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GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

June 23 to 27, 2003

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"Nothing, I'm sure, calls forth the faculties so much as the being obliged to struggle with the world."

Mary Wollstonecraft

Faculty Office Center: Time to Pack

The final preparations for the Faculty Office Center move are nearly complete: the furniture vendor, KI, will begin delivery of the FOC's new furniture next week; furniture assembly follows, with final assembly estimated for completion by the last week in July. That's when the movers take over. "We're almost there. It's definitely time to start packing," said Mike Hassett, director of Physical Plant Operations. "Everything people need to pack for the move is out there in the colleges now. We've already distributed fifteen hundred boxes to moving coordinators, along with the labels that will tell the movers the whens, wheres, and to whoms the boxes go." The labels are both size and color coordinated; large labels go on boxes, smaller labels on computer equipment, and the smallest labels on telephones. Equipment with green labels will be moved to the first floor, blue the second, and red the third. Moving coordinators are in place in every college and can answer questions faculty and staff have about the packing and moving procedures.

Lull in Springfield

The Legislature is not in session, the Governor is meeting with constituents, and the public universities are at work preparing for the Legislature's fall veto session. President Stuart Fagan said, "The public universities are preparing their priorities for the veto session. The first will be to maintain control of our income funds and funds from other sources. We were successful in keeping control of those funds in the last session, but I expect the issue will come up again. If universities lose control of their income funds, they lose the flexibility to meet the needs of their students. Our second priority will be to demonstrate that the long-term future of Illinois will be damaged if there are further cuts in funding for higher education. To that point, Dr. Anthony Andrews is conducting a study of GSU's economic impact. We'll let the governor, the legislature, and the public know the contribution we make. They'll be surprised at just how large it is. And when everyone sees the facts, I hope they'll realize that higher education is an engine that drives economic growth." Fagan added that in the next full legislative session, "We'll push for appropriated salary increases that were not supported in the Gubernatorial budgets for FY03 and FY04."

Metra Bridge Repair on Schedule

Metra's service on the Metra Electric line between the Riverdale and University Park stations has been non-existent since Monday's bridge fire in Riverdale. According to Metra's online service updates, at www.metrarail.com/Service_Updates, bridge repairs are on schedule and should be completed by Wednesday, July 2, bringing the disruption to a remarkably swift end, considering the extent of the damage. Metra's web site also lists up-to-date information about service, schedule, and shuttle bus contingencies.

Fall Distinguished Lecture Series Firming Up

The College of Art and Sciences has put together an impressive field of speakers for its Distinguished Lecture Series for the Fall 2003 Trimester. Precise scheduling remains tentative in some cases, but the speakers are otherwise locked into September and October appearances. One, at least, engenders his own air of controversy:

Stanley Fish, dean of the Department of English at the University of Illinois, Chicago, has written several provocative books, including *There's No Such Thing As Free Speech: And It's a Good Thing, Too* and *The Trouble with Principle*. He's also written several high profile works in literary criticism. Less overtly controversial, but equally compelling are speakers Donald W. Garner, Vice-President of the Fulbright Association of Chicago; Gary Orfield, founding co-director of The Civil Rights Project at Harvard; and Joe Benevento, author of *Plumbing in Harlem* and professor of language and literature at Truman State University.

Training the Trainers

As part of a statewide initiative of the Regional Offices of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education, fifteen soon-to-be trainers of teacher mentors gathered at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington/Normal June 17, 18, and 19 to receive training from College of Education's Dr. Karen Peterson – training that will turn them into mentor coaches who will, in turn, train mentors for beginning teachers in school districts throughout the state. Sounds circular, but it isn't. The training Peterson conducts is part of a comprehensive response to recent legislation that allows beginning teachers to participate in approved mentoring programs as one of their options for moving from initial to standard certification. The training, developed by Peterson and Carole Einhorn, induction facilitator for Palatine District 15 and a National Board Certified Teacher, ensures mentor coaches – the people who will actually be training the beginning teacher mentors throughout the state – use consistent language and conduct training based on current research. The trainers in training are themselves school personnel selected by the state's Regional Offices of Education. Mentors will be teachers selected for training from individual school districts. Last summer, Peterson trained over 80 trainers.

"Today, we have trained approximately 100 mentor coaches to train mentors to work with beginning teachers throughout the state," Peterson said. She will conduct more training in July.

Stumping for Students

Executive Director of Student Enrollment Services Larry Polselli appears in the May 2003 issue of *Newsbrief: Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling* in "Government Relations: Working for Our Students." The article covers the IACAC's Government Relations Committee and its recent trips to Washington, D.C. and Springfield where members – including Polselli – sought support for several Illinois college admission issues. According to the article, Polselli and other committee members were able to provide information to 30 Illinois State Representatives and 11 State Senators on the need for adequate funding for students.

Holiday Interruption

Because of the July 4th holiday, *GSUniverse* will not be published next week.