Strike Averted as Settlement Reached 
Failing State Budget Takes a Toll on GSU Students 

By Scott Besseler

Contract negotiations between Governors State University Administration and the faculty's union, UPI Local 4100, have come to a close after an agreement was reached on a new four-year faculty contract.

The negotiated contract was approved by a union vote of 101-6. "This proves we're all on the same page," said Dr. Stuart Fagan, president of Governors State University.

On Apr. 9, the faculty and staff voted 113-21 in support of authorizing a strike. This vote came after a near 12-month negotiation period. In January, the negotiating teams enlisted the assistance of a federal mediator to focus the objectives of the teams.

The faculty has been working without a contract since Aug. 31, when the last contract expired. "Ideally, we would have liked [the agreement] to occur earlier," said Marsha Katz, lead negotiator for the faculty's union. The key issues which plagued the negotiation process from early on were salary increases and teaching load adjustments consequent to execution of a new faculty rank system.

The new four-year contract does not include a salary increase for the current 2002-03 contract year. It does, however, incorporate a 1.5 percent salary increase for 2003-04, a 2 percent increase for 2004-05, and a 3 percent increase for 2005-06.

Additionally, salary increases may be specified in the state appropriations. These increases would be a supplement to the increases already specified in the contract.

GSU faculty was not the only union that did not receive salary increases this year. "No public university in Illinois was able to offer salary increases for their faculty," said Fagan. "Governors State faculty and staff work very hard. We tried being as fair as possible to all involved."

In addition to salary increases, the new contract outlined the framework for a professorial rank system to be implemented in the fourth year of the contract.

 Committees from both faculty and administration will
See Contract, page 5

Rekkown Author to Speak at Commencement

By Dawn Ladislas

It is time again for graduation. To accommodate everyone graduating this year, Governors State University will hold two separate ceremonies. The first takes place Sunday, June 1 at 9:30 a.m. Involved in this commencement are the College of Arts and Sciences, Health Professions, and the Board of Governors Degree Program (BOG).

The second ceremony will also take place on Sunday, June 1, but will begin at 2:30 p.m. Both ceremonies will be at the Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center, 18501 S. Harlem Ave. The convention center is located at the corner of I-80 and Harlem Ave. in Tinley Park, Illinois. A reception will follow both events.

The only students allowed to graduate at either of the commencements will be those who have completed all degree requirements. Those graduating were required to have applied for graduation by May 5.

GSU has announced the speakers for the two commencement ceremonies. Graduating student Yolanda McMillan and guest Jesse McDonald will speak at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony. The afternoon commencement features graduating student Janet Turek and author John Gray.

McMillan is graduating from the BOG with a minor in psychology. She transferred to the GSU BOG program in the spring of 1999. She received the Pringles Scholarship, which is awarded to students with a potential to succeed, and superior academic accomplishments.

A line of tulips is one sign of Spring's arrival.

See Commencement, page 8
Graduate Council Will One Day Make PhD Programs a Reality

By Kristin Thirion

Whether you’re a graduate student planning the final stages of your academic career or an undergraduate exploring options for furthering your education, you’ve probably noticed the absence of PhD programs here at GSU. The development of doctoral programs, as well as the enhancement of existing master's offerings, is essential to meeting 21st-century educational needs.

As Dr. Deborah Holdstein, faculty associate for Graduate Studies and Research, observes, many career fields will require PhDs for various entry-level positions. Earlier this month, the Graduate Council was formed to ensure that GSU is prepared to meet the educational challenges of such a trend.

Though, according to Holdstein, PhD programs are costly and need state approval, it is becoming imperative that GSU start preparing to offer them.

“I don’t think we have a choice,” said Holdstein.

For example, physical therapy, as a profession, requires a PhD to be certified in some areas. Doctoral programs would be added slowly, on a program by program basis, and some areas of study would not have an doctoral program offered.

Before beginning anything, however, Holdstein says GSU needs some preparation.

