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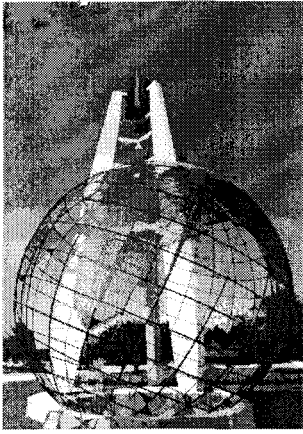
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# GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

March 8 – 12, 2004

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“We must overcome the notion that we must be regular. It robs you of your chance to be extraordinary.”

*Uta Hagen*

*(This week's quotation contributed by Lisa Hendrickson)*

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## Board Approves Tuition and Fee Increases

The Board of Trustees, at its meeting March 12, approved increases in graduate and undergraduate tuition, effective fall 2004. Graduate tuition increases 10 percent to \$143 a credit hour. Tuition for undergraduate students already enrolled in the university and who are continuing their education will increase by 7.6 percent to \$127 a credit hour. Tuition for new undergraduate students – those enrolling for the Fall Trimester for the first time – will increase by 15.3 percent to \$136 a credit hour. Under the Truth in Tuition legislation passed last year, tuition for new undergraduate students is guaranteed for four years – over a four year period, the increase is only 3.7 percent a year. President Stuart Fagan told the trustees, “It’s unfortunate that we have to consider a substantial tuition increase this year, but we have no choice if we are to protect the quality of our academic programs. However, even with these increases, Governors State remains affordable and represents the best value of any university in the state.”

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## Fees Increased to Keep Up with Cost of Living

Fee increases outlined under Board of Trustees Resolution 04-17 were passed at the March 12 Board of Trustees meeting. The fee increases are as follows: Student Activity Fee \$2, Student Center Fee \$1, Counseling and Career Service Fee \$1, and Computer Technology Fee \$2. The Strategic Enhancement Fee of \$10 per credit hour, previously capped at 12 credit hours, was lifted, also. Fagan said of the latter increase, “There will only be a minimal increase in revenue, but administration will be greatly simplified.”

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## Mark Your Calendars: Commencement Set for January 29, 2005

The Board of Trustees has approved a commencement for January 29, 2005. Provost Paul Keys explained, “For some time the Student Senate has been asking us to consider holding two commencements each year, one in January, the other in June. The senators worked closely with the Provost’s Office to examine the feasibility of the idea. Late last year, the Senate said it would support an increase in the graduation fee, if that would make the second commencement possible. An analysis by Colleen Rock Cawthon [coordinator of Academic Affairs] confirmed that with modest increases, we could indeed hold a January commencement. Both the students and I appreciate the board’s action.” Effective with the new academic year, the undergraduate graduation fee will increase from \$25 to \$40. The fee will increase from \$30 to \$45 for graduate students.

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## Focus on Retention

Provost Keys and Interim Executive Director Chuck Connolly have asked Larry Polselli, director of enrollment services and admission, to reconstitute the Retention Committee, which he chairs. Preliminary analysis by Polselli indicates GSU can do a more effective job in reducing the current rate of stop-outs and drop-outs each trimester.

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### **Changes Coming to Meet Temporary Classroom Shortage**

Susan Rakstang, project specialist, PPO, reports there will be an unavoidable shortage of classrooms for the next several trimesters, starting this fall, because of the construction in E and F wings. "Some classrooms will be lost for a period of time," she said, "and we have to replace them." To compound the problem, there is a growing demand for larger classrooms because enrollment in some classes has increased as a result of the elimination of some course offerings – a consequence of the state's budget cuts. Provost Keys noted, however, that in the long-term, after renovations, there will be up-to-date, contemporary classrooms for all students. In the short-term, he and Vice President of Administration John Tuohy are investigating several options.


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### **"Transformations" Film Series Explores Conviction and Sacrifice**

Library Director and Professor of Library Sciences Diane Dates Casey will present the next film in the Graduate Council's "Transformations" Film Series on March 18, at 4:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. The film, *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*, is the true story of *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, a German Lutheran minister and theologian whose convictions led him to oppose Nazi rule in Germany. Bonhoeffer's convictions cost him his life. Professor Casey explains: "Bonhoeffer was faced, quite literally, with the choice between life and belief. In *The Cost of Discipleship* and from the pulpit, he declared that grace was hard won; it demanded sacrifice and courage. Then he was put to the ultimate test. Were his teachings just theory, or would he live and die by them?" Casey is herself an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a scholar in the writings and theology of Martin Luther.

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### **VPN: Accessing GSU's Computing Network Services from Home**

 Staff and faculty can now access their office computer applications and files from home through ITS's newly installed VPN technology. ITS's web page has full instructions for configuring home PCs for VPN at <http://www.govst.edu/its/support/publications/tutorials.html>, under the "Faculty and Staff" side of "Network Services and Internet Dial-Up." The instructions are written for computers running Windows XP Pro or Home edition. ITS advises that VPN works best with Windows XP and a high-speed data line. Macintosh and Windows 98/NT/2000 will be posted soon. For more information, call the GSU Helpdesk at 708.534.5000, Ext. 4357.

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### **ScholarShip Sails On: Education**

Marcus M. Ahmed, Ph.D., professor of educational administration, served as the editor of the fall 2003 *AIMS* (Association of Middle-Level Schools) *Journal*.

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### **ScholarShip Sails On: A CE Family Affair**

Serving as external reviewer on the fall 2003 *AIMS Journal*, edited by Dr. Ahmed: Dr. Marsha Davis, university professor in the College of Education. And published therein: Instructor Sandra Gandy and Lecturer Frances Jordan's article "Teacher Candidates' Responses to a Middle School Thematic Unit on Culture Conflict."

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### **ScholarShip Sails On: Psychology**

Dr. Jon Carlson's new book, *American Shaman: An Odyssey of Global Healing Traditions*, was released by Brunner-Routledge March 5. *Shaman* is co-authored with Dr. Jeffrey Kottler, chair of the Counseling Department at California State University, Fullerton.

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### **AAM Presentation Wins Online Conference Award**

University Lecturer and AAM Assistant Director Luci Sweder was part of an award winning team for the 2004 Illinois Online Conference (We can't write "an award winning team *at* the 2004 Illinois Online Conference" because the conference excelled most virtually in the "practicing what you preach" department – it was conducted entirely online) held February 18 – 20. Sweder's team earned bragging rights to "Best Team

Presentation” for their presentation on “An Adventure of the American Mind” Federal grant. The team included, in addition to Sweder, Professor Joy Rogers of Loyola University and Professor Cindy Rich of Eastern Illinois University.

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**From the Archives**

Faze 1, March 17, 1972: “BREAKING THE SEXIST BARRIER... The University has hired its first male secretary. Ken Stachon is the Secretary 1 in the Business Office.”

Faze 1, March 17, 1972: “COLLEGE STUDENTS OF 70’s... A survey by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) suggests that the economic crunch has made collegians of the 70’s more job and money conscious and ready to join the establishment than their counterparts of the 60’s, who turned to serve mankind through such projects as Vista, the Youth Corps and the Peace Corps.”