F.Y.I., 1995-02-20

Office of Public Affairs
Happenings at GSU

2/23 Visit by Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones, 7 to 9 p.m.
3/3-4 “Dealing with Difficult People” workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
3/5 GSU Alumni Association phonathon opens, Engbretson Hall; continues through March 27.
3/11 “Idea Fair” for Regional Action Project/2000+, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., on campus.

President donates salary increase to special projects

Governors State University President Paula Wolff is donating her current $8,800 salary increase back to the university.

She will continue earning $104,040, her starting salary when she was hired in 1992.

This is the third consecutive year the president has donated her salary increase for special projects. Because the donation is cumulative, this year’s salary donation totals nearly $16,000.

The president also donated another $6,000 she received for serving on the board of the Johnson Foundation based in Racine, Wis.

“I appreciate the BGU recognizing the work I do by giving me a salary increase, but I prefer to see that money used for projects that we at Governors State otherwise are unable to fund,” Dr. Wolff explained.

The president’s salary donation will be matched by the GSU Alumni Association, according to Ginni Burghardt, director of Alumni Relations, as it has (continued on page 4)

Kordos sees enhancements to theater, university partnership

BY MARILYN THOMAS

Richard Kordos, the newly appointed general manager for the South Metropolitan Arts, Resources and Technology (SMART) Center at Governors State University, comes to the project with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm.

“The prospects, the potential for this theater in this region are very tantalizing,” Kordos, a noted producer, theater manager and instructor says of his move to GSU.

The 1,200 seat theater, being constructed as an addition to the GSU main building in University Park, is scheduled for a premier opening in late 1995. It is designed to present quality arts, popular, educational and technological programming.

Kordos said the mild winter has helped crews continue to stay on target for an early fall completion date. The roof has been sealed which will prevent the recurring water problems and enable construction teams to heat the space and start interior work.

“The SMART Center promises to be an exciting as well as dramatic addition to the campus and the community,” Kordos said. The main entrance of the university will also be the entryway to the theater. Patrons will walk through the Hall of Governors to the theater’s grand promenade. That “invites us to look at doing things throughout the year. I think it will be a lovely way of introducing the community to the theater,” he added.

Kordos will be responsible for managing, contracting and overseeing (continued on page 2)

Pilot project offers stipends for non-traditional students’ tuition

An innovative pilot program is giving non-traditional students the opportunity to continue their educations without the burden of finding financial support.

Too often, GSU students taking one course at a time are forced to sit out a trimester because family budget constraints make it difficult for them to pay the tuition costs. Federal and state financial aid requirements provide aid only to students taking six or more credit-hours per trimester.

Through this new, small pilot program, the Governors State University Foundation has developed a financial award program for these non-traditional students. (continued on page 3)
'Idea Fair' ready to hear, share regional future

The community is invited to hear ideas and share ideas for the future of the south suburban region at the March 11 "Idea Fair" at Governors State University.

The 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. event is part of the on-going discussions on the south metropolitan region, its needs and residents' plans for the future being collected as part of the Regional Action Project/2000+.

The project, funded by the Chicago Community Trust and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is designed to identify and research critical social, economic and policy issues facing the region. A strategic plan will be created to achieve the identified goals.

The "Idea Fair" will be a way to share ideas and offer input on what are now issues critical to the region, as well as problems and needs that will arrive at the turn of the century and beyond.

The RAP/2000+ area stretches from the south side of Chicago on the north, the Illinois-Indiana state line on the east, the general Kankakee/St. Anne area on the south, and the Joliet/Bolingbrook area on the west.

For information on the "Idea Fair" call Beverly Goldberg at GSU at (708) 534-6360.

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Reddick uses GSU student input to attract new community business

Surveys, land use maps, village meetings all came in to play when students in a small business management class agreed to help the community of Reddick plan for a new business.

Professor Constance Cook, who has worked with businesses developing student internships, this time was approached by a community for help. She gladly assisted, and the work of three students—Margaret Tirima of Bourbonnais, Jerry Casey of Lockport and Lurana McParland of Frankfort—acting as consultants, gave officials the answers they needed.

