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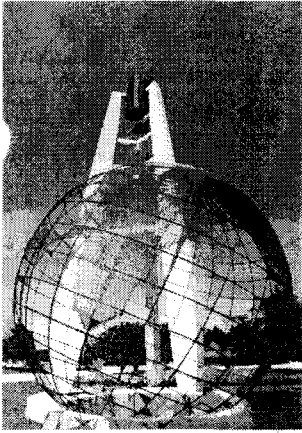
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GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

March 3 – March 7, 2003

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“There are only two kinds of people who are really fascinating—
people who know absolutely everything, and people who know
absolutely nothing.”
Oscar Wilde

Budget Confusion in Springfield

As reported last week, President Fagan received a letter from State Budget Director John Filan directing GSU to reserve \$2.1 million of GSU's appropriated funds for the current fiscal year, a reduction of eight percent. As the president told the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 4, that has the same effect as a mandated rescission. On March 3, the Budget Office informed IBHE that the reserve would be prorated, and since the fiscal year was three quarters over, the reserve/rescission would be two percent. The following day, the Budget Office told IBHE it should plan for an eight percent cut.

Senate Testimony Uneventful

Hearings by the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 4, at which Bruce Friefeld, Chair of the Board of Trustees and President Fagan testified, produced no revelations or developments, in large part because no budget has been proposed for higher education for FY04. Questions centered on legislation that has been introduced, including proposals for line item budgets and state control of universities' income funds. At one point, GSU was singled out for praise for the efficiency of its operations.

Year of the Grant I – \$600,000 in Federal Funds for Teacher Training Initiative

U. S. Senator Dick Durbin championed the cause of Governors State and helped the university secure a \$600,000 grant for teacher training initiatives for the current fiscal year. Specifically, the grant supports the Library of Congress' *Hands Across America* program, an initiative designed to make the resources of the Library available to educators across the country. GSU will use the funds for training and the acquisition of additional technology. Other Illinois universities receiving funding for the *Hands Across America* program include Southern Illinois, DePaul, and Loyola. In commenting on the grant, Provost Paul Keys said, “We were included because of the university's mission, expertise, and quality of its faculty. We thank Senator Durbin for recognizing what Governors State could bring to the table.”

Year of the Grant II -- \$150,000 in Federal Funds for Family Development Center

Because of the leadership of Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., an advocate for early childhood education programs, GSU will receive a Federal grant of \$150,000 for training and equipment for the Family Development Center for the current fiscal year. “Congressman Jackson understands the important contribution the Center can make to the region,” Provost Keys said. “Thanks to his support, we'll be better able to deliver the services the area needs. We appreciate his recognition of the unique role GSU plays in the region.”

Year of the Grant III – Federal Funding of GSU Programs Considered for FY04

Proposals for Federal support of programs in distance learning, health care, and education, among others, have been submitted to Senators Durbin and Peter Fitzgerald and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. for consideration in next year's budget. Provost Keys said, "GSU has a record of service and scholarship. This university certainly qualifies for federal support of programs that advance the national agenda. That's a major reason why Senator Durbin and Congressman Jackson supported federal funding for GSU in the current fiscal year." He added, "I urge any faculty member who is seeking funding for his or her research or program to contact me or Professor Deborah Holdstein, Faculty Associate for Graduate Studies and Research. We'll work with faculty to identify potential sources of federal support."

BOG Goes Platinum

The Platinum Group Production Company, which airs the nationally syndicated *Today's Family*, will feature GSU's Board of Governors degree program in a *Today's Family* segment that will begin running sometime in June. The program will air on the ABC Family, PAX, and Hallmark channels. "The timing," commented CELCS Dean John Stoll, "is perfect for promoting the fall term." Crews filmed footage featuring BOG students Tom Lux and Yolanda McMillan on campus February 28. The BOG segment will air in 25 markets nationwide, particularly in areas that have community colleges in partnership with GSU and the BOG program.

Grad Council Moving Ahead

Working under the auspices of the Graduate Council, Drs. Deborah Holdstein and Eric Martin, Assistant Provost/Director of the Center for Quality, have designed and implemented a "Student Examination Agreement Form" that will be used by the College of Education. The form, designed to establish a uniform testing procedure for comprehensive exams within the CE, provides a signed understanding between test-takers and proctors that clearly delineates test rules and procedures.

"We worked with Jeff Kaiser in the College of Education," explained Holdstein. "He provided extensive information, so that we could begin to improve the communication process between proctors and students. The form will give students the information they need to meet the testing requirements and eliminate potential misunderstandings."

Volunteers Needed For Alumni Phonathon!

State budget woes may leave important programs and offerings under – or *un* – funded, but volunteerism can still put money in the purse for GSU's worthiest endeavors. Student scholarships, the faculty professional development program, the library, employee of the month and year programs, the Community Scholars Program, and the Child Care Center have all benefited from GSU Alumni Association phonathons in the past, and they can again – with your help. This year's phonathon began March 3 and runs through March 16. Volunteers are needed between 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, to make phone calls. *This* budget formula, at least, defies confusion: More callers = more calls = more donations = more good done with the proceeds. For more information and to volunteer, please call the Alumni Office at (708) 534-4128.

Student Art Exhibit Opens Tonight

The Art Department is currently hosting the 2003 Student Art Show from Friday, March 7, to Thursday, March 13, in the university art gallery. Both graduate and undergraduate students' work is being shown. The show was juried by Lynn Hill, Elmhurst College art professor and Governors State alumna. First, second, and third place submissions received prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$75, respectively.

Rumor Hotline Up and Running

Want to know what's going on? Send an e-mail to GSUfacts and you'll get an answer within 48 hours. It's a confidential procedure. The program is administered by Public Affairs.