“We need to first get our house in order,” she said. “We need to make sure we are offering the best programs, courses and services we can at our graduate level.”

Recognizing the necessity of graduate program oversight and coordination, Provost Paul Keys and the Graduate Studies Steering Committee conducted an investigation and analysis of GSU's needs.

The Graduate Council was formed as a result of this study, as well as findings from the North Central Association (NCA) re-accreditation process and strategic planning initiatives.

As Graduate Council chair, Holdstein notes that several sub-committees will be tasked with addressing specific academic and student concerns. One sub-committee, to be chaired by Roger Bennett (COE), will explore doctoral program options and related student issues.

GSU Students Showcase Research at 9th Annual Conference

By Laura Casal

The 9th GSU Student Research Conference will be held on Engbretson Hall on Wednesday, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The GSU Student Research Conference provides a forum to highlight research accomplishments at the school, and to enhance communications in the area of research among the four colleges. On average, 20 to 25 papers are presented each year and certificates of merit are awarded to all student participants by GSU president Stuart Fagan.

Created by University Professor Dr. Shelly Kumar nine years ago, the conference has been gathering more students over the years and has gained prestige among other schools.

“It is a professional setting and it allows the students to gain experience to attend bigger conferences,” Kumar said. “It is the only forum in which the four colleges interact together and every summer people look forward to it.”

“Dr. Shelly Kumar, conference organizer

Each year during the fall, students from the different colleges are encouraged to present an abstract on any topic and go through to improve with the help of a faculty member. Kumar then reads and edits or makes suggestions on every paper and finally chooses the best to be presented in the conference.

The presenters have 20 minutes each to lecture about their papers and then answer questions from the audience. This experience gives students an opportunity to present their research work in front of their peers and professors as well as encourages them to pursue scholarly research.

The conference is the most important research activity the school has. As a result, it plays an important role to enhance the image of GSU. Everybody is welcome to attend and participate.

Another, chaired by Beth Cada (CHP), will address policy and other issues pertaining to graduate studies.

A third, presently chaired by Mary Ellen Leverence (UL), is concerned with developing smoother research and application processes for faculty grants and other forms of outside funding.

In time, Holdstein hopes to add subcommittees to address additional concerns, such as the promotion of intellectual life at GSU, to include functions such as faculty colloquia, research presentations, and readings of creative work.

Holdstein cites the strong support and invaluable contributions of President Stuart Fagan, Provost Paul Keys, and other members of GSU’s administration as crucial to the establishment of the Graduate Council. Undoubtedly, future council developments and accomplishments will tremendously benefit to the GSU community.
Help Wanted

Governors State University
Adjunct instructor/technical coordinator of student publications

Governors State University invites applications for a part-time adjunct instructor/technical coordinator of student publications beginning July or August 2003 for the 2003-04 academic year.

Qualifications: Earned bachelor and/or master degree in journalism/mass communications, professional and/or teaching experience required; experience with student publications, and ability to work within a news media environment.

Responsibilities: Teaching an undergraduate course in journalism each trimester. The coordinator will be involved with assigning and selecting stories, graphics and photos; and copy editing, laying out pages (pagination), writing headlines and other production needs of a bi-monthly newspaper.

Review of applications begins immediately and continues until suitable candidate is identified. Send letter of application, curriculum vita, names/address/phone numbers of at least 2 references to Dr. Lorraine A. Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466 by June 15, 2003.

Governors State University
Editor-in-Chief of Phoenix

Governors State University invites applications for a student editor-in-chief of the student newspaper beginning August 2003 for the 2003-04 academic year.

Qualifications: A GSU undergraduate or graduate student with 3.0 cumulative GPA and past experience as a reporter or editor of a student newspaper or professional publication, and ability to work within a news media environment. Ability to get along with others is a plus. The editor-in-chief will receive a stipend.