After surveying the community through its local newspaper, the students decided a mini-mart/gas station located in rural Reddick, with a population of 208, would not be able to keep the business going on its own, but keeping it accessible to neighboring communities would help sustain it. While the typical mini-mart/gas station is just a quick-stop service, Reddick townspeople want theirs to include a place to sit and socialize, McParland told community leaders.

Students also gave city officials plans for advertising and financing the business, as well as a proposed scheme for profits.

Professor Cook said the project helped the students "learn everything you need to know to start a small business, or when not to start a small business."

Special assistance came from Rose Mascolo, a dispatcher with the GSU Department of Public Safety, who routinely carried information between her community of Reddick and the GSU students.

Kordos accepts center position

(continued from page 1) programming and rentals, fundraising activities, financial affairs, box office services and production services. He will work with a board of directors overseeing the SMART Center.

A native of Detroit, Kordos received a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and a master's degree in theater from Wayne State University. He was an actor in the Detroit area before accepting a faculty position at Macomb College in Michigan where from 1968 to 1975 he created a drama department and established a theater that has evolved into one of Michigan's most respected performing arts centers.

Kordos moved to the Chicago area in 1975 accepting the executive producer's position of the 900-seat Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre. He produced 26 star musicals and plays during his tenure there, was responsible for selecting stars and establishing box office procedures, advertising, marketing, contract negotiations and staff hirings.

Later Kordos became executive producer of the 3,100 seat Holiday Star and Festival Theatre in Merrillville, Ind. He worked not only with star touring companies but also developed an arts-in-education program.

Kordos is a partner and casting director for Kordos & Charbonneau Casting in Chicago working with major film producers shooting films and television productions in the Chicago area, including "The Fugitive" and "Risky Business."

As exciting as that work has been, Kordos said he found himself "getting away from my theater roots that I'd never really shed." The SMART Center position gives him the opportunity to again work at what he enjoys most.

Kordos was named general manager after a national search "that presented to us many fine, talented individuals. I believe in selecting Richard Kordos we have someone who will dedicate himself not only to the arts we will present, but to the completion and success of the SMART Center," said Karen Reid, president of the SMART Center board of directors.
King: work to alter the state of the United States

To keep the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive, Americans must be willing to step forward and work for betterment, his daughter, Yolanda King, told an audience at Governors State University.

"I beg of you. We can move our country forward again, but all of us must work to make it a bit better and a bit brighter," she told young and old in the gathering of nearly 400 people who conducted a King birthday celebration in late January.

"Through his leadership, people were compelled to get up and do something, and we altered some things," she said referencing the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, the breakdown of segregation and the hiring of minorities into top positions.

Her father, who would have been 66 years old this year, is not here to lead, but that doesn't mean his dream should be deferred, King stressed. This generation can and must do something to keep alive his dream of a better life for all Americans.

Much has changed in the last 30 years, she said. And her father's words — that if America didn't learn to reverse its priorities, humanity would suffer — ring true.

Some would say the problems have gotten more difficult, King said, as we worry about a growing national deficit, violence in our streets, an epidemic drug problem, the inability of all to get decent jobs, poor quality schools and a dilapidated housing stock.

But King laments the breakdown of the American fabric not only because of these harsh problems, but also because society has become so splintered and inattentive. "When I was a kid," she told the audience, "I was raised by the community. If I was bad, everybody knew it, but when I did right, everybody shared it. That insured the survival of the community."

Today Americans again need to "support the nurturing of young people if we are going to turn things around," she stressed.

Too often, Americans complain yet they do nothing to change the situation. Non-violence, as was advocated by her father, doesn't mean being complacent. "Wet dish rag behavior," as King called it, doesn't help. Things get done because people organize, and if you work with politicians and nothing happens, "then you work on them," she stressed.

King recalled a quote of her father's: "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." That, she said, is the true wish the family shares for the King holiday. "We want it to be a time to service — to fight drugs, AIDS, crime in all forms and reach out to each other."

