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GSU View

University Newsletters

4-1-2008

GSU View, 2008-04-01

Office of Public Affairs

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs GSU View (2008, April 1). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/19>

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News and Events

GSU Goes Green

GSU Facilities Development and Management has been a leader in environmental responsibility in recent years. The installation of Illinois' largest solar-thermal system, replacement of high-wattage lamps, and implementation of a VRTX water treatment system eliminating the need for sulfuric acid all represent the school's effort to "go green."

The university's next earth-friendly initiative is to paint all interior hallways green. The project, to take place during the Spring/Summer trimester, will begin in the C wing. The special green paint is engineered using chlorophyll and helps to filter CO₂ and dangerous chemicals out of the air.

GSU is the first public university in the Midwest to go green in this manner. "I'm partial to gray walls," said Susan Rakstang, director of Facilities Development and Management. "But in the name of global warming, I'll make an exception." Faculty and staff are encouraged to take the project one step further by using the innovative new paint in their homes. Faculty and staff can purchase the paint in one and five gallon quantities directly from FDM.

Sculpture Park to Move "Paul"

On May 5, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will relocate the much-discussed sculpture *Paul*. The towering figure, by noted artist Tony Tasset, will be moved from its current location near the university's main roadway to the top of the Center for Performing Arts.

The move comes as the result of a sculpture park focus group, which suggested that the park needed greater visibility in the region. Placing *Paul* atop the CPA will allow the sculpture to be visible from as far as 2 miles away, including I-57. "I think this is a win-win situation," said Geoff Bates, sculpture park director. "Our other option to increase visibility was to purchase the *Babe* companion piece, but we couldn't compete with Gas City's bid."

Hawaiian Shirt Day or GSU Gets Lei'd

The past winter has arguably been one of the longest and worst in more than a decade. And while it appears that we still may face several colder than normal weeks ahead, GSU will usher in warmer weather with the first annual Hawaiian Shirt Day. Faculty and staff are encouraged to wear their island finest on Friday, April 4.

A contest will also take place in the Hall of Governors between Noon and 1 p.m. that afternoon. Prizes will be awarded for Loudest Hawaiian Shirt, Best Beach Bunny and Beach Bum, and Most Outrageous Overall Getup.

Flu For All

The flu season hit the GSU campus like a virus spreading through a population of people who work closely together. The coughing, sneezing, hacking, and general spreading of the virus has been relentless. Regardless of immunization status, many folks caught the flu. Those who did not fall ill, however, also suffered. Without flu symptoms to complain about, they could only give sympathy; never receive it. They felt left out of the GSU viral family.

In recognition of their emotional response to staying healthy, Human Resources is offering all GSU employees who did not get the flu the opportunity to "play sick" for one day.

"We recognize the need for the university to come together and share this unhealthy experience. Those who failed to catch the flu when it was working its way through our community are encouraged to stay home, rest in bed, drink plenty of fluids, and hug a box of Kleenex," explained Gail Bradshaw, Associate Vice President of Human Resources.

GSU Lead by Penguins

The Civil Service, Faculty, and Student Senates came together for a unique joint session to vote on an issue vital to the image of GSU. In a remarkable illustration of effective detente and collaboration, the three bodies sent a joint resolution to the Board of Trustees asking that the penguin be named the university's official mascot.

Sighting the penguins black and white colors, so like GSU's official colors, and its popularity, the Board agreed to consider the matter at its next general meeting.

The three Senates also proffered several suggestions for tag lines to accompany the penguin when it sports a GSU logo on its feathered chest. "My favorite is 'Soar like a penguin at GSU,'" said Civil Service Senate

President Kathy Miller. "But others liked 'Waddle to Success at GSU.'"

Contaminated Computers

The flu is not the only virus that has infected the GSU community. Strains of the dreaded "Casper" computer virus have flown into hard drives all over campus. Evidence that GSU computers are infected can be found in how friendly email exchanges have become. To combat the virus, ITS has contracted with Harvey Leporidae, Inc., which specializes in computer poltergeist removal. Until Casper and his friends have been eradicated, ITS will be shutting down all campus computers effective April 1.

"We are sorry this must be done, but friendly or not, Casper has to go," said Pete Mizera, Associate Vice President of Information Services.

In the meantime, FDM has searched F-wing and found 22 manual typewriters, 25 electric typewriters, 4 word processors, and 26 stenopads, which will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