Responsibilities: The managing editor-in-chief will run the operation of the Phoenix and will be in charge of assigning and selecting stories, graphics and photos; and copy editing, laying out pages (pagination), writing headlines and other production needs of a bi-monthly newspaper. The editor-in-chief will also be responsible for writing the paper's editorials, coordinating the columnists and contributing to newsgathering and writing. The editor-in-chief will work in conjunction with the adjunct professor/technical coordinator to ensure the paper is published bi-monthly on a regular basis each trimester.

Review of applications begins immediately and continues until suitable candidate is identified. Send letter of application, curriculum vita, names/address/phone numbers of at least 2 references to Dr. Lorraine A. Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466 by June 15, 2003.

Governors State University
Business/Advertising Manager

Governors State University invites applications for a student/business/technical coordinator of student publications beginning July or August 2003 for the 2003-04 academic year.

Qualifications: A GSU undergraduate or graduate student with 3.0 cumulative GPA and past experience with student or professional publications. Ability to communicate and persuade is a plus. The business/advertising manager will receive a stipend or be paid on commission.

Responsibilities: The business/advertising manager will be responsible for contacting local, regional and national businesses as well as managing financial aspects of the Phoenix. The person will be assigned other responsibilities as needed regarding the production of the newspaper.

Review of applications begins immediately and continues until suitable candidate is identified. Send letter of application, curriculum vita, names/address/phone numbers of at least 2 references to Dr. Lorraine A. Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466 by June 15, 2003.

Cambridge Management, Ltd.
Accounting Clerk Wanted

Monee location

Part-time flexible evening hours, $10/hr at 25hrs/wk
Excel and Word a must, Knowledge of Quickbooks helpful

Duties: Posting and depositing receivables, assessing late fees, collection of past due amounts bank reconciliations and some filing. Assisting others where and when needed.

Contact: Daniel Salgado, 15941 S. Harlem Avenue, PMB 108, Tinley Park, IL 60477
FAX: 708-235-0148

News Briefs

Personal Growth Lab Course

Identify your own personal growth issues in terms of your life goals and priorities. Learn how to examine the meaning of the objects and events in your life. Sign up for PSYC 527, Laboratory in Personal Growth, taught by the charismatic Vanleea Dave!. The course reference number is 532256 and it will meet on Friday, May 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for 2 credit hours.

Professor Invited to Write Column

The editors of the Daily Southtown have invited Dr. Deborah Holstein, professor of English and rhetoric and chair of the Graduate Council, to write a once-a-month column for the newspaper. She recently submitted two sample columns for their review. The samples, about the modern attention span and the state of high school English instruction, will be the first two to run. The first column is expected to appear about four weeks.

Faculty Institute on Learning Technologies

The IBHE funded Interinstitutional Faculty Summer Institute on Learning Technologies will run May 19 to 23 at U of I, Urbana-Champaign. Eight faculty from GSU will be on hand representing CELCS and the colleges of Education, Business and Public Administration, and Health Professions.

The Summer Institute is in its seventh year. It involves an intensive study of online learning and course development; it gives faculty an understanding of current benchmarks and gives them hands-on practice and skills in application software. Topics covered will range from the role of information technologies in universities to Internet copyright issues.

GSU’s Faculty Technology Coordinator Gary Fisk will present an overview on course management systems at the institute, highlighting the differences and similarities between programs such as WebCT and Blackboard. Interim Library Director Diane Dates Casey will present on the implications of the Technology, Education and Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act, which frames copyright issues relative to distance education.

For Sale

Doublewide Mobile Home for sale in Lynwood. 3 bed - 1.5 bath - stove/fridge - washer/dryer - B/O call 708-672-5192.

Honey For Sale: My bees didn’t need all of it. 1 pound of jar extracted pure honey from hives 1.5 miles from GSU. Limited supply, so get it quick! $5.50 each (cheap). Paul Blobaum 561-42 or p-blobaum@govst.edu.
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Brown helps me get where I'm going. With great
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and 50¢ after one year • Get up to $23,000 in college financial assistance through the UPS Earn and Learn℠ Program
Receive outstanding benefits (medical/dental/life/401k) • And much more! Equal Opportunity Employer
Once Again, Students Vote Against Fee Increase

By Carole Schrock

Students voted down the proposition to raise mandatory student fees one dollar each, for a total of five dollars. However, the vote was much closer than a similar vote taken in the Fall 2002 trimester.

