Presidents Take a Stand

The presidents and chancellors of the public universities in Illinois on Tuesday jointly urged the governor and comptroller to agree on a plan to provide state funding that was committed to higher education and to reduce a payment backlog that threatens the universities’ operations.

A letter to Governor Pat Quinn and Comptroller Dan Hynes signed by the presidents and chancellors of the 13 four-year public university campuses in Illinois called upon the state to “honor its commitments” of support and set a payment schedule to enable the universities to “manage our respective cash flows…and sustain orderly operations.”

Acknowledging the state’s fiscal crisis will be difficult to solve and offering to assist in the effort, the presidents and chancellors urged the state in the meantime to honor its commitment and fully fund the public universities’ appropriations. “We request a reliable appropriations payment schedule be set and agreed to that will allow us to manage our respective cash flows for fiscal 2010 and thereafter, and sustain orderly operations,” they said.

Download Presidents’ Letter

Commencement Success

More than 625 graduates crossed the stage on February 6 to receive their degrees and the congratulations of Dr. Maimon, Board of Trustees President Lorine Samuels, the GSU faculty and staff, their peers, and families and friends.

Once again, the GSU Commencement was a great success. The many volunteers who helped staff the event ensured that everything ran smoothly. The addition of the large screen monitor gave everyone in the audience a perfect view and added to the overall experience.

GSU also tested the process of simultaneously streaming the ceremony on the GSU website and cable station. Now that the process is established, those who are unable to attend future commencements will still be able to enjoy watching their graduate cross the stage.
Doug Glanville Comments

The Winter Commencement honorary degree recipient Doug Glanville paid GSU a great compliment on his Facebook page.

“I just returned from a wonderful evening at Governors State University,” he wrote after a dinner and reception in E-Lounge the day before Commencement. Glanville also commented that the degree he received on Saturday morning was “a tremendous honor. Thank you GSU!”

He also joked, “Today I received an honorary doctorate from Governors State University. It was a pleasure to be part of such an important day for all of the graduates. I was addressed as ‘Doctor’ today, so I looked around for someone a lot older than me who most likely knew CPR.”

Audition Deadline Today!

Don’t miss the final broadcasts of “Kathy and Eric” today, February 11, at 4 p.m.

And don’t forget auditions for the show will take place February 18, beginning at 2 p.m., in The Center for Performing Arts. Each contestant must sing two minutes of a Broadway song. They must bring their own music and/or a piano player. Callbacks are on February 25. Fans are welcome to attend to root for their favorite contestant.

The first place winner will sing a solo with the stars and the second place winner will sing a chorus number with the stars. Everyone who tries out will get a BIG discount on tickets to the show and the winners will get two free tickets each.

Download the application and return it to The Center box office no later than today, February 11. For more information, contact Patricia Guy at ext. 7489.

Special Valentine Invitation

It’s time to dance the night away at John Mueller's Winter Dance Party at The Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, February 13, at 9 p.m. Enjoy this musical tribute to Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens.

As an incentive to put on your dancing shoes, The Center is offering a special Valentine. Buy one get one ticket free for the Winter Dance Party. This special is available right now. Seats are located on mezzanine or main floor and are normally priced at $39 each.

Visit The Center box office or call ext. 2222.
Arab American Communities Researched

As the Chicago area’s Arab American community continues to expand, so does the need for research into the social service requirements of a group that is frequently overlooked – or misunderstood – in our society.

“The interesting thing about this Arab American population is that people don’t realize it’s there,” said Dr. Elizabeth Essex, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Director of the College of Health and Human Services’ Institute of Aging. Illinois, however, has the sixth largest Arab American population among the states, and the southwest suburbs have the highest density of Arab Americans in Illinois.

Dr. Essex made a presentation, Exploring the Needs of Arab American Older Adults, at last November’s Gerontological Society of America meeting in Baltimore. She was joined in the research project by Dr. Najma Adam, Associate Professor of Social Work; GSU Master of Social Work graduate Wassim Moukahal; and University of Chicago graduate student Suhad Tabahi.

The research was aimed at increasing understanding of the health, mental health, and social support needs of Arab American elders and adult child caregivers in the area. To explore the needs of these older adults, the researchers conducted four focus groups, each with six to 10 participants.

Many of the older Arab Americans in Illinois are first generation immigrants. A common theme among participants in the study was the challenge of adjusting to the social isolation of a highly individualistic society as opposed to the communitarian society in their country of origin. Participants expressed a desire for more opportunities for older adults to socialize with others from their own culture.

The premiere issue of What’s Hot, a Gerontological Society of America newsletter, devoted a full page to the abstract from the research project. The newsletter, which came out in December, was devoted to the aging of minority populations, and stressed the need for additional research into services for older adults who are emigrants or descendants of emigrants, including those from Arabic speaking countries.

Belly Dance Class

Back by popular demand – GSU’s Belly Dancing class. GSU alumna, Maribel Velasquez, will teach the five-session class on March 3, 11, 18, 25, and 31, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Space is limited so early registration is recommended. The fees are $5 for students, $10 for Recreation and Fitness Center members, and $25 for non-members.

For more information, visit the Recreation and Fitness Center membership office, room A1106, or call 708.534.4556.
Take Note

In recognition of Black History Month, Student Life is providing *Notes in Black History*.

**Today’s Note:** In 1947, Marie Maynard Daly was the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University.

GSU is celebrating Black History Month throughout February with activities, entertainment, discussions, and music. The events are free and open to the public.

Preschool Screening at FDC

The Family Development Center will hold informational meetings and preschool screenings monthly for admission into prekindergarten programs beginning in Fall 2010. Children ages three, four, and five are eligible for admission into the full and half day, three and five day prekindergarten programs.

Admission is open to all children. Discounted admission is available to qualified students. Screening is required to meet qualification requirements. Children must be three years old at the time of screening.

Informational meetings and screenings will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., on February 17, March 17, April 8 and 14, May 12, and June 10. The Family Development Center is located on the GSU campus.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 708.235.7300.

Table Tennis Team on the Go

GSU’s Table Tennis Team is preparing for the Upper Midwest National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) Regional tournament on Saturday, February 20, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The GSU team will be competing in co-ed and women’s events with UW-Madison, Purdue, Northwestern, University of Chicago, and UW-Milwaukee.

A good showing at the meet will improve GSU’s chances of extending the season and competing in the NCTTA’s National Tournament to be held April 9 to 11, in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Good Luck to the GSU Table Tennis Team!
**Eating Disorder Awareness**

As part of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, the Academic Resource Center will host an informative workshop on eating disorders on Thursday, February 25, from noon until 1 p.m., in room B1241.

The workshop will include explanations of the causes, effects, and treatments of eating disorders, and an opportunity for participants to ask questions.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Tamekia Scott at ext. 2228.

**Careers in Criminal Justice**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring a career fair featuring employers in the field of criminal justice, on Thursday, March 25, from 3 to 6:30 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.

Current students, alumni, and community members interested in finding employment in the law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and related fields are encouraged to attend. Potential employers will be on hand from both public and private sectors.

While the Criminal Justice Career Fair is free and open to the public, employers who wish to participate must register and pay a registration fee.

For more information, call ext. 3974.