty spirits gathered at 8 a.m. each morning to slowly and painstakingly dig the site along the Kankakee River outside of Custer Park. Gergen dates the settlement to the Middle Woodland Period between 150 B.C. and 300 A.D. and says it probably was temporary living quarters.

Though the work is tedious, Sharon Kramer, a GSU alumna from Manhattan, found it fascinating. “It’s like a mystery book. You keep going back. It’s like you’re hooked.”

Although some would question the value of digging up seeds, chert, bark, rock, charcoal bits and other sundry items, Gergen, who also serves as president of the Grand Prairie Archaeological Society, sees it as a discovery of history.

Foundation gives green light for technology/arts center

The Governors State University Foundation approved construction of a new Regional Center for Technology and the Performing Arts on campus.

This latest action, taken Aug. 11, culminates nearly eight years in planning and fundraising efforts by the foundation board and its supporters. The board agreed to expand the scope of the project to include the latest telecommunications technologies, enhancing the viability of the 1,200 seat facility as an arts and technology center for the south suburban area.

The board will advertise for bids in October, and is planning for a groundbreaking in November, according to Robert L. Wolf, president of the GSU Foundation.
Technology/arts center wins foundation approval

(continued from page 1)

Wolf, recognizing past starts, revisions and pauses in the project, said he is confident the center will be the completion of a dream that so many have worked to fulfill.

"This is a moment to celebrate," Wolf noted. "The foundation has been developing and molding this dream since 1985. Now we will move forward in — quite literally — a most concrete fashion to build this magnificent regional center to serve south metropolitan Chicago."

The decision to proceed follows the recent announcement that the Illinois General Assembly and Gov. Jim Edgar approved an additional $1.6 million toward construction of the facility on the GSU campus in University Park.

Previously, the GSU Foundation had received $1.7 million in private gifts and pledges and $3.8 million in challenge grant funds from the state. The additional $1.6 million brings the total available to $7.1 million, a sufficient amount for Governors State University to move ahead on construction bids and groundbreaking.

In addition to the decision to move ahead, the GSU Foundation unanimously agreed to place up to $1 million aside to begin an endowment fund to cover operational and management costs.

The foundation will establish a commission of educational, theatrical, civic, business and technology leaders to attract funds for the endowment, and to make recommendations for programmatic uses of the regional center.

"We see the center as an addition that will benefit students, business and industry, and the community at large," GSU President Paula Wolff said. She emphasized that the center, while enhancing the university's abilities to serve and develop stronger partnerships with the community, will not draw support resources from GSU academic programs.

GSU mourns loss of Professor Williams

Faculty, staff and students mourn the loss of Dr. Peggy Williams who died Aug. 14.

Dr. Williams, who recently was honored as GSU's 1992-93 Distinguished Professor, suffered a stroke in mid-June. The 59-year-old Chicago resident was a professor of education specializing in reading and language arts. She was recognized for her teaching abilities, research, and creative activity and service. She had been a GSU professor since 1974 after working as a teacher and administrator in the Chicago Public Schools.

"She always was very professional. She never let her feelings cloud the issue," Dr. Leon Zalewski, dean of the College of Education, said. "She was always very well prepared. She wasn't only satisfied to teach the course and give the grade, she wanted her students to learn. She was the consummate professional, the consummate teacher."

Colleague Dr. William "Prince" McLemore, who worked with Dr. Williams for nearly two decades, recalled her as "an outstanding scholar, researcher and professor. In spite of her busy schedule, she was always willing to assist faculty members and students. She will be missed by the whole Governors State University family because she gave so much and asked for nothing in return. We're fortunate that our lives have been touched by her."

Twice Dr. Williams was asked to join teacher/writer teams to develop elementary reading and writing materials for Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. She offered her insights on story selection, writing exercises, phonics instruction, vocabulary usage and the development of teachers' guides.

In 1977, Dr. Williams helped develop an innovative Teachers Corps program for staff development in the Harvey schools. Katie Ball, secretary in the Division of Nursing, worked with the professor for the four years of the federal grant. "When you worked for Peggy, you worked with her. She never let you feel like you were beneath her. She was a smart, articulate lady who held her own."

She was president of the GSU local of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) faculty union.

Outside of the university, she shared her knowledge on a variety of community projects, including serving as a member of the Harold Washington Foundation, the Art Resources in Teaching board of directors, and as a member of the LaRabida Research Hospital's professional women's organization, the Chicago Area Reading Association, and Chicago United.