Voting took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13 and 14, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the GSU Cafeteria. Poll sit- ers included Student Senators/Officers and Student Life professional and student staff.

There were 401 votes cast. In addition, 4 ballots were taken and not returned. The number of eligible student voters is 4,211. Thus, 9.5 percent of eligible students voted. One hundred eighty eight votes were in favor of the increase, while 213 were against. This is 46.5 to 53.1 percent, respectively.

Executive Director of Student Life Dr. Lorraine Sibbet manned the voting table for a few hours and was pleased to see the increase in voters.

Though the increase in voting was modest, from 376 votes in Fall 2002 to 401 votes for this referendum, it is more impressive because of the lesser amount of eligible voters this trimester. The previous vote had 5,300 students eligible to vote.

The referendum held last fall was far a similar increase of student fees and also failed to win student approval, though the margin was much smaller. Thirty seven and one half percent of votes approved the increase, but 62.5 voted against it. Despite the Student Referendum's results, the increase was ultimately passed by the GSU Board of Trustees.

Sibbet believes there were many reasons the margin was much closer this time.

"I heard many comments while people were voting," she said. "Some of them voted yes because it was such a small increase, and others said that [GSU's fees] were substantially smaller than those of schools from which they had just transferred."

Vote counting was held in the Student Life Meeting Room (A1109) on Thursday, May 15, from 9 - 10 a.m. Student Senator Pamela Thompson and Board of Trustees Student Representative Elizabeth Vazquez counted the votes. Sibbet, who is also adviser to the Student Senate, was present as the administrative liaison.

The results of the Student Referendum will be presented to the Board of Trustees on June 20. A decision whether or not to raise the fees will be made by the board.

SENATE EVENTS COLUMN

Senate VP Says Keep Tuned for Events

By Maher Huuseini,
Student Senate vice president

GSU Student Senate would like to welcome the new and the continuing students in this warm and beautiful Spring/Summer trimester, and we hope that each student enjoys his/her classes.

We would like to remind all the students that we have a great variety of clubs and organizations that can meet your expectations, so get involved in one of these clubs and organizations. You won't know what you are missing until you join one.

We also asking for more involvement in our activities, our main purpose of organizing programs is to make GSU students more comfortable and more experienced with our school. We recently organized a Blood Drive and we have saved 18 lives in the surrounding community, sponsored the Soldier Recognition Program, organized the Splash Party, helped in sponsoring the tuition increase referendum, and helped with the GSU Student Life recognition program.

But what's really important is what is coming up! We are planning to hold variety of programs and activities soon, so keep tuned for more details.

You can stop by our office in the second floor in the Student Life area of A-wing, call us at 705. The best way to check on us and to communicate with us is by going to the Web board and check what we are doing. On the Web board, you also can leave your input and comments.

Our main focus is to promote GSU student's experiences and make your study more enjoyable as much as we can, so tell us how we are doing.

Comparison of Fees for Illinois Universities

Fees are representative of those for a full-time, full-year undergraduate student.

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<th>Universities</th>
<th>Fees for Fiscal Year 2003</th>
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<td>Chicago State University</td>
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<td>Governors State University</td>
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<td>Illinois State University</td>
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<td>Northeastern Illinois University</td>
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<td>University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign</td>
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Contract, From page 1

cooperatively develop standards and criteria for the new rank system. Eligibility for full professorship will be similar to requirements for a faculty member to attain tenure, but with different standards.

Faculty members employed at GSU before the fourth year of the contract will be "grandfathered" in, and will have the option of remaining in the current faculty rank system, or entering into the new rank system, or remaining a University Professor.