The Martin Luther King holiday should be a day on, not a day off. It should mean service, not shopping; not words, but deeds.

"We must get up off our apathy and get to work," King added.

Dreaming may seem senseless to many, but King said she will continue dreaming. "My parents always would say to us, 'It (dreaming) may be crazy, it may be somewhat foolish, but to live without it would be a nightmare.'"
Guest's African fable gives a lesson at GSU celebration

BY JENNIFER KOSCO

The wisdom of elders, held in high esteem in Africa, was shared with guests at Governors State University when a Nigerian visitor gave a lesson through a traditional fable as part of the African-American History Month celebration.

Sitting in a recreated hut, Mrs. Janny Ifiermor, the elderly matriarch, mesmerized her audience as she told of a happily married couple. One day, the wife requested that her husband procure a forbidden prize, a crocodile egg. Despite the fact that this was a dangerous endeavor, he loved his wife so much that he was willing to risk the consequences.

He brought her the egg, which she devoured asking for more. A second time the husband went to the swamp and stole a crocodile's egg. The crocodile did not take kindly to having his nest disturbed and at the third attempt, the trespasser was attacked by the crocodile. As he was dying, the man cried out in anguish and pain at the foolishness of his attempt.

"The moral of the story: "Do not look for something that is beyond your reach," says Mrs. Ifiemor.

This is a typical tale told in villages throughout Nigeria according to Mrs. Ifiemor's son, Isaac Eferighe, who served as the interpreter.

Eferighe, a 1985 GSU graduate, is an accountant and teaches accounting at a private business school in Chicago.

Third World Conference opens March 22

"Peace, Democracy & Development into the 21st Century" will be the theme for the 21st annual Third World Conference March 22 through 25 at the Swissotel in Chicago.

Governors State University College of Arts and Sciences Dean Roger K. Oden, co-chairperson for the event, said the program will focus on communications, economic/social development, environmental issues, post-election analysis and technology.
Grapevine

VISA leader to share organizational ideas March 16

President Paula Wolff invites the GSU community to hear Dee Hock, former president and genius behind the VISA corporation, discuss the principles of consumer "empowerment" to improve the quality and the delivery of services at 10 a.m. March 16 in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Hock is best known for taking the failing company and turning it into a business that today connects more than 23,000 financial institutions in 300 countries.

A luncheon will follow the presentation. Reservations are being accepted by the president's staff on extension 6364.

Senate minority leader Jones will be GSU guest

The GSU community is invited to meet Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones during a 7 p.m. reception Feb. 23 in the Hall of Honors. He would especially like to hear about GSU’s minority and student/staff initiatives.

For additional information, call Dr. Linda Heiser on extension 4125.

Nominations sought for ‘Employee of the Month’

There are many GSU employees who deserve special recognition for the work they do each day. Nominate them for the “Employee of the Month.”

A selection committee reviews the nominations each month. Nominations are held for three months, so if the person you’ve nominated doesn’t get immediate recognition, the committee encourages you to consider resubmitting the nomination.

Nomination forms are available throughout the building or from the Human Resources staff.

Staff invited to multicultural education update

Professors Burt Collins, Ken Peterson, Larry Cross and Sharifa Townsend of the College of Education will be discussing the latest trends and information on multicultural education during a 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. panel discussion Feb. 28 in Engbretson Hall.

Topics will include preferring learning styles and unique characteristics of African-American children and how they appear in the school setting, exemplary staff development efforts in the area of multicultural education, concerns and problems faced by minority students in higher education, and an overview of where schools are in a fuller understanding of diversity.

Professor faces earthquake challenges in Japan

Although she wasn’t in Kobe, Professor Constance Cook (CBPA) said her winter break to Japan was ‘swayed’ by two earthquakes in Tokyo. “It was really very eerie,” she recalls. “At first I couldn’t imagine what was happening. I thought it was me, until I saw the bedroom light swinging.” A second time, she was about to enter a friend’s apartment when she again had the strange sensation of movement.

