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*"Colorless green ideas sleep furiously."*

Noam Chomsky  
Proving some such thing or other

**In This Issue...**

1. M.H.A. accreditation
2. Something wicked this way comes: new year budget battles
3. Live from GSU: it's tuition payment online
4. Civil Service Day
5. Civil Service Employee of the Year
8. Civil Service Day entertainment
9. Scholarship: Social Work I
10. Scholarship: Social Work II
11. Scholarship: Addictions Studies I
12. Scholarship: Addictions Studies II
13. A non-committal greeting
14. *GSU*iverse: on hiatus

**Steroid-Free and Batting 1,000: College of Health Professions Accreditation Streak Continues**

C.H.P.'s Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.) program has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). GSU is now the only state university in Illinois with an M.H.A. program so accredited. Only two private universities in the state have similarly accredited master's programs. With the M.H.A. accreditation, GSU becomes the only university in Illinois offering both an accredited graduate program and a certified undergraduate Health Administration program. Ralph Bell, Health Administration department chair, said C.H.P.'s program has always been very strong, but added that the CAHME accreditation assures the program meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards. CAHME cited several strengths in the GSU program, including its mission, leadership, and commitment to excellence. Bell said program faculty have been extensively involved in research, particularly in the area of health care disparities. The M.H.A. accreditation follows several successful C.H.P. accreditations or reaccreditations. The college's Master of Occupational Therapy program was reaccredited in September of 2004, its Master of Social Work program in June of 2003, and both its graduate and undergraduate nursing programs in October of 2002.



**Budget Storms Brewing**

"For 2005, the Governor's priorities are education, health care and the criminal justice system. Education might be a priority for the Governor – but it's K-12, not higher education," President Stuart Fagan told the Board of Trustees on December 17. He also reported that the state's difficult financial situation may get worse. The Office of Management and Budget had anticipated a budget hole of \$1 billion for the coming fiscal year. But the courts recently held that the increases in fees for service the state imposed on businesses in FY04 may be illegal. And even though the fees are still being collected, the state has been directed to place them in escrow and not use them in budget planning until the issue is ultimately resolved. The state can't use those funds until then, with the result that the projected shortfall for FY05 may be as great as \$1.35 billion. At an IBHE meeting Fagan attended on December 6th and 7th, staff implied that the budget they would send to the Governor for the public universities early next year would keep appropriations flat with FY04. (The only likely increase would be in student financial aid—in the Monetary Assistance Program.) One possible scenario is that the Governor will accept the IBHE's possible recommendation that appropriations for FY05 be flat with FY04. But the Governor might then ask for an additional contribution from the public universities to cover the projected increased shortfall in health care costs as well as a contribution to cover the shortfall in SURS.

**On the Web:**

- [GSU Events](#)
- [News Releases](#)

**IBHE News**

**GSU Intranet (On campus only)**

**Here at Last – Tuition Online Payment Goes Live**

Students who register online can now pay online – something not possible until a month ago. The online system has been tested. The bugs have been worked out. The payment system is now live. "We've been working on this project almost since I came to GSU in 2001," said John Tuohy, vice president – Administration. "There were a number of very complex issues to resolve, given the constraints of our current computing system. They've been solved at last, and I thank and congratulate the people in ITS and the Business Office for staying on task and completing an incredibly difficult project." Chuck Connolly, interim executive director of Marketing and Communications, said, "This is a breakthrough for our recruiting program. Last trimester, more than 70 percent of our students registered online but couldn't pay online. I expect we lost a few people because of that. Now that we have a seamless registration and payment process, we should see at the least a marginal improvement in our numbers."

**Salute to the Men and Women of Civil Service**

On December 10, the university community celebrated the extraordinary contributions of GSU's Civil Service Employees. Bruce Friefeld, Chair of the Board of Trustees said, "Diverse functions and people get together and accomplish much because of the effort and energy of our civil service employees. For that, the Board is grateful." President Stuart Fagan said, "I can't prove this, but I believe that of all the public universities in Illinois, GSU's civil service employees are more in synch with the mission of their university and more in tune with the needs of students than any other university in the state." And Tom Morelock, executive director of the Illinois Civil Service System, said, "I'm amazed and humbled by your perseverance" in maintaining quality and serving students, given the financial pressure on higher education.