Additional benefits will follow for those faculty members who choose to enter the new rank system.

The new rank system, to be implemented in 2005-06, is the same system used by virtually all universities in the state, according to Fagan.

"This system will put us on par with other universities and increase our reputation among every accrediting body," said Fagan.

It will also help recruitment of faculty prospects, who often "don't understand [our current] rank system," he added.

The GSU Board of Trustees has final approval over the negotiated contract. Fagan expects the Board to approve the contract May 27.

"This is a win-win situation," said Fagan, in reference to the faculty, administration and students who will benefit from this contract. "Everyone will benefit. They got what they wanted, given the current financial situation."

-University President
Stuart Fagan

Fagan noted that further budget cuts are expected. An additional 8 percent budget cut by the state would put the university at the same operating budget it had for the 1999-00 school year. This does not take into account inflation or increases in enrollment.

The administration, including Fagan, has been looking toward Federal grants to offset the impact on academics at GSU. "One size does not fit all when it comes to budget cutbacks," said Fagan.
GSU Recognizes Staff and Faculty for 30 Years of Service

Twelve Honorees at GSU Almost from School's Conception

By Victoria Hosey

On May 22, 2003, the GSU Department of Human Resources hosted the annual Employee Service Recognition Awards Program. It is traditional for the university to recognize employees beginning at the fifth year of service and acknowledge them every fifth year of employment, up to 30 years.

“This year there will be 75 awardees in all, including 12 employees who have served the university by December 31, 2003, for 30 years,” said Lilian Jung, Human Resources personnel officer.

The faculty and staff were invited to participate by sending well-wishes and accolades to the Human Resources Department. Each message was placed in a special binder and presented to the honoree at the ceremony as a keepsake.

So where were you 30 years ago? Maybe you were marching or protesting for civil rights. Perhaps you were traveling across this county in a Winnebago. Maybe you weren’t even born. GSU was started in 1969, which means the 30-year service honorees were here just about from the beginning of the university.

For the 12 awardees, the number 30 has real significance. It marks a monumental period of time.

“I remember when GSU started, things were very different than they are now,” said 30-year honorary Gusta Allen of the Registrar’s Office. “Ana Kong, Beatrice Grant and I started the same year.” Allen also earned her bachelor and master degrees from GSU, while she worked.

As things continue to evolve, GSU will be different 30 years from today. The building will probably look different, considering the construction of the new wing and the faculty will change as people retire and new staff comes in.

The one constant is that GSU is an institution geared toward supplying higher education to adults, most of whom happen to be about 30 years old.

Those being honored are Rachel Berg, Psychology & Counseling/COE; Peter Gunther, professor Science/CAS; Dale Max, ACFE/CBPA; Gusta Allen, Office of the Registrar; Ila Gallagher, Physical Plant Operations; Ana Kong, Liberal Art, CAS; Beatrice Grant, Admissions & Student Recruitment.

Also being honored are retirees T. David Ainsworth, Communications Services; Tim Arr, Administration & Planning; William Bolin, HAHS/CHP; Sandra Whitaker, Psychology & Counseling/COE; Addison Woodard, Psychology & Counseling/COE.

SUMMER TRAVELOGUE: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Viva Rock Vegas!

By Amy Ott, rockabilly gal

When people think of Las Vegas they think of bright lights, gambling and show girls. When rockabilly people think of Las Vegas they think of the great bands, great styles, loads of shopping, and huge car show at the Viva Las Vegas Weekender.

Every year during Easter weekend, the rockabilly people of the world invade the Gold Coast Hotel for a wild weekend of music, fun, and lots of hot rods. This year the sixth annual Viva Las Vegas was held April 17 through April 20.

Over thirty bands performed this year, including many well-known musical acts. The Go Getters, from Sweden, were the headliners Friday night. Ruth Brown, famous for being in the movie Hair Spray, sang with her band. The Paladins, from San Diego, who have been playing together for over 20 years, were the headliners Saturday night. Bands played from noon to night all weekend in both the ballroom and the showroom.

