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# GSUniverse

**Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter**

**August 12 – 16, 2002**

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*"Culture is not life in its entirety, but just the moment of security, strength, and clarity." Jose Ortega Y Gasset*

## **Charter School Future: A Cloudy Crystal Ball**

"Your charter has been revoked on trumped-up charges," a reporter told Chuck Connolly, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications. "I hope he writes that," Connolly said. With time running short before the start of school, the University is exploring all options, including legal redress, to allow the Charter School to open this Fall. The university is talking with Board Members of the State Board of Education to seek a stay of the revocation. And the President's Cabinet will meet with the Crete Monee School District representatives on August 12 to discuss a possible resolution of outstanding issues. The meeting was arranged by Al McCowan, President of University Park. As evidence of the university's optimism that the revocation decision will be reversed, the charter school is continuing its search for two open positions.

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## **Special Loss to the Charter School**

David Marshall, teacher at the charter school, passed away Thursday, August 1. He died of a heart attack while participating in a bike-a-thon fundraiser for juvenile diabetes. Mr. Marshall, 36, was a diabetic. Funeral services were held Tuesday, August 6. "Dave Marshall was a very special teacher and friend," said Susan Kinsey, Director of the Family Development Center. In a letter to charter school parents, Kinsey wrote, "We have all been saddened and confused by events of the past week...The feeling of community and camaraderie I have felt during this troubling time has convinced me that we have been successful in creating the type of school we envisioned – one that helps children grow and prosper both emotionally and academically."

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## **Early Signs of the End of Civilization Appear at GSU**

Last week *GSUniverse* reported a significant increase in enrollment for the Fall Trimester. Some readers thought we said the increase was due solely to admissions to the M.S.W. and P.T. programs, which did not accept the students this time last year. Fact is, we wrote that enrollment is up for the Fall Trimester, even excluding the CHP contribution. As an example, graduate enrollments in the Counseling program in the College of Education are up more than 37 percent. Admissions for the M.A. in psychology program are up more than 21 percent over last year. Other programs across the university posted similar gains.

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## **What People Want on the Web**

A number of current and prospective students took part in a series of focus groups this week as part of the program to develop a new website for the university. A few tidbits: People would like a colorful home page because it creates a sense of excitement. They prefer a clean home page, with specific headings and links. Most desired feature: being able to register on-line. Surprisingly, a majority said they would not pay tuition on-line because of security concerns. And while national studies show that a majority of students first learn about a college because of contact with its web site, the majority said they first learned of Governors State by word of mouth.

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## **Help Wanted: Urban School Administrators**

A shortage of trained administrators to run public schools is as big a problem as the shortage of qualified teachers. The need is most critical in poor, urban areas where low student performance and high drop out rates are the norm. With that in mind, Dr. Sondra Estep, professor, Educational Administration (EDAD), applied for and received a \$50,000 grant to develop a leadership development program for teachers who want to become administrators in urban schools. Under the grant, EDAD will partner with the South Cook County Education Consortium to recruit teachers from eight local school districts. Participants will enroll in GSU's EDAD graduate degree program and follow the normal curriculum. They will also receive additional training on how to address problems inherent to urban schools, such as low test scores and high student mobility. Only 25 teachers will be selected. The program will start Winter 2003.

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## **GSU ScholarSHIP Sets Sail**

Dr. Michael Purdy, professor of communications, will take part in the third annual conference on Globalization and Global Institutions in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He will present a paper on cultural communications and global mediation. Mercedes Graf, professor of psychology, will have an article published this Fall in *Army History Magazine* on women physicians in the Spanish-American War. This is a follow-up to a previous article on women physicians in the Civil War.

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## **Civil Service Senate**

The GSU Civil Service Senate installed new senate members last month. They are Shawn Jones, Jaime Ruiz, and Scott Smith - Physical Plant Operations; Linda McCann - College of Health Professions; Marie Turak - Information Technology Services; and Linda Sirmer - University Library. New officers are LouElla Rozier, President (second term), Debra Boyd, Vice President, Donna Rutledge, Corresponding Secretary, Kathy Miller, Recording Secretary and Pat Rogala, Financial Secretary.

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## **Outdoor Emergency Phones: Locations and Instructions for Use**

ITS has posted to its website a map showing the locations of 15 outdoor telephones, along with instructions for using the phones. The yellow phones are for both emergency and non-emergency use. Visit <http://www.govst.edu/its/news> and click "Outdoor Emergency Phones: Locations and Instructions for Use."

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## **August Happenings**

### **Thursday, August 15, 6 - 9 p.m. -- How to Deal with Financial Shortfalls**

Dr. John W. Swain, Director of GSU's Institute for Public Policy and Administration, will present a workshop on how to spot and overcome financial shortfalls at the East Hazel Crest Village Hall, 1904 West 174th Street in East Hazel Crest, Ill. The cost is \$35 for members of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and \$40 for non-members.

### **Monday, August 26, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. -- Welcome Week at GSU**

Come to the atrium during the week of August 26 - 29 to celebrate the beginning of the fall trimester at GSU. Events will include a scavenger hunt for prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50. Hotdogs, popcorn and soft drinks will be served throughout the day.

### **Saturday, August 31, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. -- Starting A Business-- Questions and Answers**

Everything you need to know about starting a business will be discussed at this two-hour-long session. The workshop will be held on campus in Room D-1408. The cost is only \$15.