The family has asked that memorials be sent to LaRabida Children's Hospital, 65th and Lake Michigan, Chicago, IL 60649.
Counseling students share flood relief duties

BY CRAIG S. HUNT

When others were watching the "Flood of 1993" on television, a group of Governors State University counseling students was doing something about it. Anything they could.

Some filled sandbags. Others made sandwiches or washed dishes. A couple watched the children so parents could take a breather.

Marcia Hernandez cut more than 21 heads of hair for the citizens of Keithsburg, Ill., a small town devastated by the flooding along the Mississippi River.

The desire for a simple thing like a haircut highlights just how basic the needs are for the flood victims in this town on the western edge of Mercer County down the river from Moline.

GSU Professor Michael Lewis and 11 of his graduate counseling students enrolled in the summer "Group Dynamics" class wanted to do a project that stressed group interaction. The professor suggested they apply classroom theories to a real situation, such as assisting people in the disaster-struck regions.

The first volunteers from GSU arrived July 15 in Keithsburg, population 850. The town's plight wasn't unusual for communities up and down the flooded banks of the Mississippi. A creek that branched off the river caused the levee protecting Keithsburg to crumble.

Approximately 350 residents were homeless after the river water consumed their homes and a majority of the business district, which was about eight feet underwater during the students' visit.

"At first, they (residents) were wondering why we were there," said Carolyn Bond of Bradley. "They didn't know if we were just tourists coming to see the flooding."

"The students who arrived first felt kind of like a fifth wheel. The citizens in the kitchen wouldn't let them touch anything," Dr. Lewis said, "but by Saturday they (the students) were running the kitchen."

The ladies, most of them elderly, who were running the kitchen had been working all week serving three meals a day. "They had been on their feet for days," said Nohra Davila of Bourbonnais. They were exhausted, but they kept working until finally they allowed the GSU group to take over most of the work in the kitchen.

"I really admire the lady in charge of the kitchen, Berta Finch," said Bond. "She had lost everything in the flood, but Finch continued to work steadily in the kitchen making sure her neighbors were taken care of," Bond recalled.

Sanitation was a big concern because of the contaminated water everywhere. The town was living on water supplied by the National Guard until bottled water was supplied. The volunteers used bleach to sterilize their hands before preparing food or washing dishes, Bond explained. A couple days later, her hands were still peeling from using the bleach.

The town wasn't wealthy in the first place, so the flooding must have devastated the residents who had lost everything and were now homeless, Gwyn Zmolek of Bradley said. "You could see in people's eyes that they were still in shock."

"I think the most important thing we did was not the physical act," said Janet Engle of Beecher, but "it was being a big morale booster for the people." She explained that since Keithsburg was small and not as affluent as some of the bigger areas being hit by flooding, the feeling among some of the people was that "we don't count."

After four days on the volunteer lines, Dr. Lewis said students got a good picture of group dynamics through communities pulling together. "They (GSU students) were considered as part of the community by the time they left," said Dr. Lewis.

Leaving became an emotional moment because of the friendships that were made in the short time that the students were there.

"This is something they will remember for the rest of their lives," he added.

"I think that they'll do all right," said Bond after pausing momentarily in thought.

The class is planning a return trip to Keithsburg now that the water has receded. That is when people will be able to see the real damage done by the Mississippi and they will be in need of counseling. Some motivated GSU counselors-in-training will again volunteer to help.

President Wolff shares views at Aspen Institute

Governors State University President Paula Wolff joins 25 leaders Aug. 25 through 29 at The Aspen Institute for a roundtable discussion of social policies.

Dr. Wolff was invited to serve on the new Domestic Policy Group by co-chairs U.S. Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) and Dr. William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education and the federal government's first 'drug czar.'

This four-day domestic policy meeting conducted by the think tank will focus on jobs in the new economy. Participants will explore the future structure of the United States economy for the 21st century, the value of private industry/government partnerships, ways of creating new jobs, preparing the workforce for the next century, and the changing economy and wealth in the country.

In accepting The Aspen Institute's invitation, Dr. Wolff has agreed to meet with members over a three-year period.
GSU summer archaeological workshop discovers secrets
(continued from page 1)

"The question here is discovering how they lived, what they ate, anything about human behavior. Once you dig a site, this is our archive," he explained, "and once you dig it, your library is gone."

