The Place to Finish What You Started

Governors State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/anniv

Recommended Citation
the place to finish what you started
"what's so great about governors state?"

... That was the leading question we asked a number of our faculty and students recently. After all, who better than teachers and learners can tell prospective students what it's like to attend a university?

We came up with a few surprises, and a lot of insights about the people whose diversity of character contribute to that unique community that is GSU. And on the whole, we're proud of what our people have to say about GSU. ... and proud to recommend it to you, if......

- you're a junior, senior or graduate level student.

- you're looking for the best (not necessarily the easiest) way to complete your last two years of undergraduate or master's level work or simply want to take a course ... or two.

- you need a flexible class/study schedule to fit your busy life.

Some people read flexible as "easy." Wrong. In fact, it's more difficult in many ways. Flexibility demands more from both teacher and learner. However, the dividends in discovery and learning excitement more than repay that extra effort expended.

But let them tell you themselves...
Maurice Fisher, Student “At GSU you can approach topics as an adult. The faculty are really sharp. I haven’t had a single class that wasn’t taught by a Ph.D. And they have time for you. You can even pick up the phone at home and call your professor. But you have to work hard. I can testify to it. If I hadn’t gone to GSU, I could not do the job I have now. Even the student body is a learning resource. There’s a beautiful cross-section of work experience in every class.

...GSU is absolutely the place to finish what you started.”

Ed Taylor, Student “You have a one-to-one relationship with the professors here. If you went to a four year, larger university, many classes would be taught by graduate students. Sometimes you get a real personal thing going with a faculty member. It’s the chemistry, I guess. Just two people have a common interest. You tell a faculty member, ‘I like this’ and he says ‘So do I’. You get going from there.”

OUR STUDENTS The GSU student body is diverse. Along with the 20-25 year-olds are the more mature who are married, have children, and work. They seek completion of B.A. degrees started just recently at a community college or years before. Or—graduate work for professional advancement or career change is needed. Community college graduates, suburban housewives reentering the job market, the young executive seeking promotion, a retired businessman finding enrichment in an American Literature course, the elementary school teacher who wants to become a school counselor, nurses availing themselves of specialized programs in their field—these are typical GSU students. Some enter just to take a few courses and stay to finish a degree—or two.

OUR FACULTY Over one-hundred-fifty faculty with one of the highest percentages of Ph.D.'s in the State bring a richly multi-ethnic flavor and a diversity of talents to GSU. A sampling of cultures represented at the University includes: Egypt, India, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Cuba, England, Korea and the Philippines. But the most exciting aspect of our faculty is their excitement:

- about the students they teach
- about the flexible approaches to education possible here
- and the personal fulfillment for the teacher who cares.

Excellence is the result: in the faculty attracted, in their teaching, in the interpersonal relationships nurtured in an atmosphere which fosters cultural, intellectual and personal exchange.
Charles Gassner, Student: "I need more skills. When I retire I'm going to need something else. This (taking classes at GSU) opens new doors."

Jim Cushing, Student: "I guess I have a curious mind—and if you have a curious mind, you want to understand things, to learn more. If you do it with formal education, (for me) it's more rewarding than free-lancing in the library. I've been taking courses off-and-on all through my life. I guess I'm a professional student."
Helen Hughes, Professor "Our students are a little older than average. They’ve been in the service or they held jobs and they’ve started raising families. As a result they have a clear idea of what they want and they’re a joy to teach. Our students are mature and some of them really do brilliantly. We have a lot of students trying to answer the question ‘Do I belong in higher education or not? Is this really for me or not?’

Rhoda Perez, Bilingual/Bicultural Graduate Student "Since I’ve been here my experience has been A+. I like the interest the administrators of the Bilingual/Bicultural Program have in us students. We have input too. Dr. Reyes really listens—he’s responsive. To have a learning site (Jones Commercial H.S.) in the city is a plus for the University too. I like the fact that Governors State is willing to bring the professor to the students. The learning site at Jones Commercial is fantastic. The quality of education is excellent. The competency-based system is great. Our skills are really tested.