A GSU alumna living in Kobe called Professor Jon Carlson (CE) to report she’d lost everything but was okay. Her friends in the Division of Psychology and Counseling will be having a book collection to help rebuild her library.

Cafeteria menu

(Week of Feb. 27-March 2)

DAILY—Pizza; baked potato bar.

Monday—Sausage and egg biscuit. Chicken vegetable soup, chili; tuna melt; beef Stroganoff over noodles, vegetable, roll; fresh pasta.

Tuesday—Pancakes with sausage or bacon. Tortellini soup, chili; Italian beef sandwich; BBQ chicken, potato, vegetable; the wokery.

Wednesday—Egg, ham and cheese on English muffin. Cream of vegetable soup, chili; chili dog, fries; roast pork, potatoes, vegetable, roll; tuna casserole, roll.

Thursday—Egg, bacon and cheese on croissant. Potato and leek soup, chili; Johnny Rib BBQ, fries; taco salad bar; chicken Caesar salad.

Friday—Ham, egg and cheese on croissant. Tomato rice soup, chili; grilled cheese sandwich; fish dinner, au gratin potatoes, vegetable.

(Week of March 6-10)

DAILY—Pizza, baked potato bar.

Monday — eggs, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast. Cream of chicken soup, chili; patty melt, fries or soup; chicken burrito, Spanish rice, refried beans with breadstick; chicken Caesar salad.

Tuesday — Ham and cheese omelet, toast. Vegetable beef soup, chili; fish and cheese sandwich, fries; Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll; wokery.

Wednesday — Ham, egg and cheese croissant sandwich. Potato chowder soup, chili; Italian sausage sandwich, fries; pork roast, potatoes, vegetable and roll; vegetable lasagna, salad, garlic bread.

Thursday — Egg, bacon and cheese croissant. Potato and leek soup, chili; Johnny Rib BBQ, fries; taco salad bar; chicken Caesar salad.

Friday — Ham, egg and cheese croissant. Tomato rice soup, chili. Grilled cheese sandwich, fries; fish dinner, potatoes, vegetable, roll.
Employee of the Month

Writer's dedication helps put the spotlight on GSU

BY MARY GILLESPIE

A slim blond dashing from office to office, double-checking facts, is a sure sign that Marilyn Thomas is nearing her news deadline.

As coordinator of public information, Thomas keeps the media informed of university events and accomplishments, and student and faculty achievements through press releases distributed weekly. She also is F.Y.I.'s editor and writer, GSU's media coordinator keeping in regular contact with reporters and editors at area papers, and the voice of the university's 24-hour information line.

Her hefty workload would swamp almost anyone else, but Thomas handles it with amazing speed.

She is “very thorough, always happy to acknowledge another's accomplishments” and “goes beyond the call of duty so as to perform her best for the welfare of GSU,” College of Arts and Sciences alumna Laura Williams wrote in her nomination of Thomas for the February “Employee of the Month” award. Williams served an internship under Thomas, witnessing her dedication first hand.

“With so many interesting people here, it makes my job easier. I only report.”

Reporting, it seems, is in Thomas' blood. She began at age 16 by taking a part-time job with the former Daily Calumet newspaper to earn travel money for a trip to Europe. It was a big dream for a teen with a widowed mother living near the steel mills in the South Chicago neighborhood of the city, but she achieved it.

“I could handle any job in the newsroom before college graduation because of that valuable hands-on experience,” she says proudly.

GSU Underground making a difference

Too often the system is frustrating, answers are slow in coming, and communication is limited. That's where the Underground steps in.

GSU employees are meeting to make a difference. “Our goal is to get everyone working as a team,” says Professor Michele McMaster, who helped organize the Underground. “Most people don’t believe they can make a difference, but they can. People really can help bring about change.”

Because Underground members are from all areas of GSU, meetings are for information sharing as well as looking for solutions.

In the six months since the Underground’s organization, volunteers have worked with Physical Plant Operations (PPO) to get the emergency exit silos emptied, with the Registrar’s Office and PPO to get class and room schedules at the F-building entrance, and are now working to develop an information handbook for adjunct faculty.

