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GSUniverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

September 30 – October 4, 2002
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*"The full use of your powers along lines of excellence."
- definition of "happiness" by John F. Kennedy*

Out of the Lion's Den, Into the Fire

The Family Development Center is essentially completed. The Faculty Office Center is on track to be completed in the Spring. And while not set in concrete, plans for occupation of the Faculty Office Center are hardening. What's next? Planning for the renovation of the main building is underway. A university-wide representative committee charged with the responsibility to work with LCM Architects to develop a long range master plan for facilities development will provide guidance. The committee held its first meeting September 27. Everything is on the table, from projected facility needs for each academic program, to possible new facilities, to the use and preservation of the eco-system, to how to coordinate the university's development with plans being developed by the village of University Park. "We want this planning process to be absolutely transparent," John Tuohy, vice president – Administration, said. "We'll seek input from everyone. We'll communicate what we're doing every step of the way. I don't want anyone to be able to say a year or two from now, 'I didn't know this is what you were planning.'" **As a first step in the communication process, *GSUniverse* will publish a special issue this week devoted solely to the Facilities Master Plan and the Faculty Office Center.**

Talk about a Full Plate

Saturday, October 5: The NCATE/ISBE accreditation team arrives on campus to begin its review of the College of Education. Thursday, October 8: The executive director and senior staff of IBHE will come to the campus to learn more about the university's mission, programs, and plans, as well as to discuss the budget for fiscal year 04 and the role Governors State can play in IBHE's plans for higher education in Illinois. Presentations and a tour are planned. Friday, October 9: Convocation will be held at 2:30 p.m., Sherman Music Recital Hall.

A Serious Convocation

"The President and I have some real issues to put on the table," Provost Paul Keys said about the Convocation set for October 9. "The university adopted a strategic plan over a year ago – now we are finding ways to implement it, budget crisis or not. The president and I intend to address that issue. We have some ideas we want to share with the university community, and after the Convocation, we'll look for feedback and action programs."

Looking into a Cloudy Crystal Ball

The Illinois State Board of Higher Education is meeting October 1st to consider several issues. The future of funding for higher education in Illinois will dominate the discussions. *GSUniverse* will report on the meeting in its next issue.

Enrollment is Up – But We Can Do Better

The most recent figures show that enrollment is up 1.3 percent for the Fall Trimester, and credit hours are up 0.1 percent. Good news – the university has reversed a five year decline in Fall Trimester enrollment. “I think we can do even better if we improve coordination among the key groups which process students,” said Provost Keys. On Monday, September 30, he will chair the second in a continuing series of meetings of those involved in the recruitment, admission, and enrollment of students. The focus of the meeting will be on enrollment policies and procedures and advising. “I don’t know what the group will decide,” Keys said, “but I expect there will be some good suggestions for improved coordination among the offices involved in processing applications and some good ideas on how to improve advising of students.” Keys has also created a committee to be chaired by Larry Polselli, executive director, Enrollment Services, to recommend new policies and procedures on advising and retention. “Retention is an issue,” Polselli said. “Each trimester, Fall or Winter, nearly 25 percent of our students are new to the university. We know how to bring them in – we need to do a better job in keeping them once they’re here.”

He Didn’t Make Like Howard Stern – Thank Goodness

Assistant Provost Eric Martin appeared on WVON radio last week to talk about Governors State’s academic programs, its unique mission to meet the educational needs of the working adult, and the university’s programs to serve the community. Martin said, “I kept repeating our phone number, as if it were some kind of mantra.” The show was a remote broadcast from the Deer Creek golf club in University Park. WVON has a particularly strong following in the Hispanic community.

Signs That the End of Civilization Is Upon Us

Nothing to do with GSU, but everything to do with the world we live in. The American Library Association has just released its list of the top 10 books that have been banned or “challenged.” They include, at number one, the *Harry Potter* series, J. K. Rowling; at number two, *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck; at number three, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou; and at number six, *The Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger. At least Huck Finn is falling off the radar screen. Hang tough, Diane Dates Casey!

Upcoming Events

October 2 – October 3

GSU will show two films to celebrate Latino Heritage Month -- “Tortilla Soup” on October 2 and “Open Your Eyes” on October 3. The movies will be shown in Engbretson Hall at noon and 3 p.m.

October 4 (6 – 9 p.m.), October 5 – 6 (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

This Multidimensional, Multicultural Wellness Conference/Workshop at Governors State will provide a splendid opportunity to experience new approaches to the Mind/Body/Spirit Connection. Anyone who is personally or professionally interested in learning complimentary and alternative approaches to wellness will find this workshop insightful and rewarding. For further information, contact 708/957-4572.

October 7 – October 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Governors State University presents the Fourth Annual Faculty Art Show featuring the works of faculty from sixteen regional colleges and universities. The show will be held at the Governors State University Art Gallery. The gallery is open Monday – Thursday. For more information call 708-534-4021 or 708-534-4010.