Another Tuition Hike
Failing State Budget Takes a Toll on GSU Students

By Carole Schrock

Governors State University student tuition and fees will be increased beginning in the Fall 2003 trimester. Despite a recent cost of living increase this past January, budget and administrative personnel at GSU have deemed it necessary to once more raise these sources of university income to compensate for the state's failing economy.

"Things have gotten considerably worse in the state of Illinois," said Jeff Slovak interim budget director.

According to Slovak, though many numbers are still up in the air, it has become clear that the monies appropriated to the university will be significantly lower for the fiscal year 2004.

Undergraduate tuition will be raised from $108 to $118 per credit hour. Graduate tuition will go up $12 from $118 to $130 per credit hour. The current tuition cap will be eliminated in the Fall trimester as well. Students will have to pay for every credit hour they take.

The administration has See Hike, page 2

Faculty Office Center Completion Slated for May

By Dawn Ladislas

The long-awaited faculty office center is scheduled to open by mid to late May. It was designed by the architectural firm Ross Barney, and the chief architect was Cayl Hollins.

Each professor's office will be about 110 square feet. The building will feature around 200 offices, three conference rooms, a faculty lounge, and two elevators. An atrium right inside the building will await those who visit the facilities.

Each division chair will have their own suite, and the President and Cabinet will be located on the third floor.

Those involved with the project are hoping the faculty and staff will be pleased. "Once the staff and faculty settle into the new facilities, I am hoping they will be pleased with their new environment," explains Susan Rahatong, project specialist for Governors State. A high priority for the new building was the fact that each inhabitant will be able to control their own heat and air, that there is natural lights, and that each office has its own operable windows. The faculty had a meeting about the building and controlling heat and lights was important to them.

Chuck Connelly, Interim Executive Director of Marketing Communications agrees with the fact that the faculty needed new offices. "To have a quality staff, then you need a quality faculty, which we have, and they deserve quality facilities." Next renovations for the school include the P and F wings, upgrading the science labs, and some labs of the School of Health Professions, and "smart classroms". These renovations will have to wait for some time, due to budget cuts. The funds for the staff building comes from a special budget through the state for improving school facilities.
Students Explore Cultural Diversity in Mexico

By Kathleen Frossard

Students can have the unique opportunity to experience the culture and history of Mexico. During the Spring/Summer trimester, Richard Burd, university photographer and professor, will be teaching a class that will give students the chance to explore another culture.

Study Abroad in Mexico will meet for eight weeks during May and June on campus to read and study culture and history of the country. “We will discuss the culture and learn some Spanish during that time,” said Burd.

This is followed by two weeks of study in Mexico. Students will explore history, be exposed to fine art, and learn about local customs. Students must also submit a project about the culture. This project could be on just about anything, according to Burd. “A pair of math teachers in an earlier program to Spain showed how geometry related to geometry in the Muslim culture,” he said.

Burd hosted his first program to Spain in 1998. His interest in Spanish speaking countries began with his daughter. “This is the reason,” he said, pointing to a picture of his adopted daughter from Guatemala. This will be the first time Burd will host a program in Mexico.

“It’s important to explore the Spanish speaking culture.”

-Richard Burd, GSU professor

Burd plans to help students continue to explore other Spanish speaking cultures. He expressed an interest in eventually visiting Puerto Rico and countries in Central and South America. “There are twenty-two Spanish speaking countries in the world,” he said. “There are lots of possibilities.”

Interested students can register for the class, but Burd stressed that early registration is necessary to the travel plans. For more information on the Study Abroad in Mexico, contact Professor Burd at (708) 554-7721.

Hike,
From page 1
created a proposal to raise mandatory fees one dollar each. This proposal will be voted on in a student referendum on Tues. and Wed., May 13 and 14.

The results of the referendum will be presented to the GSU Board of Trustees who ultimately has to approve the increase of fees before it goes into effect. The new Strategic Enhancement Fee will not be raised.