Music wasn’t the only reason to attend. The car show on Saturday lasted all day. It was hosted on the rooftop of the parking garage where live bands played and over 500 cars were displayed, including the dragster from The Munsters television show.

There was a wedding performed by an Elvis impersonator who married a couple from L.A. For those with extra money to burn, over 50 vendors sold items ranging from vintage clothing to rockabilly accessories and music paraphernalia.

Left: The sign that greeted rockabilly fans upon their arrival.

Amy and the King. He is still alive and performing weddings!

Photos courtesy of Amy Ott
Student Life Recognition Lends Awards, Surprises, Hors D’oeuvres

By Carole Schrock

Several students were honored Friday, May 16 in the Hall of Governors as the Office of Student Life presented their 2003-2004 Recognition Reception. Student Senate President Linda Williams opened the event by explaining it was a “celebration of the contributions, accomplishments and achievements of Governors State University students, clubs, organizations, and their advisers.” Those gathered sat around decorated tables as Williams told them what “student life” is all about.

“The Student Life Unit exists,” she said, “to serve students with services and opportunities for enrichment, entertainment, recreation and involvement.”

Following Williams, Dr. Eric Martin filled in for Provost Paul Keys in expounding on the importance of Student Life on campus. Then the awards began.

Wellness Club won the award for Outstanding Club for 2002-2003. Accepting on behalf of the club was adviser Vanessa Newby. The Wellness Club is new this year. Its purpose is to offer information and activities to promote health and wellness on campus, including not only physical, but also psychological and spiritual well-being. They have organized a holiday food drive, peer tutoring, a weekly walking group and stress management presentations, among others.

Newby then took her seat, but had to rise again when Student Life Facilities Supervisor Dean Jennings announced her as Outstanding Club Advisor 2002-2003. In addition to helping with paperwork to start the Wellness Club, she worked closely with club members and community to facilitate involvement and growth.

Pam Thompson was voted by her fellow student senators as Outstanding Senator for the academic year. She scored the highest in the areas of leadership ability, attendance at meetings and activities, interaction with other senators and those in the GSU community, and positive image. A nominator wrote about Thompson, “Pam is a motivator, good in leadership.”

“I nearly fell out of my chair [when I won],” Thompson said.

Dr. Lorraine Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, then came to the podium to recognize the service of three individuals who have held leadership positions in the past year. First, Verna Jackson, former Student Senate president came forward to be appreciated for the effort she put forth during her tenure as president.

Next, Elizabeth Vasquez was honored. Vasquez was the student representative on the GSU Board of Trustees for the past year. During her service, she put forth a proposal for a second commencement ceremony in December, which is currently still under consideration by the board.

Toure’ Peck’s name was then announced. Though Peck was not present, Sibbet told the crowd that Peck was GSU’s Illinois Board of Higher Education representative for the past year. His timely completion of paperwork, Sibbet added, was noted.

Those students, faculty and staff who do much work behind the scenes and who often volunteer for duties were then given Service Awards for their efforts. These were Nilesh Aurangabadkar, vice president of the International Students Organization; Dortha Brown, president of the Human Resource Management Club; Elizabeth Green, president of the Black Students Union; Gail Kallend, president of the GSU chapter of the Illinois Counseling Association; Thomas Lux, chairperson of the Public Relations Committee on the Student Senate; Paul Peterson, president of the Public Administration Club; Karen Reynolds; founder and president of the Wellness Club; Thompson, student senator; Williams, Student Senate president; and Loretta Jones, a very active member of staff.

The final award of the evening was for Outstanding Student. Sibbet announced that two students were chosen this year for this honor. George Ceska is a Student Life employee who is also very active in the Student Senate, most notably in the Fees and Finance Committee. He is also a lifeguard at the university pool and is an ambassador for the school. His reputation is that of “the person” who knows how the Student Life area operates.

“I was shocked,” Ceska said about winning. “I had no idea I was going to win this.”

