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GSU View

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News and Events

Happy 41st Anniversary, GSU!



In a recent, routine review of the archives stored within the University Library, archivist Nancy Shlaes made a startling discovery. GSU is not celebrating its 40th anniversary as was believed.

"Imagine my surprise when I found that it was not Governor Ogilvie who signed the decree establishing GSU in 1969. It was Governors Sam Shapiro in 1968," said Shlaes.

According to indisputable records, it appears that Governor Shapiro signing his name to the decree was all he had time to do. Shapiro held the office for only a short while so his achievement in establishing another state university was lost in the transfer of gubernatorial power.

When told that GSU is actually celebrating its 41st Anniversary, Joan Vaughan, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation and Vice President of Institutional Advancement, was characteristically upbeat. "That just means that we have an additional year of successfully educating students to celebrate. The plethora of 41st Anniversary events will continue as planned."

The Center Takes Off

The Center for Performing Arts has announced that it has added The Chippendales to its fall lineup. The Chippendales, an all-male striptease revue, has been an international hit since it was founded in the late 1980s. This will be the first time in the Center's 15 year history that it will feature full nudity on stage.

"I was tasked with diversifying the types of acts we offer to attract a wider audience," said CPA Executive Director Burt Dikelsky. "While I realize that this decision is controversial, I think we're really giving people what they want."

The Chippendales will perform on Friday, October 9, at 6 and 9 p.m. For more information, contact The Center box office at 708.235.2222.

Old Alma Mater

Few experiences define the university life like singing a school fight song at a Saturday afternoon football game or other university event. For more than 40 years, that joy has been missing at GSU, but not for long.

During the month of April, the Office of Public Affairs will be accepting submissions for a new GSU alma mater. Whether you're interested in writing the music, the lyrics, or both, all types of submissions are welcome. Public Affairs is also willing to coordinate the pairing of composers and lyricists.

Alma maters have a long history as universities worldwide. The use of a school song can accurately be traced back to the 18th century, and legend has it the song's origins lie with 13th century German students, though solid evidence is lacking.

Please send submissions to publicaffairs@govst.edu. Additional information is available by calling ext. 4044. Submission deadline is the end of business on Thursday, April 30.

New Campus Behind Bars

In addition to the satellite GSU campuses in Naperville (NEC) and Kankakee (KEC), the School of Extended Learning announced the establishment of the Governors State University Stateville Education Center (SEC). The new GSU SEC will serve a traditionally underserved population with a degree program in Criminal Justice and a certificate in Information Security. The GSU SEC will also pilot proposed degree programs in Crime Scene Forensics and Digital Forensics.

It's not Lunch. It's Science

Cooperation at GSU has reached an all time high recently as colleges and departments are joining together to sponsor forums, symposia, and presentations. More courses are cross listed and team teaching across curricula is more popular.

One example of inter department cooperation, however, deserves special recognition. Until the E and F wing renovations actually occur, the biology and chemistry departments are in need of more refrigerator space to house the many "growing" experiments conducted by students and faculty. The university community has stepped up and offered space in the many refrigerators housed in break rooms and offices around campus.

While many people just thought the gross green growth on that old ham sandwich was someone's forgotten lunch, Dr. Karen D'Arcy assures the GSU community that it is not. "Decomposition is a process. Witnessing it first hand is a far more effective way to learn than reading it in a book. Until our labs are renovated, we must use any space we can find."

CAS Dean Eric Martin commented, "I am sure HLC will be most impressed with our innovative approach and our cross department cooperation."

Hoop Dreams Dashed

The GSU community was disappointed recently when the university was not chosen to compete in the NCAA Basketball Championship. People gathered in the Hall of Governors to watch NCAA Selection Sunday. Fueled by pop and popcorn supplied by the Student Life, the crowd's hopes and spirits dwindled as teams from other schools were chosen.

"I hoped we would get the Play In spot at the very least," said one disappointed student whose face was painted in a Yin-yang symbol to show his team spirit. Another student led a few disappointed fans in singing "Na na na na / na na na na / hey hey hey / goodbye." "Wait until next year," added a disappointed professor.