**The Best of the Best**

The Civil Service Day event was remarkable for several reasons (see below), but perhaps the most noteworthy part of the event was the recognition of 2004's Civil Service Employees of the month. CAS's

Rose O'Neal stood among the 12 Civil Service stand outs, but took center stage when it was announced that she had earned the distinction of Civil Service Employee of the year. "Rosie will go out of her way to help anyone," one admirer said. Rose has been with GSU for over **24 years**. Her award included tokens of appreciation - show tickets from the Center for Performing Arts, a one year Recreation Center membership from Student Life, a \$20 gift certificate from Follett's Bookstore, \$15 in gift certificates from Aramark, an Employee of the Year Plaque, and a **check for \$500** from the GSU Foundation.



*Rose O'Neal: Civil Service Employee of the Year*

**At a Loss for Words**

Excellent as your two wordsmiths may be, they lack both the wit and vocabulary to describe the events of Civil Service Day. In what was billed as "A Blast from the Past," **the audience saw such greats** as Shaft, J. B., and The Temptations resurrected before their eyes in the persons of such folks as Paul Keys, Jim Britt, **and Colleen Rock-Cawthon**. Chief Al Chesser served as M.C. (Don't quit your day job, Chief!) Your wordsmiths might summon the right words to **describe those performances**, as well as the delightful rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas* by the Civil Service Senate, which provided new insights into that stupid bird in the tree (in your writers' minds, he is now a cousin of Daffy Duck, thanks to Eric Nicholson) and a new appreciation of the obnoxious refrain, "Five Golden Rings," thanks to the egregious performance by elf and Senate President Kathy Miller. But when Gail Bradshaw and John Tuohy came on stage – she more Tina Turner than the legend herself, and Tuohy with better moves than Ike ever had, backed by Lorrie Sibbet, Diane Ivy, and Lillian Jung, your wordsmiths threw in the towel. Check out the pictures ([click here](#)). Contact any of the Civil Service Senators to purchase a CD of the historic event. Price is \$10, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Civil Service Scholarship Fund.

**ScholarShip Sails On: Social Work I**

Sylvia Margolin, professor of Social Work, recently presented her paper, "Youth with Internalized Difficulties: Effect of Social Support and Activities," at the National Association of Social Workers ([NASW](#)) 4th Annual Illinois Chapter Statewide Conference. The paper described empirical research **on the effectiveness of social support and activity involvement** in decreasing feelings of loneliness, depression, social anxiety, and low self-esteem in African American youth.

**ScholarShip Sails On: Social Work II**

Gerri Outlaw, Department of Social Work chair, recently presented her paper, "African American Women on the Ground: An Alternative Approach to Prevention of HIV and AIDS," at the U.S. Conference on AIDS ([USCA](#)) in Philadelphia.

**ScholarShip Sails On: Addictions Studies I**

Judy Lewis, Department of Addictions Studies and Behavioral Health chair, contributed her chapter "The Personal, Political, and Professional Journey of a Social Justice Counselor," to the upcoming book *Journeys to Professional Excellence: Lessons from Leading Counselor Educators and Practitioners*, edited by by Robert K. Conyne and Fred Bemak.

**ScholarShip Sails On: Addictions Studies II**

Lewis also contributed the chapter "Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning" to the upcoming *Addiction Counseling Review*, edited by R.H. Coombs.

**Some Obscure Message Here**

Despite rumor to the contrary, we *GSUniverse* editor-types are pretty good guys. Decent folk. That's us. So all year we've been looking forward to crafting a sincere, heartfelt, holiday message to uplift and inspire the GSU family. But as we sat down to write it, FOX news called and threatened to undo us with a crippling exposé if we failed to mention Christmas. Just to show us they meant business, they sicked Bill O'Reilly on us, and he promptly called us "twits" and "imbeciles," which made us mad, because we aren't twits. Then the ACLU threatened to sue us if we caved to FOX, and a radical and somewhat militant faction of the Girl Scouts insisted that, whatever our message, we hawk their cookies - or else. The Swift Boat Veterans said they'd run negative ads about us if we didn't display the flag and insert "God Bless America" somewhere, and Wal-Mart told us we'd be unAmerican if we didn't exhort you to go on an unrestrained holiday buying binge to clear away the foreign-made goods still sitting on their shelves. Governor Schwarzenegger said we'd be a bunch of girly men if we called any colorfully decorated evergreen a "holiday" tree. So, defeated in the face of holiday rancor, we've decided to wish everyone an ambiguously fashioned traditional disavowal of emotional despair. An Ambiguously Fashioned Traditional Disavowal of Emotional Despair to All.

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#### ***GSUniverse* Hiatus**

Your friendly *GSUniverse* staff, a crack team of 30 writers, seven editors, three editors-at-large, and the largest staff of photographers this side of *National Geographic*, will take a short hiatus until January. Until then, have a great holiday season.

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