Gergen worked diligently at supervising the untrained eyes of the students to let them in on the secrets of their discovery. First he plots out the area. "The standard technique is not to start on the main site, but work toward it so you can study the stratigraphic features and geology of the area," he noted.

The teacher instructs students in the ways of slowly shoveling the sandy dirt. Scoopfuls are not allowed. Instead, these students learn the fine art of lifting layers of dirt that are razor thin. They plot to a depth of not more than 10 centimeters and wait for Gergen's approval to go deeper.

Each ounce of dirt is placed in a bucket so the next crew member can slowly sift through it, discovering bits of twigs, rocks and chips of shells. For cataloging purposes, the articles are bagged and labeled for location and depth.

After the first sifting, the sandy dirt is collected for second, third and fourth siftings where the most minute particles are discovered. All objects and particles are weighed and cataloged by Gergen's wife, Linda, and a handful of volunteers.

At one point, Gergen shares his excitement with students as they begin to discover post molds. At first, the circle is barely visible, but soon Jennifer Zook of Channahon, a student at Joliet Catholic Academy, recognizes the marking. She brings out graphing paper and plots the circle on the chart.

Soon four post molds in a line are uncovered, and Gergen speculates they were part of a wall of supports for an Indian hut. Volunteers also find very dark soil indicating charcoal in the area. Gergen believes it was a fire pit.

Volunteers on the project range from students with no experience to members of the South Suburban Archaeological Society.

The new dean was executive director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Disabilities at the School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion from 1987 to 1992, coordinator of occupational and physical therapy program development at the university from 1989 to 1991, and director of training and associate University Affiliated Program director at the Center for Developmental Disabilities from 1983 to 1987.

She also has served as an assistant and associate professor, and was associate dean for the Division of Allied Health Sciences at the School of Medicine from 1982 to 1983.
Grapevine

University Relations Office takes Public Affairs name

The Office of University Relations is changing its name to the Office of Public Affairs. Under the auspices of its new director, Constance Zonka, the office will continue to be responsible for marketing, public relations, internal and external publications, and university publications' editing functions. Questions, comments and suggestions are being accepted by staff on extension 4567.

Consultant calls for specialty lighting to save ficus trees

The skylights, the major source of light for the ficus trees in the Hall of Governors, will be covered during the GSU roof repair work. To ensure the health of the trees, Toby Langner, an indoor landscape consultant of Langner & Associates, has called for eight metal halide lights to be installed in the coffers of the Hall of Governors. These 1,000 watt fixtures should supply the basic lighting needs of the trees, Langner told Michael Hassett, acting director of Physical Plant Operations.

Terry Rickhoff helps relieve flood volunteers' tensions

Terry Rickhoff in the University Library was one of hundreds of American Red Cross volunteers during the Mississippi flooding. But he didn't fill sandbags or cook dinners. Rickhoff offered relief by giving massages and back rubs to tired volunteers in Round Lake, Ill., and then in Springfield. Rickhoff is specially trained in massage therapy techniques.

Patsy Hoskin gives thanks for prayers, donations

Patsy Hoskin, a GSU telephone operator, wants to thank the many friends in the GSU community who have supported her and her family through the illness of her nephew, Lexen Pittman, who needs a bowel and liver transplant. The 15-month-old is now at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh waiting for a donor. Hoskin also thanks those who purchased tickets for a raffle that will help cover the child's medical expenses.

GSU Alumni Association lists top phonathon fundraisers

The GSU Alumni Association thus far has collected more than $87,500 during its 1993 Phonathon thanks in large part to the many volunteers who give of their time. Ginni Burghardt, director of Alumni Relations, has listed the top 10 volunteer fundraisers from this year's campaign.

The top fundraiser was President Paula Wolff who received $1,475 in pledges. She was followed by alumnus Ken Cote with $665; Dr. Paul Green (CBPA) with $630; alumni Carolyn Leshyn with $590, Chavonne Freeman and JoAnn Hassan with $580; Dr. Jeff Kaiser (CE), $400; alumni John Davenport and Georgia Dorsey with $395; and Professor Robert Press with $390.

Get well

The university community sends 'get well' greetings to several staff members. Raji Nair (ES) is recuperating after a fall. Geri Padgett (B OG) and Bill Vandyke (PPO) underwent surgery. Dixie Butz (CAS) was involved in a car accident. Get well wishes can be sent to them.