To avoid imposing on schedules, the Underground has working lunch sessions from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in room A-1122. The upcoming schedule is Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, April 5 and 19. All are invited. Staffers with concerns are welcome to present them at the Underground’s meetings or pass them along to McMaster at extension 4049.

After graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago, she got a full-time reporter's position for The Times based in Hammond, Ind. “I learned so much during my 12 years there. I covered every beat on the Illinois circulation side — the environment, courts, village meetings, health care. The one beat I kept for my tenure was education reporting.”

After a brief stint in the public relations office of the Regional Transportation Authority, Thomas assumed responsibility for GSU's news service in November 1986.

Thomas established a reputation for excellence early taking on additional responsibilities, including the job of producing “GSU Views,” a half-hour discussion program with retired GSU President Leo Goodman-Malamuth II.

While pursuing a master's degree in media communications, she produced an oral history of Governors State University as a master's thesis. It helped mark GSU’s 20th anniversary in 1989.

“It was an enormous project and the corner of my office has a load of tapes and transcripts to prove it,” she says.

Thomas lives in Homewood with her husband, Donald, their 5-year-old daughter, Brigid, and exchange student Tanja Petnicki, a University of Illinois at Chicago freshman who has been a member of the Thomas family for nearly three years.

At GSU Thomas is a member of the Civil Service Senate and chairperson of the scholarship committee. She has served on various university committees, including the committee that drafted the university's new mission statement, the president's inaugural committee and now the Center for Technology and Information.

Congratulations
to Alice Gardner (REG) on the birth of her granddaughter, Katelynd Joanne Gardner, born Jan. 30 in Bolling Green, Ky.
GSU converts mainframe to CARS System

It's out with the 1970s computer and in with a new Hewlett-Packard UNIX system that will give better support for students, faculty and staff as GSU converts its administrative computer systems.

The 24-month conversion process began in early February when GSU staff met with representatives of the CARS System to begin the implementation project, according to Chuck Nebes, director of Information Services.

The Cooperative Computer Center is serving GSU, Chicago State and Northeastern Illinois Universities, but as all involved recognized the need to update the equipment and the systems, the three universities decided to each install their own systems suited to their specific needs.

GSU chose the CARS System for its flexibility and user-friendliness that will allow departments and divisions to retrieve information as they need it, the director said.

"We were working with mainframe-based administrative systems and stand-alone PC-based systems. The systems didn't function as a whole unit, so as a result, information gathering has sometimes been difficult," Nebes explained.

"The CARS System will give GSU the integrated solutions that it needs. The query language will allow for data analysis in a real-time mode. We will move to on-line information and get away from paper."

GSU has been spending about $1 million each year for CCC operations and maintenance. The purchase of CARS System hardware and software will be a one-time investment of less than $1 million. The advances of the new system will mean a reduction in the 70-member CCC staff of programmers, systems support staff and operators housed in the computer building on campus and the operations unit on the second floor of the GSU building. Each of the three universities will be hiring some CCC staff to support the new CARS System.

GSUings

Dr. Mary Geis (CHP), being appointed to the board of directors of the Suburban Area Agency on Aging...

Dr. Donna Siemro (CAS), serving on the accreditation team for the Illinois State Board of Education at Columbia College in Chicago where she reviewed the secondary teacher education programs in physical science... Dr. Barbara Jenkins (CE), being honored with a 20th anniversary Platinum Certificate for 20 years of participation and involvement through continuous listing in every edition of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology... Professor Michele McMaster (CAS), speaking before the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers at their November annual meeting on the topic "What Am I Doing up Here? or the Fine Art of Speech-Giving."

