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The GSU Archives: Learning from Yesterday

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The GSU Archives: Learning from Yesterday

Learn from yesterday,
live for today, hope for tomorrow.
The important thing is to not stop asking questions….
Albert Einstein

“In 1969 when GSU was founded, the world was a much different place,” offered Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library. “To learn more about GSU at the time is merely a few seconds away. All you need is a computer to access the vast treasure of information that is available through our GSU Archives,” she suggested.

Did you know that you can learn more about the beginnings of GSU via a 13 minute slide presentation chronicling the tenure of GSU’s first President, Dr. William E. Engbretson, from 1969-1976 found at http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/ref/collection/gsu_wee/id/71. Transcripts for this slide presentation can be found at http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/ref/collection/gsu_wee/id/64. The tongue-in-cheek presentation was created for Dr. Engbretson’s retirement party.

I enjoy working with the GSU Archives because it is important to connect the past with the present,” shared Sarah Wegley, Library Operations Associate, Digital Metadata and Web services. “When going through the many historical GSU documents, it is enlightening and enjoyable to realize the sense of humor that many who were involved with GSU at the beginning shared. Working with the archives also allows me the
opportunity to work with a very unique collection while piecing together GSU’s history and innovative traditions,” she offered.

“The GSU Archives have deep roots. The information in the archives allows us to answer questions about the past, and helps us to understand the present while also looking to the future,” Ruetten suggested.

Archival information can be found on http://collections.carli.illinois.edu. Select the “by institution” option to find GSU’s collections. CARLI is the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois.

More material can be found on OPUS, www.govst.opus.edu. A wonderful example is a collection of information from the GSU Dedication on April 20, 1975, http://opus.govst.edu/anniv/32/. Here you can find the official program book along with then Governor Walker’s proclamation.

There is also a LibGuide at http://libguides.govst.edu/GSUhistory that chronicles the beginnings of GSU. For example, did you know that in 1973 GSU was featured in a book titled The Open University? The book features photos and diagrams of Governors State University during the planning process. Check it out on the LibGuide and read more at http://opus.govst.edu/anniv/61/

“...no other university has ever been planned in quite this way…”

“As we celebrate American Archives Month, we invite all to mark their calendars for the Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the GSU Archives Room along with the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of the GSU Library. The Friends have been so supportive of the library in many ways over the past 10 years, but most recently their contribution to the GSU Archives Room has been invaluable,” said Dean Ruetten.

Friends of the GSU Library 10th Anniversary Celebration
&
Ribbon Cutting for the GSU Archives Room
Thursday, November 3rd
4-6 PM
GSU Library
RSVP to asarkisian@govst.edu

REMEMBER, THE GSU LIBRARY IS YOUR RESEARCH RESOURCE 24/7