"I want to finish this program... It will make me a better teacher. Dr. Brown teaches us to concentrate on our expectations as teachers. That really helps. I think too many teachers concentrate only on what they expect from their students. The administrative track is the next step. The philosophy and history of Bilingual/Bicultural education has helped me understand our society. There’s sensitivity to ethnic groups of all kinds.

My husband went back to school when he was thirty-eight. I went back when I was thirty-five. I’m forty now. We were out of school twenty years. I tell my children ‘Get your preparation now’. I see a lot of women my age coffee klatching and having nervous breakdowns. I don’t have time to worry about my ailments. Now I know how to help my kids with their work, what to ask them, how to motivate them.

They’re great kids. I mean, I’m going to school and they’re cooking! They’re independent. We study and read together—and we help each other. I’m a better mother now, very sensitive to the kids. When they bring home their homework, I know how they feel. There are other parents I know who say ‘I’m too old now’ and they’re only thirty! I look at them and I say ‘How old do you think I am?’ I’ve been a housewife for years. It’s never too late.

Ed Taylor, Student "You got guys like me, 23. Then you have the rookies right out of the community colleges—about 20. Then you have some in their 40’s or 50’s. So there is a rich, diversified crosssection in the classroom."
David Crispin, Professor "The GSU student is more relaxed, more serious — they're not here to waste a couple of years at their parents' expense. They come here because they want to, because they believe we have something they want and need. They don't take any phony stuff — they talk straight to their professors. There is a lack of games here. In this atmosphere, I found that caring relationships develop. I've developed lasting friendships with some of my students. I have hugging relationships, visiting relationships, warm relationships with many of my students. They work hard. They often come after a long day's work and are tired; their motivation is very solid and high. They are of a wide variety, young and old, black and white, male and female, Spanish speaking, African, Oriental. Colors and shapes and sizes and cultures — just a fascinating collection."

Greg De Bartolo, Graduate Student "This place is geared to the community college commuter student who works part-time. When I came here I had to have that flexibility, or I could not have gone on. The interaction you can have with a professor is invaluable — especially for day students who come from the community colleges. The most pleasant surprise has been the day-time here. It's been very comfortable; class size is small. I've been able to work with professors without any distractions caused by overcrowding. It's a great atmosphere. Faculty are really available, really competent. The professors tend to teach in their specialties, so there is never a lack of passion in the classroom, and it's these professors who read your papers — not graduate students! I'm getting a quality education because my liberal arts work has been self-paced. You can stretch things out and gather more substance. Time isn't a constraint. I had to get used to it though; at first I procrastinated. I write a lot of papers. Each one is getting better. I'm not competing with other students here. It's more the professor and me. I tend to take the same professor for three or four Trimesters in a row. There is a challenge in this because each paper I turn in has to be more comprehensive and deeper than the last. And there is plenty of interaction with other students in the classroom. I get a good feeling from my classmates. They're a learning experience themselves. In one of my classes I have a fifty-seven year-old preacher from the city along with people my own age — no adolescent games here."
Daniel Bernd, Professor of Literature: "The prevailing atmosphere at GSU is one of service to students who might not have had educational opportunities were it not for our geographical and physical presence. We're committed to this particular ethos. That's the binding glue of the GSU faculty and staff..."

Theopilos Cyrus, Student: "The faculty take an exceptional amount of time aside from class to counsel, to interact, to direct, to assist students with their difficulties. I find that to be a tremendous asset. You're not just a number here. In a lot of other places the professor doesn't even know your name."

Bill Rogge, Professor: "Faculty are as good here as I've met anywhere. They are bold, they're willing to try out new things, they think creatively, are willing to take risks, are hard working."