When Slovak and President Fagan appeared before the House Appropriation Committee on March 15, the chairwoman asked what impact a five to ten percent reduction in the appropriated funds might have on the university.

“What we told her was that the core mission of this institution is instruction,” said Slovak. “We would do everything we could do to protect the core mission of this institution. But a five to ten percent reduced appropriation was going to have effects across the university.”

In addition to this decrease in the amount of funds GSU expects to receive from the state for the next fiscal year, there will be an increase to the university’s rescission.

The rescission is the amount of money the university is ordered to return to the state every year.

There are two basic sources of funds for the university. One is the state’s appropriation. The other, called the operating budget, is made up of student tuition and fees.

Normally, the university sets aside a portion of the appropriations to go toward the rescission. The amount the State Bureau of the Budget directed in February that GSU set aside for the 2003 fiscal year rescission was approximately $2.1 million, which was eight percent of the appropriated funds. Two weeks later, however, according to Slovak, the State Bureau of the Budget directed GSU consider reserving eight percent of the university’s total budget, the appropriations plus the operating budget.

“This makes $2.1 million go to $3.4 million,” said Slovak.

When the Bureau of the Budget announced what the rescission may be for this year, GSU administration made an immediate decision to freeze hiring and equipment purchases. Also, they took money back from the budgets of every unit on campus.

Because the governor was so recently elected and because the state’s economy is so poor, the announcement of this fiscal year’s rescission is coming to state agencies very late. This puts a strain on the university, since much of the budget has already been spent.

“We had some funds set aside for the rescission, so it’s not as though we were totally blindsided by this,” said Slovak. “However, $2.1 to $3.4 million is a substantial amount of money and no university could reserve that and just sit on it.”

On April 9, Governor Rod Blagojevich will address the state’s general assembly to deliver his budget. He will propose appropriations for all agencies of state government, which includes colleges and universities, for the 2004 fiscal year.

PHOENIX

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GSU Student Life Website Gets Revamped

Site to Include More Info, Photos

By Rodney Smith

Joe Parrilo has been recently appointed as Web Controller of the Student Life website. Lorraine Shibert is the Executive Director of the Student Life Website.

The website will include information about the GSU Student Senate, Student Life staff, a telephone directory, and a school catalog. Also, there will be information pertinent to the various clubs at the university.

Joe is in the process of updating pictures on the website to include the new staff members and Student Senators. Also, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and the location of each staff member.

He is also responsible for the Student Senate Web Board, which will keep students informed about what Student Senate is doing.

If you have any questions or submissions for the website, you can email Joe at jprn8077@mail.gvsu.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

David A. Middleton, GSU chess champ, gives chess lessons at $10 per hour. (708) 672-8362

Models Wanted!

Looking for m/f models for agency and websites. For info contact csp219@yahoo.com

We are looking for more players to join our soccer team, we meet every Tuesday and Friday from 2-3:30 p.m. If you are interested, come to our training hours at the gym, in the basketball field, or call Maher Husseini @ (708) 218-6916, or email Maher_ice@yahoo.com for more details.

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News Briefs

Faculty Authors' Reception

The Governor's State University Library will be hosting its annual Faculty Authors' Reception on Wednesday, April 00 from 2 - 4 p.m. Published works from the GSU faculty members will be displayed on the library balcony for all to see and enjoy. Refreshments will be available at the event, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Senate Splash Party

GSU Student Senate is sponsoring an end of term adult splash party at the Student Life pool on Friday, April 25, 2003, from 7 - 11:30 p.m. All GSU students, faculty and staff are welcome to this event. There will be food, beverages and music. Also a certified life guard will be on duty. This is an opportunity to swim and socialize with others in the GSU community.

Correction, 2003 Heritage Challenge

Upon mentioning the winners of the 2003 Heritage Challenge, the Phoenix accidentally failed to mention that Registrar Dora Smith was also on the winning team. The Phoenix regrets the oversight and once again congratulates the winners.

