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GSU Celebrates First 40 Years, Looks Ahead to Many More

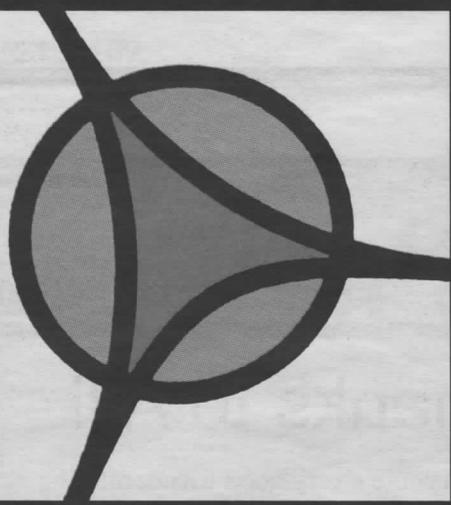
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GSU Celebrates First 40 Years; Looks Ahead to Many More

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

Visitors to GSU's now have an easy way to discover the history of the campus, with the new History Wall that has been placed in the main entrance. The History Wall was first unveiled to the public on the afternoon of November 6th as part of the university's 40th anniversary celebration.

The History Wall features a touch screen interface where people can watch videos like University President Elaine Maimon's 2009 Convocation Speech, Edgar Casillas' 2009 Graduation speech, a selection of photos from GSU's past, and a 1985 performance by the GSU String Quartet.

More videos may be added in the future. A touchpad is located beneath the screen for people who are more comfortable with that than the touch screen. The speakers project the sound downward so people can still read or study in the Main Entrance and not worry about being distracted by someone viewing a video. The wall also features a timeline of milestones of the campus and historical events.

Prior to the unveiling, a panel that included current and former faculty and administrators and

educators from the area focused on GSU's history and its future. The panel was moderated by Dr. Paul Green, a former GSU faculty member, who is from the Institute for Politics at Roosevelt University.

The panelists included Maimon, Dr. Blondean Davis, the Superintendent of Matteson School District 162, Dr. Leo Goodman-Malamuth, the president of GSU from 1976-1993, and Dr. Adenuga Atewologun, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Roosevelt University.

When asked what attracted him to come to GSU, Malamuth said that "It was an institution on the move." When founded in 1969, GSU was a university "without walls" and an open philosophy that did not include traditional grades or rankings for faculty. Much has changed in four decades and the university remains on the move today.

"We aspire to be a model 21st century university," Maimon said when discussing the challenge all universities face in regards to helping students who start at a community college and want to go for a bachelor's degree or higher.

Maimon and Malamuth agreed that that one thing has not changed in the years between their administrations. Students at GSU today have the same dedication as those who attended during Malamuth's time.

The discussion was filmed for archival purposes and for broadcast on GSU's cable channel at a future date.

The celebration took an upbeat swing Saturday, Nov. 7 as a crowd enjoyed a concert of Motown favorites and then danced the night away. Some in the crowd really got into the spirit of the 40th anniversary by sporting fashions from the late 60s.