The way we succeed in this is to offer a quality education. After we establish ourselves, people will come to us who could go to other places... The glory of American society is that, even if we may be unequal, we are that society on earth that has taken the notion of equality seriously. GSU tries hard to implement equality, probably harder than other institutions... We have our failures. We've made our mistakes. But by and large, the strength of our institution is our attempt to provide the highest possible quality education to people who don't happen to be #1 on Harvard's admissions list. We can learn from Samuel Johnson: He was a person who struggled out of poverty, out of enormously adverse circumstances to become the most learned, perhaps the most famous man of the 18th century. Yet he never forgot where he came from—the son of a bankrupt bookseller. Eric Hoffer was right when he said at graduation that the ordinary people are lumpy with talent. Who could predict a Sam Johnson? This astonishing genius appears out of nowhere. We'll find the same in Chicago and the suburbs. Suburban housewives who come here will find an intellectual and moral excitement about the region in which they live... We're not going to offer students rah-rah. We're not going to be a marriage market such as is the primary function of the major large American university... We offer an ambience which brings out the best intellectual and cultural interest in people. We offer a place where these things can be discussed, argued about. We're a multi-university, a pluralistic institution...

I enjoy my students. I have the greatest students in the world and I've been a student or teacher myself at a wide range of institutions of higher education—from the elite private university to the state college. Nowhere have I had students like these... I'm a teacher of literature. The study of literature depends not only on what I can bring to the classroom, and the books we read, but on what the students bring to the classroom. Our students bring so much more to the classroom than any other student body I've ever dealt with. A richness of experience, the willingness and ability to talk about it... It's a lot of fun to teach these students."
Sang-O-Rhee, Professor "In the early days people had a 'funny university' image of us. But now hospitals and agencies are anxious to send their employees to us in Health Services. We have had more than ten entry and middle-managers from Ingalls Memorial Hospital and St. James Hospital in our program."

David Crispin, Professor "The faculty are different, I believe, from a typical university because most of our faculty are devoted to teaching. There isn't much motivation for a professor to come here who wants to work only at high level research with graduate assistants. We don't have doctoral programs. So the people who are attracted to us are interested in being really good teachers. I've taught at Temple, Drexel, Indiana State, University of Idaho, University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth—my standards are still the same here as when I taught there."

University of Idaho, University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth—my standards are still the same here as when I taught there."
Jim Cushing "I'm really taken by the beautiful campus. So wide open."

Franz Schultze "Earth and sky stretch as far as the eye can see. Yet in this infinity of ruralia the far-flung steel constructions reveal themselves in a strangely provocative and intriguing way. They take on a purity of form and a freedom from emotional implication that are altogether affirmative." Chicago Daily News

**OUR CAMPUS**

We're about thirty-five miles each from Kankakee, Joliet and the Chicago Loop. A network of Interstate and State highways provide convenient access. Our students are familiar with I-57, I-80, I-394 as well as US 30, US 50, Governors Highway, Harlem and Western Avenues. Furthermore, you can reach GSU via the RTA from nearly all of the South Suburbs.

We moved into our new permanent facilities in late 1973. Our 753 acre campus boasts a number of lakes, a nature trail, and an outdoor monumental sculpture exhibition. One building houses colleges, classrooms and administrative offices, library, bookstore and cafeteria. Constructed of reinforced concrete, corten steel, glass and cedar paneling, both interior and exterior become a generic extension of the rolling countryside.

Special resources available to students are: GSU's Library (Learning Resource Center) containing 160,000 volumes, 2,100 journal subscriptions, audio and video cassettes, records, slides, kits, games and motion pictures. Also available for study are special collections, such as federal, state and local government documents, curriculum materials, juvenile literature, and the University archives.

The Instructional Communications Center coordinates instructional development with media production equipment—for graphics, television, studio, photographic, film and other related processes.

GSU's Computing Center is another working lab available for student use.

GSU also boasts its own Theatre and Music Recital Hall for the variety of cultural events offered at the University, and as functional workshops for theatre and music students.