Occupational Therapy Open House

The Master of Occupational Therapy Program will hold an open house on Saturday, April 12, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration is the same day at 9:30 a.m. Sessions will include information about Occupational Therapy as a career choice, bachelor degree completion, program prerequisites, application processes, student services and more. For more information, call (708) 554-7295.

Supply Drive for American Troops

By Scott Bessler

They came from the day and night sky by parachute, glider and helicopter. They put their lives on the line to keep our nation free and many pay the ultimate price for that dedication to duty and country. They are the 101st Airborne Division.

Many citizens may feel helpless in the war on terror in Afghanistan and against Saddam Hussein and his regime in Iraq, however, many contributions can be made to support our troops right here at home.

The National Student Speech Language & Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is sponsoring a supply drive for America's troops in the 101st Airborne Division. Students, faculty and staff wishing to make supply of monetary donations can drop items off in the designated boxes located around the university, or in the Communication Disorders Office, room F1617.

Items will be collected until Apr. 17. A complete listing of needed supplies is available from bulletin boards around campus, and also from the Communication Disorders Office, Room F1617.
BROWN AND THE COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

Sticker shock. That describes your reaction to the cost of this semester's books. Brown says, college costs shouldn't make you go broke. By working part-time at UPS, students can get as much as $1500 each semester. That could pay for books...and a whole lot more. Like tuition. Now that's a big ticket item. Brown is a-okay in my book.

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Student Senate Elected Officers Ready to Work

By Kathleen Frossard

On Wed., March 12, the GSU Student Senate selected executive officers for the 2003-2004 term. The Student Senate acts as an electoral college. Candidates are nominated by fellow senators and are given an opportunity to discuss their interest in and qualifications for the position. The senators then vote for each office and the senator receiving the majority vote is elected.

Linda Williams is the new Student Senate President.

Linda Williams, president

"I would like to get people excited about their university." - Student Senate President

President Linda Williams

"Exciting but challenging," is how Williams describes her new position. As president, she will run student senate meetings and represent the Student Senate in various school functions.

Williams hopes to get the Student Senate involved in as many activities possible. "I would like to get people excited about their university," she said. Citing plans for an End of Term Splash Party on April 26 as one of the first activities of the new senate.

Maher Husseini, vice president

Vice President Mahar Husseini is "honored to be elected." As vice president, he will work with GSU clubs and organizations and serve in the absence of the president. Husseini hopes to "develop good relationships and promote unity" among members of the GSU community. As a liaison to the various clubs and organizations, it is necessary that Husseini be able to develop strong relationships among the various community members.

Elizabeth Green, treasurer

Da Ven Bowen serves as Secretary. Her duties include keeping records of attendance and minutes of the Senate meetings. "I am happy to represent the student body," Treasurer Elizabeth Green said. Her duties will include developing and monitoring the budget. "I would like to see implemented activities that celebrate the diversity of the student body, promote understanding, and make students feel a part of the community," Green explains.

Da Ven Bowen, secretary

The Executive Officers all hope to give a voice to GSU students. Williams hopes to develop a strong relationship with the administration and faculty. "We will work together on one accord for the good of GSU students," she said.

Green agrees. "My main goal is to represent the voice of the student body and make their experience at GSU a positive one."

Added Husseini, "The student voice must be heard."

Budget a Concern at IBHE-SAC Meeting

By Kathleen Frossard

The Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee held its bi-monthly meeting on March 29 and 30 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The IBHE-SAC represents the ideals and concerns of the students of Illinois, serving as the chief liaison between such students and the IBHE. Governors State University was represented by IBHE-SAC Representative Touré Peck. Alternate Kathleen Frossard and Curtis Crims. IBHE-SAC Representative elect for the upcoming term.

The March 29 meeting began with a brief introduction followed by three committee meetings. Peck, Frossard and Crims attended Public Universities sector meeting. Issues discussed included new programs that may be offered in various institutions.

Members of the Budget subcommittee discussed the budget crisis that Illinois is in and its adverse effect on higher education. Budget cuts threaten the academic mission of colleges and universities across the state. GSU expressed concerns that the cuts will diminish the class offerings at the university, delaying graduation dates for many students.