Raji Nair, 22614 Claredon, Richton Park, IL 60471; Geri Padgett, 1214 W. Court, Monee, IL 60449; Bill Vandyke, 325 Osage, Park Forest, IL 60466; Dixie Butz, 105 W. North St., Peotone, IL 60468.
Barbara Lane recognized as 'GSU Ambassador'

BY MARILYN THOMAS

Barbara Lane has become a GSU welcoming committee of one.

She is the first person many GSU guests meet, and the last person they say goodbye to, and each has had special thanks for the services she performs.

The August 'Employee of the Month' is on the payroll as a maintenance laborer, and many here at GSU recognize her as a member of the grounds crew. But Lane also has accepted chauffeuring duty which includes meeting guests and candidates at the airport, driving them to their hotels, picking them up the next morning for their GSU appointments, and then driving to the airport for their return flights.

"To date, she has received three written letters from candidates praising her work and enthusiasm while chauffeuring. One candidate told me that she was a 'wonderful ambassador' for the university," Dr. Linda Heiser, acting vice president of administration and planning, told the nominating committee.

"I'm proud to have her in the administrative wing," Dr. Heiser added.

Lane has answered a host of questions, and dealt with a variety of personalities, all with style. "Sometimes the candidates are really nervous, and they don't want to talk. When the interviews are over, they're much more relaxed." The most asked questions are inquiries about what she does at the university, how long she's been employed at the university, and what the student body is like.

Lane is in a position to answer each of those questions, having graduated from GSU with a the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts degree. She now is enrolled as a media communications graduate student.

She's worked in the Provost's Office, Administration and Planning, Mailroom and Registrar's Office, and has been a full-time employee the past four years.

Born in Alabama, Lane's family moved to Blue Island when she was in second grade. She graduated from Eisenhower High School and enrolled at Illinois State, but the cost became prohibitive, so she joined the U.S. Army, primarily for the G.I. Bill benefits, she says.

For seven years, Lane was a helicopter mechanic. She had a chance to earn some college credit while stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. After her military service, she enrolled at Moraine Valley Community College for an associate's degree, and then transferred to GSU.

She started to work on a degree in social work, but realized she was running out of time and energy, so she transferred to the Board of Governors degree program. All totaled, Lane had 199 credit-hours when she received her degree. Her bachelor's degree took her 15 years.

While many say earning a degree is a career move, Lane says she isn't unhappy with the path she's chosen. "Life is a journey, not a destination," she says.

"I see things that the 9-to-5 people don't experience," she adds. When Lane started her job at 6 a.m., she would see the deer roaming. She's nurtured stray cats and buried dead geese. She's cut the grass, trimmed the trees, filled potholes, checked the oil of the cars in the motor pool, helped set up for events, chauffeured and done a host of other odd jobs.

"I love Governors State. This place has been my life for a number of years now," the Monee resident says. "I enjoy it as a student, and I like what I'm doing here. I like working with plants and trees. There's no price tag you could put on being outside."

VCRs, projectors being moved to general-use classrooms

A major remodeling project will move a video cassette recorder (VCR), overhead projector and screen in each classroom.

The project is under the direction of Gary Fisk, director of Communications Services. During the winter trimester, Fisk surveyed faculty members on what they saw as their major classroom needs to help him assess short- and long-range spacial use and development needs.

For each of the 42 permanent general assignment classrooms, at least one faculty member responded. The major complaint was the condition of the classroom space—everything from upkeep and acoustics to heating and air conditioning controls.

Fisk has decided to tackle one of the problems—the need to continually schedule and then move equipment. The end-of-year reserve fund had available dollars, and administrators agreed with Fisk's proposal to have each classroom properly wired and equipment installed to eliminate the moving around of heavy equipment.

The VCRs and monitors will be on wall brackets, and the projectors will be on skids. Crews from Physical Plant Operations are designating equipment locations and performing the electrical and carpentry work.

Existing equipment will be installed first, but money is available to purchase new equipment. Fisk recognizes that technology is changing, and, whenever possible, the changes will allow for new adaptations.

When the Instructional Communications Center (now Communications Services) was first organized in the early 1970s, the staff delivered equipment, Fisk recalled.

Later it was decided to disperse the equipment among the colleges, and today each college has its own system of distribution.

As for the other complaints raised in the survey, Fisk noted classrooms damaged by roof leaks will be repainted once the new building roof is installed. It is hoped heating and air conditioning controls will be improved when the roof is surfaced.

Long-range planning includes a redesign of Engbretson Hall, which Fisk said will likely get a dropped ceiling for better acoustics and lighting, and a modified floor plan.