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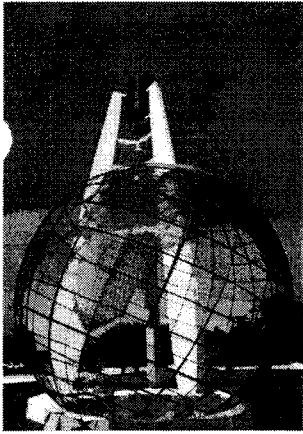
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# GSUniverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

March 17 – March 21, 2003

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*"But can you by no drift of conference get from him why he puts on this confusion!?!"*

*Hamlet, III, i*

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## **Good News on the Academic Front I: COE Receives NCATE Accreditation**

Governors State received word late Friday that The College of Education has been approved for accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Results of NCATE's site visit recorded no weaknesses – a first in the history of the state. President Fagan remarked, "Everyone in the College of Education worked very hard for this – during every minute and second ticking by on the famous NCATE countdown clock. They've proved everything we know about Governors State is true – that we are a highly professional university with the best people. Well done."

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## **Good News on the Academic Front II: NLNAC Reaccredits Nursing Programs**

The Board of Commissioners for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) has granted approval for the continuing accreditation of GSU's undergraduate and graduate nursing programs for a full 8 years, through 2010. "We're gratified by this recognition," said President Fagan, "Our nursing programs have attained the highest degree of professionalism. Dean Samson and our former program director, Dr. June Krawczak, have done an outstanding job. They and all the faculty and staff involved deserve our congratulations and our thanks."

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## **FY03 Ending on a Sour Note**

IBHE has directed that each of the public universities identify the specific actions they would take to reserve eight percent of their appropriated FY03 budgets. The University has responded to the IBHE directive. As reported earlier, Governors State has frozen all hiring and internally rescinded 50 percent of all unspent and unencumbered non-personal service funds. With these actions and reserves the University budgeted at the beginning of the year, GSU would come close to meeting the target. Jeff Slovak, budget director, said, "IBHE and the Budget Office will review what we submitted."

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## **FY04 Budget Picture**

The Governor's budget for higher education for FY04 may be finalized as early as the end of next week. Recent reports in the press have projected a reduction of 8 to 10 percent from FY03 levels in operations, administration, and permanent capital improvements from all income sources, not just the appropriated budget. For Governors State, that would net out to an overall reduction of about 9.2 percent, or \$3.5 million.

A 9.2 percent reduction for FY04 represents a steep hill to climb. "We've been spending a lot of time in Springfield recently explaining that across-the-board cuts of the size that have been proposed can have a disproportionate, negative impact on universities like Governors State," President Fagan said. In his testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, the House Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, and IBHE, he said, "To illustrate the magnitude of that reduction, we would have to close one of our colleges, or close the University Library, or lay off 25 percent of our faculty, or raise tuition by 25 percent. Clearly, we're

not going to take any of those actions. And just as clearly, we won't hit the target by making marginal decisions."

"When you're talking numbers of that magnitude, everything has to be put on the table," Slovak said. "But asking questions about specific programs and operations doesn't mean we've made up our minds. We're going to do what the State requires of us – no choice about that – but we will also protect the core mission of this university," he added.

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### **GSU Welcomes Interim C0E Dean**

Dr. Roger E. Bennett has been selected as the new interim dean for the College of Education and will begin work at GSU on April 1. Bennett comes to the college with a significant level of expertise. From 2000 to 2003, he served as Professor of Curriculum within the College of Education at Southwest Missouri State University, where he worked on NCATE accreditation and taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Teacher Education. From 1996 to 2000, he served as Dean of the College of Education and Head of the Professional Education Unit, also at SMSU. A nationwide search will be conducted for permanent dean.

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### **Directed Self-Placement Meets Online Orientation**

Governors State University has completed development on an undergraduate online orientation with directed self-placement. GSU will launch the program, which has imbedded within it directed self-placement for both math and writing, on March 24th. This is a unique development, for while directed self-placement and online orientation both exist, their combined implementation by GSU is believed to be a first in the United States. The orientation consists of four parts: Getting Started, Introduction to the University, Directed Self-Placement, and Conclusion. It is an estimated hour and a half process.

"This is a comprehensive orientation," says Assistant Provost Eric Martin. "It gives our new students a thorough understanding of the university and its policies, and it empowers them to make informed educational choices regarding their abilities in math and writing. We believe that it will significantly enhance learning at GSU."

New graduate students must go through the Online Orientation to register for classes. A hold will be placed on their records and prevent registration until the orientation is completed. Questions about the Online Orientation should be directed to the Division of Student Development. They will administer and manage the process.

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### **"Spring Into A New Career"**

The Office of Career Services is sponsoring the Annual All Majors Job Fair on March 27, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Open interviews will also be conducted on a first come first served basis from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Several employers will be represented at the event, including TCF and Pullman banks, Illinois State Police, Chicago Public Schools, and Target. The Job Fair is open to all students and community members. For more information, contact the Office of Career Services at extension 3974.

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### **Dr. Quentin Young to Host Honors Seminar**

Dr. Quentin Young, Clinical Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Illinois-Chicago, will host a University Honors Seminar at Governors State University's Hall of Honors on Wednesday, March 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:20 p.m. His talk is titled *Poverty and Access to Health Care*. Young has an extensive background in healthcare. He is an experienced physician, administrator and educator and is well-known for his activism. He is a frequent guest on WBEZ. Currently, Dr. Young is the Senior Attending Physician at Michael Reese Hospital and the National Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). He has also served as the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital. The GSU community is invited to attend.

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### **A Sandy Start – That’s Smart!**

Imagine children playing in the largest sandbox in the world! Well, make that the largest sandbox in the south suburbs anyway, and you’ve imagined the sandbox Smart Start is building in the Family Development Center – or, rather, gearing up to build. They need your help. “We have a great volunteer effort going with our sandbox,” said Cheryl Poulos, Smart Start director. “But to really make it happen, we need monetary donations.” According to Poulos, the sandbox is a perfect learning environment on several levels: “Children learn cooperation and have interactions that are vital to growth and social development; they can build, measure, and play in the sand, even before they can walk.” Poulos and Smart Start ask for your help in making the sandbox a reality. Sandbox donations in any amount can be made payable to Smart Start. For more information, contact Poulos at extension 7329.