During the Academic subcommittee meeting, the need for diversity of professors in the state's schools was discussed. The committee also stressed the importance of stressing "multi-culturalism" in the colleges and universities.

On March 30, members were informed about topics brought up in the previous day's sector meetings. Board members determined that the chair of IBHE-SAC should discuss the concerns about the effects of the budget cuts. Members of the Executive Board were also elected. The board closed with presentation of awards to the outstanding members of the committee. Representative Peck was nominated for three of the awards.

The meeting was a positive experience for the GSU representatives. Peck reflected, "Overall, I think we accomplished something. We received valuable information to take back to our prospective schools."
Soldier
and Student
What happens to student reservists if they are called for active duty?

By Scott Bessler

For some citizens, the war in Iraq is another story in the newspaper or another topic of debate on news channels. For other citizens, however, much more is at stake, including the lives of their loved ones. For many people enrolled at GSU, however, it may even be the life of a fellow student that may be at stake.

A handful of students at GSU are reservists and have been recently called to active duty to fight for their country and protect American and Iraqi freedoms. These students must put their lives—their families, their careers, their schooling—on hold.

Once they have served their country, however, they must again reinsert themselves into society. The question arises, though, where will their studies be left when they leave? As GSU Registrar Dora Smith explains, the Registrar’s office attempts to accommodate the soldiers in their requests to save their coursework.

“Students are to be given full consideration in their requests,” says Smith.

Students who are called to active duty during a semester are given several options both before and after their duty. Students are given the choice to withdraw from courses from the Registrar with a 100% refund of tuition and fees.

If they are near the end of the trimester they may request the instructor early completion of their work. Finally, the students may request an incomplete from the instructor in accordance with the deadlines for completion of coursework in subsequent trimesters.

-I'm trying not to let the war affect me, but it does to a certain extent.

-Amy Ott, graduate, Communications and Training

I feel affected because I have family and friends in the military. However, I do think people are disconnected because the war seems like a fantasy.

-Karen Reynolds, undergraduate, Psychology

No, I have a complete media blackout. I don’t want to see bombs fall on people’s homes. It’s too disheartening. I guess I want to disconnect from it.

-Garrett Connell, undergraduate, Communications

No, I don’t feel affected by the war. I think part of people’s disconnect has to do with a lack of real, uncensored coverage from the front lines. We aren’t seeing what’s really happening.

-Curtis Crims, undergraduate, Board of Governors

The war is taking much-needed money from education and other social services. We can pay for a war, but we can’t help the poor.

-Claude Hill, graduate, Political and Justice Studies

I’m really concerned about the safety of our troops, but I’m trying to go on with life. For my own sanity, I try to distance myself from the war.

photos by Carole Schrock
How Do You Like Your Coffee?
By Sylvia Wilson

For the students that missed the “Coffee House Celebration” that took place on Thurs., March 27, 2003, you really missed a treat!

In celebration for Women’s History Month members of Student Life and Project SOAR jointly coordinated the “Coffee House,” which included a perfect atmosphere for students to relax between classes, network with faculty and staff, or just enjoy the moment.

The mood was created by the ambiance of candlelight and music, a wonderful slideshow, an art exhibit, a variety of coffee & tea with some of the finest “sweet treats” donated from local area businesses.

Storyteller Mama Edie provided us with her words of wisdom and the Soul People provided us with delightful music for the evening. Also, several others in attendance expressed their creativity by sharing original works of poetry.

Some of those present were Elizabeth Green, Karen Reynolds, Curtis Crins, Malcolm Greene, Sharon Evans, Rosa Cortez, Stephanie Baldwin, Pam Thompson, Carla Johnson, Diego Macias, Sy Hobson, Victoria Hosely, Deidre Webb, Michael Wortham, Robbye Peppers, Aida Martinez, Sharon Spence, Cleo Jameson, Marie Turek, Joyce Harris, and Viola Gray.