Dr. Arthur Bourgeois (CAS), organizing an exhibition and concert of African art and music and presenting a lecture at the Park Forest Art Center titled "Journeys of the Spirit." Also attending the 83rd annual conference of the College Art Association meeting in San Antonio, Texas... Dr. Michael Purdy (CAS), attending the November Jean Gebser Society Conference on Culture, Consciousness and the Arts in Windsor, Ontario, and using his computer for a special presentation of his photography in the form of photo montage. Also presenting a paper in November on "Using Workshops to Ground and Augment an M.A Program in Communication Studies." The presentation was part of an all-day preconference at the Speech Communication Association in New Orleans titled "From Classroom to Community: Experiential Education in Classroom and Community Environments, Nontraditional Graduate Education: Meeting the Needs of Working Adults." CBPA Dean Esthel Allen serving as a judge for the LTV Steel "What Diversity Will Mean for My Future" essay contest... Dr. Cheryl (continued on page 4)
IBHE proposed FY96 budget gives GSU 6.8% increase

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has recommended Governors State University receive a 6.8 percent increase in its fiscal year 1996 appropriation.

The budget being presented to the Illinois Legislature calls for GSU to receive $27,473,600, an additional $1.75 million over the FY95 appropriation.

The proposal still needs to pass through the House and Senate higher education subcommittees, be passed by the House and Senate and signed by Gov. Jim Edgar.

If GSU receives the full appropriation, it will have $20.14 million for personal services, including a 3.3 percent salary compensation. Other line items include $1.08 million for utilities, $1.14 million for computing services, $541,300 for library serials/books, and $450,000 for start-up costs for newly approved physical therapy degree and health program development.

GSU also has requested capital funds for several projects, including $2.6 million for chiller and fire alarm rehabilitation that requires replacing the two chillers at the power plant that are approaching their 25-year life cycle, and replacement of refrigeration equipment using chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). GSU also would replace the campus fire alarm system.

Another $225,000 is requested for a new pool distribution system that calls for replacing the existing swimming pool circulation system — pumps, filters, distribution and supply components.

Last on the state’s list of capital projects for state university campuses is $2.66 million for E- and F-wing remodelings similar to what was recently completed in A- and B-wings. The proposal calls for adding 7,500 square feet with eight new classrooms, two computer demonstration rooms, a multi-media lab and lecture classroom.

A portion of the GSU budget increase will come from a 3.5 percent tuition increase effective with the fall trimester.

Published


Annual alumni phonathon needs volunteers to ‘reach out’ to grads

The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to participate in its 1995 phonathon. The annual fundraising effort will take place March 5 through 27. Volunteers are needed to phone GSU alumni and secure pledges of their financial support. “Everyone’s help is wanted and needed,” says Director of Alumni Relations Ginni Burghardt. “Individuals and student organizations are invited to participate, as the monies raised are directed towards scholarships, library support and individual colleges.”

The three units that have the most volunteers at the phonathon will be awarded cash prizes. $1,500 will be given to the unit having the largest number of people participating; $1,000 goes to the second place winner and $500 will be awarded for third place. Last year, the College of Arts and Sciences had the most volunteers manning phones, followed by the College of Education and the Administration & Planning division.

Twenty-five volunteers are needed each evening of the phonathon. To date, Alumni Relations has received staffing commitments from the following units: Civil Service Senate, College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Professions, CELCS, and Administration and Planning.

The phonathon runs Sunday through Friday evenings. Monday through Friday of the phonathon, participants will meet in Engbretson Hall at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, followed by brief instructions at 6:15 p.m. Calling will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. On Sundays, dinner will be at 4 p.m., followed by instructions and calling until 8 p.m.

To sign up or obtain further information, contact Burghardt on extension 5094.

GSUings

(continued from page 3)

Mroz (CHP) appointed to a three-year term to the Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health...CELCS Dean Lee Zaborowski attending the American Association for Higher Education Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards in Phoenix in January...Adjunct Professor Abdus Samad (CBPA) presenting the paper “NAFTA and the Opportunities of the U.S. Financial Services in Mexico” at the Allied Social Science Association’s national meeting in Washington Jan. 7.

Condolences

To Harold Newling (PPO) on the death of his mother, Eva, Jan. 24. She was a former PPO employee.