Complete YMCA gymnasium facilities including an olympic sized pool, courts and exercise equipment are open to GSU students, alumni and staff at reduced rates. A variety of classes are also available thru the "Y" at GSU.
Greg De Bartolo, Student

"When I first came here I worked selling shoes and didn't need financial aid. But when I lost that job, I found the Financial Aids Office very responsive. Once you go there for counselling and fill out all the forms, you're taken care of very personally and very adequately. The packages here are generous too, compared to other universities in the State. For example, they give you an allowance to cover your travel needs."

Rick Engel, Student

"Let me put it this way. I'm not a participant in student activities. I just find myself totally pre-occupied either at home or doing work at school. I do think that the cultural program is great in terms of music, movies and speakers. For the number of students we have, I think it's really fantastic."

OUR SERVICES

We have no dorms because all our students commute. We sponsor, however, a rich variety of services and cultural events. First aid and health care referrals, personal and academic counseling are available, as is a Center for Learning Assistance for students who need to sharpen their basic academic skills, and a drop-in day care service at reasonable rates for students with children. A Women's Resource Center is provided to assist women who are considering career and lifestyle changes or who simply want to return to college.

In our halls is often heard the music of one of our two jazz bands, our Chorale or our Orchestra. We present three or four exciting plays a year. The Innovator, our school newspaper, keeps students informed about GSU.

Our lecture series brings nationally known personalities to the campus to speak on current topics, and our classical music series offers unique musical experiences from William Warfield to the Twentieth Century Consort.

We provide an excellent series of movies for our film buffs.

There is more. But you have the idea.

Students interested in full-time employment while at GSU and alumni seeking permanent positions are encouraged to register with the Placement Office. Individual attention is given to help students obtain the right kinds of jobs. For permanent employment, counselors arrange for both on-campus recruiting visits by prospective employers and on-site interviews for students and alumni.

Our Office of Admissions coordinates credential assessment and admissions processing, academic advisement and serves as the initial contact for incoming students.
OUR REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in degree programs you'll need at least two years of college credit or the equivalent (for undergrads) or a BA from an accredited college or university (for graduate level). A "C" average and good academic standing are also required. Your life experience may also be worth college credit. Ask the Admissions Office for details on assessment for experiential learning. If you're not interested in a degree program, but just want to take a course of special interest, you're welcome as a student-at-large.

To Graduate...We require a minimum of one hundred twenty hours (120) of credit for a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and thirty-two (32) minimum credit hours to earn the MA. A total of twenty-four (24) must be earned at GSU. The exact number of credit hours to be earned is determined by the competencies in the study plan worked out between student and advisor to meet personal and professional goals. There are three graduation dates each year—December, April, and August. Commencement ceremonies are held in June.

Tuition...As a State Institution our tuition is moderate. Illinois residents enrolled full-time pay $279 per Trimester as undergraduates, or $302 as graduate students. There's also a $15 activity fee plus optional health insurance and parking fees.

Financial Aids...Many GSU students hold full-time or part-time jobs to help meet expenses, but even those who are employed, as well as many others, need the support of financial aid programs to carry on their education. GSU's financial aid programs are designed to help students develop an appropriate package of loans, grants, scholarships and employment income to underwrite educational costs. Among the sources of aid available to qualified students are:

- Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG)
- Illinois State Scholarship Commission (ISSC)
- National Direct Student Loan (NDSL)
- Federal Interest Benefits
- College Work-Study Program (CWSP)
- GSU Talent Scholarship
- GSU Tuition Waivers
- VA Benefits

For complete information on all scholarships, grants, loans and other financial aid available contact the GSU Office of Financial Aid. If you think you may need financial aid to attend GSU and want to know if you qualify—get your questions asked and application in early! Application deadlines for obtaining financial aid are:

- December 1 for the Winter Trimester
- March 1 for the Spring/Summer Trimester
- May 1 for the Fall Trimester

Financial Aid counselors are on duty to help Monday thru Friday until 8 p.m.
And that's what is so great about Governors State! Interested? We'd like to send you more information. Just fill out the attached card indicating your interest and mail—we will pay the postage.