In my humble opinion, we seldom hear enough “good news,” when things go well on our beautiful campus. Thus, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the teamwork and creativity of those responsible for a delightful evening of entertainment.

Let me say kudos to Vanessa Newby, Lisa Meredith and others that may have been involved in an awesome evening of entertainment.

I like my coffee just the way it was served at the Coffee House!
Women's History Month
Articles Affirm Love and Thanks to Mothers, Sisters, Soldiers, Friends
By Loretta Jones

Over four hundred entries were made in the Women's History Month, "Profiles of Groundbreakers, Articles of Affirmation," which was part of the GSU Women's History Month celebration. GSU community members and guests were invited to write down the names of inspiring women to the special binders made available in the Atrium. Note cards intended as a means to share this affirmation with women whose names were listed were also provided.

The planning committee, utilizing the theme "Profiles of Groundbreakers" recognized that a multitude of women are inspirations to others, in diverse ways. The "Articles of Affirmation" were to serve as a forum to let individuals express and document their feelings about women who have influenced their lives in a positive way.

The entries received substantiated the theory of the planning committee. Many individual names were listed. Some entries only contained initials or nicknames of women. Other entries were tributes to groups of women with narratives included. Memorial tributes for women who are deceased, and affirmations to adults where included by children in the typical childish scrawl.

The following is a sampling of excerpts from some of the diverse entries:

"By any standard you are Great. Personally, you shaped me, taught me and nurtured me. Every compliment and accolade I earn is rooted in the guiding principles that you taught me: self-sufficiency, integrity, honesty and love. Thank you Mother Dear. From Your Son."

"In praise of all that is and that which allows us to continue to be."

"To my precious daughters."

"1888-1974. She drove when women didn't drive... raised 12 children... always faith filled... gave inspiration and support... supported her community with participation and donations. From Granddaughter."

"She was a Trail Blazer. A mother who loved her 9 children dearly. The first female union representative and first black female union representative. I salute you Mom with high honors. Love always, your daughter."

"My reading tutor. (Child's scrawl)"

"For all you do."

"P.O.W. Jessica Lynch and all of the women in our armed forces, as well as the women in the families of U.S. soldiers. Thank you for your strength and courage."

"To my mother who was like a sister, and my sister who, later, was like a mother."

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Club News

Accounting and Finance Club Sit in on CPA Reviews
By Kathleen Frossard

Members of the Accounting/Finance club were exposed to CPA reviews from Becker and Northern Illinois University. The CPA review assists students in preparing for the CPA licensing exam. On March 4, students were allowed to sit in on a Becker review held at DeVry in Tinley Park. Becker also held a before party at Gino's East where students learned a little about the review process.

On April 2, students were allowed to sit in on a Northern review held in downtown Chicago. Debra Hopkins, well known for her ability to successfully prepare students for the exam, instructed the review.

IRS recruiter Joseph Kolodziej informed students about the exciting opportunity to work for the IRS. "This was a unique opportunity for our students," Accounting Professor and the club's sponsor, Anthony Fontana, said.

Calling all artists!

Due to popular demand, we are hosting Part II of

"The Coffee house"
June 24, 2003
5-9p.m.
Engbretson Hall

We are in need of Poets, Painters, and performers

If interested in participating, entry forms are available in the Student Life Office, A1129.

Questions? Comments? Contact Vanessa Newby at 534-4451 or Lisa Meredith at 235-2230.

Sponsored by the Office of Student Life
The 29th Annual Third World Conference took place in the Embassy Suites Hotel downtown from March 27 to 30. It was a unique opportunity to listen to participants of different academic and professional backgrounds talk about current issues affecting societies and individuals of the Third World. Globalization, social justice, world development, growth and redistribution were the main topics discussed.

This interdisciplinary and intercultural conference consisting of sessions, panels, and workshops is an independent and non-profit organization that has allowed students from GSU and some other universities of the country to expand their knowledge and be part of rich and passionate discussions with a diverse group of scholars.

