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News & Views

Governors State University

*Wit has truth in it; wisecracking is
simply calisthenics with words.”
-Dorothy Parker*

Suggested by Virginia Eysenbach)

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Straight Talk

“Cut support for higher education and cut the legs out from under the state’s long-term growth,” President Stuart Fagan told the Illinois House Appropriations Committee, February 28. “It’s that simple.” Fagan also told the legislators that because of the budget cuts the State mandated, the actions the university had to take were not without risk or cost. He pointed to deferred maintenance in some areas, but warned important projects could be deferred for only so long. He said that cuts in adjunct faculty and reduced course offerings, “...could impact our revenue stream going forward.” He also said that postponing replacement of faculty who have retired, “...could jeopardize our quality.” And he emphasized that Governors State has had to put on hold new programs already approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to deal with the issue of teacher shortages – training math and science teachers and early childhood educators. He also promised that Governors State will never price itself out of the reach of working adult students. Finally, he warned that “proposals to eliminate block grants for early childhood education would be devastating” and would put some GSU programs at risk. “We’ll work with others to keep funding for early childhood programs safe,” he told News & Views. He added, “We’re traveling a rocky road, but the economy will improve in time. State revenues will rise again. And I believe the state legislature considers a commitment to education a no brainer.”

Rolling up our sleeves

Governors State is now a part of the Golden Apple Scholars Program in the Chicago area. The College of Education will be working closely with Prairie State College to select two teacher education students for full-ride scholarships as they complete their program to become teachers. The College of Education has also joined the Kankakee Alliance along with Kankakee Community College, Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee School District and the I-KAN Regional Office of Education. The Alliance will pool resources toward improving the professional development opportunities of teachers and administrators in 22 districts.

Networking is a virtue

Governors State was the site of a meeting held recently by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling, a state organization for school counselors, college admission and financial aid professions. Forty five high school and college counselors attended the meeting which was hosted by GSU’s Office of Enrollment Management. The visibility and good will that were generated will serve the university well in future recruitment activities.

Asking the hard questions

Wanda Bracy, chair, Division of Social Work, Addictions Studies and Health Administration, is finalizing plans for a major confab at GSU for leaders of social work education and practice in the Chicago metropolitan region. Jess McDonald, executive director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, will be the keynote speaker. The conference will be held at GSU,

Friday, March 22. The goal of the meeting is to provide the region with a report that details the challenges facing the profession and possible solutions.

Cutting Edge

The Communications Services development team recently unveiled the first module of a \$2.7 million distance learning training project for the nation's foster parents. After viewing the module, President Stuart Fagan said, "It was the most excellent example of a distance learning project I've seen developed by anyone."

No accounting for taste

John Swain, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Administration in the College of Business and Public Administration, presented a "Fund Accounting for Non-Accountants" workshop recently. Fund accounting is a branch of accounting used by government and non-profit organizations. Co-sponsored by the Will County Governmental League, the workshop brought together 28 regional government officials who learned that accountants, like high-wire artists, appreciate balance.

Bringing you up to speed

The Family Development Center is approximately 30% completed. Nearly all underground utilities are installed and most of the steel infrastructure is completed. Once the roof deck is installed, the workers will begin installing interior partitions. The project remains on schedule for late summer 2002. The Faculty Office Center is approximately 15% completed. Nearly half of the foundation footings and some foundation walls are poured. Complicated site conditions dictated rerouting underground utilities and modified construction sequencing; however, the project remains on schedule for spring 2003. More to come.

Through the Eyes of Women

The GSU Women's History Month Committee has organized a speaker series on the subject of "Women and Work." Confirmed speakers include Jacki Lyden, National Public Radio correspondent, Laura Washington, former editor of the *Chicago Reporter*, and Rashidah Ali, daughter of boxing great Muhammad Ali. Check this month's calendar (attached) for details. Also contact Student Affairs and Services (ext. 4045) for this month's scheduled free movies: "Norma Rae," "9 to 5," "A League of Their Own" and "Women of Hull House."

Contest: "Oh, breathe not his name..."