The conference was also offered for academic credit in the Humanities, Social Science, Sciences and Health Issues areas. As a result, the encounter helped students to understand the role of each of these areas in the study of Third World societies.

In the opening session Globalization and the American Primacy, Professor Eugene Shultz, of Washington University in St Louis, defined globalization as "one of the manifestations of American Primacy in the world; even it is not a synonym of development." He also considered American Primacy as "the state of being first" that together with globalization is "the driving forces in the world," with a tremendous ability of exporting ideas to other countries.

Following with the same discussion, in the workshops Globalization: Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Perspectives, Dr. Adriela Fernandez, Professor at GSU contended that "the world is even smaller than it has ever been" and that "there are political, economic, social and cultural cycles that connect the country and the people of the world." She also pointed out the importance of education in the process of understanding global changes together with their consequences and of facing the knowledge gap that has been widening.

In the session African Policy in the Post 9/11 Period, Gwendolyn Mikell, Professor of Anthropology, spoke about U.S foreign policy towards Africa saying that the continent is no longer U.S. national interest and that "antisemitism concern should not include a disappearance..." See Third World, page 11

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FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: CHAD, AFRICA

"Independence" Offers Few Solutions in Disjointed Country

By Thomassin Gotingar, graduate, Communications and Training

I was delighted to read the wonderful pieces written by two of my best friends here at GSU, Laura Andrea Casali, and Christina Sweis about Argentina and Jordan.

Mention Africa to an American and three pictures, at the most four, come to his mind: the famine in Ethiopia, the Berlin Wall, a new era of political changes, and the ruling authority of the colonial occupation in this area, then known as the French Equatorial Africa, which included the countries Gabon, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, and Congo Brazzaville. Chad is merely the mixing of various tribal groups that have nothing in common, except the ruling authority of the colonial France. Our national flag is a three-color vertical striped pattern of blue, yellow, and red.

From the late 1800s to the time of the "independence" on Aug. 11, 1960, little effort has been taken to really consolidate the unity of what is now known as the Republic of Chad. The consequence of the intentional division of the population by the colonial ruler are more evident today than they were at the time of the so-called independence. Only 5 years after the emancipation, some notorious conflicts and social upheavals sparked in the northern regions, leading to a civil war that reached its peak on Feb. 12, 1979. Still today, the "peace" treaties and the unification efforts bear little fruit.

Many observers have pointed to France as the key responsible party for the military conflicts, the division of the country, and the political unrest. In fact, 14 "Prefectures" constitute the administrative divisions of the country, with 5 large portions of desert areas arbitrarily drawn in the North. These departments have not only been neglected by the colonial ruler but are also the less populated areas, and did not benefit from the educational system of the white man. More over, being of the Islamic faith, people don't quite identify themselves with the other populations of the southern regions, who are in greater number, have attended the western education system, and are more or less from the same Bantu ethnic groups that live in most of the Central and Southern Africa.

In the early 90s with the fall of the Berlin Wall, a new era of political changes took place in Africa. Exactly by that time the actual president, Mr. Deby, who is originally from the northern tribe of the Tubu, came to power through a military coup, as did leaders in most African nations. Mr. Deby was compelled to align with the ideology of democracy. Tens of political parties were born over the following years, several private newspapers were created, hundreds of associations were formed, and "elections" were held. Obviously, the one that was "qualified" to win was definitely the one in power. After 10 years of uncontested absolute power, Mr. Deby managed to be "elected" for 5 more years in 2001.

As time goes by, wonders what is the real problem of most African countries. Chad being just an illustration, almost every single country in Africa, either from a French, Belgium, or British colony, has experienced political, military, or economic tensions leading to the death of millions of innocent people. Moreover, this terrible situation is neglected by the former white ruler. "Democracy" is simply a term used by politicians to achieve their ambitions. Never can any African who lived for the last 30 years remember having participated in a single true democratic vote where his or her voice could count for any change. Even though it might sound unfair to put the blame upon the colonial authorities, there still is a great part of responsibility that the Belgian, British, and French empires of the late 18th through 20th century, have to bear.

Writing Center Desires to Give Students a Dose of 'Textual Healing'

By Valerie McGovern

Until I started working in the Writing Center, here, I had no idea how painful writing can be for so many students. I love to write, even though it can be a difficult process. Yet, I have come to see that many students avoid composing a paper and struggle with it when they have to write for a class. Many students at GSU could use a dose of "textual healing."

That's why I decided to write this column. This article is for you. Its purpose is to help you be more comfortable with writing. If you have any questions about writing, call me at 534-4608, and I will answer them right here in this column.

The act of writing is surrounded with myths and misunderstandings. Do you wait for inspiration to strike you that you can sit down and let a perfect paper flow from your fingertips? That is about as likely as Daniel Washington (or Nicole Kidman) calling you for a date. Instead, the thing that really inspires you is that the paper is due the next day.

The truth about writing is that you must plan for a paper. You're better off working on a paper for an hour a day every week for six weeks than to sit down and spend six hours at the word-processor the night before the paper is due. Ah, the sad truth! Writing for inspiration doesn't work; but the organizational process is in your control.

In my next column, I'll provide some ideas to earth tips about how to plan a paper so you can find your "writing zone." I promise it won't say one word about 3 x 5 note cards. In the future, I'll discuss the kinds of writing that people really do use on the job, the crime of plagiarism, and answer the questions that you pose.

If you have a writing question, call Valerie or email the Phoenix at phoenix@gsvt.edu and she will address the question in her next column.
Physical Therapy Program Alive and Well, Though Studies ‘Dead’

By Kimberly Sanders

In the Governors State University Physical Therapy Program, students are exposed to real cadavers. Well, the cadavers aren’t exactly “live,” but the program definitely is!

The Master in Physical Therapy program came into existence in the Fall of 1996. It was awarded full accreditation in late Spring 2002. Now, there are approximately seven full time and three part time students in the program. It takes only 27 short months to complete (full time), and consists of fun classes like Gross Anatomy, Physiology of Disease, and Neuroscience, just to name a few. Students must also complete clinical internships, present a graduate research project, and pass a written comprehensive final examination.

For successful matriculation into the program, students must meet certain admission criteria. These include: bachelors degree, any major minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8, appropriate prerequisite course work w/ min 3.0 GPA official transcripts from all schools attended, official GRE scores, 3 letters of recommendation, personal essay and personal interviews.

The program, which is directed by Russell Carter, is designed to prepare students to be entry-level physical therapists. Upon completion, graduates of the MPT program are prepared for general practice positions in many different healthcare settings. Carter mentioned the importance of learning professionalism as it relates to patient care. The students are trained on how to relate to patients in order to provide the most optimal care.

“It’s a great program,” says Mikia Stewart, an occupational therapy student. “I am very grateful for all my professors. They inspire me to continue on towards my goals. I can’t wait to finish the program and begin work in the field.”

The majority of professors in the program are physical therapists, which ensures the best training for students. Some have extensive orthopedic backgrounds, others have experience in geriatrics, cardiopulmonary, and pediatric neurology. One professor, Dr. Robert Druzinsky, has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. This group of people presents an eclectic approach to physical therapy, in which students have the greatest of learning experiences.

One of the most interesting aspects of the program is the cadaver lab located in the F-wing. It is very clean, and the air circulates through the room often, in order to ensure fresh breathing air for students as they work on the cadavers.

The cadavers are donated to science programs by local funeral homes. The school keeps them for one year. During this time, they are dissected and inspected by students from different programs, including the physical therapy and occupational therapy students.

After a year, the cadavers are returned to the funeral home, where they are then cremated and the ashes are returned to the family.

The Phoenix is having a contest for the university’s most ‘filled’ office.

Do you know a professor, your teacher or a colleague, whose office space is crammed with papers, books, and everything else imaginable?

Nominate the person by emailing phoenix@govst.edu. The Phoenix will take pictures of the offices and run them in the next issue so the university can vote for the most ‘filled.’
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