That's what Thomas Moore said "...let it lie in the shade..." and that's what just about everyone said about the name *News and Views*. So, we'll change our name. Please send your suggestions to Carolyn Dennis by March 26. We will announce the contest winner the week of April 1. The winner will be selected by a committee consisting of a representative from each college and BOG (selected by the deans), a representative of administration selected by the provost, and the presidents of the Faculty, Student and Civil Service Senates. Diane Dates Casey has agreed to chair the committee (leave it to us, and *News and Views* wins hands down). President Fagan vows he will veto the two front runners in suggestions received so far: *Gazoo Gazette* and *GSU Poop*. Winners of the contest will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the bookstore or to the cafeteria. Feed the mind, feed the body. It's the winner's choice.

Governors State University Calendar of Events MARCH 2002

March Is Women's History Month

Friday, March 1

Missoula Kids Theatre
10:30 am, Center for
Perform. Arts

Student Art Exhibit
Reception, 5 pm, E-Lounge
Contact X4017

Alumni Assn. Phonathon
5 pm, Engbretson Hall
Contact X4128 (For the
entire month)

Women's History Month
Library Display, GSU
Library, (For the entire
month)

Saturday, March 2

Missoula Kids Theatre
11 am, 1 pm, Center for
Perform. Arts

Sunday, March 3

Dukes of Dixieland, 3 pm,
Center for Perform. Arts

Wednesday, March 6

Project HOPE Career
Awareness Fair
9 am, Cafeteria Annex
Contact X4381

Friday, March 8

Kids Artistic Review, 8 am,
Center for Perform. Arts

Saturday, March 9

Three Irish Tenors, 8 pm,
Center for Perform. Arts

Sunday, March 10

Kids Artistic Review, 8 am,
Center for Performing Arts

Tuesday, March 12

Women's History Month
Speaker: Kim Martin: *From
War Work to Social Work,*

6:30 pm, Sherman Music
Recital Hall, Contact x4555

Thursday, March 14

CHP Workshop
11:30 am, Cafeteria Annex
Contact X3997

Women's History Month
Speaker: Dr. Mercedes
Graf: *Women Physicians of
the Civil War*, 6:30 pm,
Sherman Music Recital Hall,
Contact X4555

Friday, March 15

Island of the Blue Dolphins
10 am, Center for
Performing Arts

CHP Workshop, 11:30 am,
Cafeteria Annex
Contact X3997

Saturday, March 16

GSU Admissions Open
House, 9:30 am, Various
Locations, Contact X4493

Sunday, March 17

3 pm, Buckets O' Beckett
Center for Perform. Arts

Tuesday, March 19

Focus on the Future Job
Fair, 2 pm, Hall of Honors
Contact X1173

Wednesday, March 20

GSU Author's Reception
2 pm, GSU Library
Contact X4133

Women's History Month
Speaker: Hilary Burkinshaw:
*Women's Path to Financial
Entrepreneurship*, 6:30 pm,
Sherman Music Recital Hall,
Contact X4555

Thursday, March 21

Chicago Shakespeare
Theater, *Midsummer's Night
Dream*, 10 am, Center for
Perform. Arts (Also March
22)

Women's History Month
Speakers: Rashida Ali &
Queen Olive Keys: *Women
Who Succeed In Small
Business*, 6:30 pm, Hall of
Honors, Contact X4555

Friday, March 22

Social Work Educators
Conf., 9am – 1pm,
Contact X 3997

Saturday, March 23

Recession Proof Resumes
Workshop, 9 a.m. – noon,
Contact X 7051

Penn & Teller, 8 pm,
Center for Perform. Arts

Tuesday, March 26

Women's History Month
Speaker: Jaki Lyden,
*Change: Women in
Afghanistan*, 6:30 pm, Hall
of Honors

Wednesday, March 27

Women's History Month
Speaker: Laura
Washington: *How To Get
Started in Journalism*, 6:30
pm, E-Lounge

Thursday, March 28

Women's History Month
Speaker: Dr. Joyce A.
Hughes: *Women in the legal
professions*, 6:30 pm, Hall
of Honors