The second award for Outstanding Student went to Carole Schrock. Schrock is creator and editor-in-chief of the Phoenix student newspaper. She also is a graduate assistant in the Media Lab, helping students with various video and digital editing projects.

There was a small reception following the awards ceremony, with hot hors d’oeuvres.
While McMillan attended the program full-time, she raised a family, and volunteered her services as a counselor in Aunt Martha's programs.

McMillan plans to go for her master's in psychology at GSU, and eventually a Ph.D.

The second speaker for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony will be McDonald, who has worked for the state of Illinois for over thirty years. Recently, he was praised for his work as director for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), which gained national accreditation under his leadership in 1998.

McDonald has won several awards including Individual Adoption Excellence, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Citizen of the Year.

Turek will be the student speaker at the 2:30 p.m. commencement ceremony. Turek is receiving her Master of Education degree, with an emphasis in curriculum. Turek is a first grade teacher at George W. Lieb School. She was convinced that continuing education should be convenient, and contacted GSU about it. They agreed and provided the instruction, while District 122, where Turek teaches, provided the space.

As a result of the agreement, on June 1, not only will Turek receive her master’s, but 16 other teachers at the school graduate from the program as well. The program allowed the teachers to receive their master’s without having to drive to the university.

Leadership is something Turek is well experienced in. She is a faculty leader for curriculum in District 122, an officer of the Illinois Federation of Teachers Union, and a member of the Local Professional Development Committee for Recertification.

In addition, she has met the requirements to be a mentor in her district through coursework developed in partnership between the Illinois Federation of Teachers and GSU. She currently mentors pre-service teachers.

Teaching is a family tradition for Turek. Her husband Henry is also a teacher in District 122. Her daughter Sarah teaches first grade in Frankfort and her other daughter Laura is graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Education in Middle School Science and English. Her son Henry is a sophomore at the University of Illinois and plans to teach high school history and be a coach after graduation.

Author Gray, best known for his "Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus" books will be the guest speaker for the ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Gray has made a living of discussing the aspects of human relationships. Gray has appeared on countless shows, including Oprah, Good Morning America and The Today Show. He has written 11 books, and writes a weekly syndicated column, read by 30 million readers. His books have sold over 15 million copies, and been translated into 40 languages.

In addition to his books and guest appearances, Gray also does individual counseling, and lectures around the country. He is a certified family therapist, consulting editor of the Family Journal, a member of the Distinguished Advisory Board of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, and a member of the American Counseling Association.

For speaking at the commencement, both Gray and McDonald receive honorary degrees from GSU. The student speakers, McMillan and Turek were chosen for their academics and commitments to making a difference in the community.
**CLUB NEWS: STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**Students Attend Conference with Attorney General Lisa Madigan**

On April 4 and 5, fifteen students from the College of Education went to Springfield, Ill. to attend the Illinois Education Association Student's Conference, "Teaching in the Fast Lane." The keynote speaker of the conference was Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Her message was inspiring and centered around her teaching experience in South Africa.

On Saturday, students attended a variety of workshops dealing with Internet Use, Teaching without Textbooks, First Year Teacher Reflections, Technology Tips, Teaching Portfolios, and much more. Students enjoyed the workshops and the opportunity to socialize with students from other Illinois Universities.

Other news from SEA:

- Last month each of the students in the Introductory sequence and Lab I and Lab II students read and distributed books to all our partnership schools. We were able to give out over $800 in books. The student Education Association of the College of Education holds two bake sales fund raisers to buy books for schools every year.

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**Tell Us About Your Club**

Let the *Phoenix* know what your club is up to and gain more members.

There are many students on campus wondering where the Bible Club meets. Others want to find out more about clubs organized by Business and Public Administration students. Several nurses are looking to connect. Get the word out that your club exists. People are waiting to hear about you.

If you don't think there is a club that interests you or you want to start a new club, contact Student Life at 708-554-4655 for more information. You could be next in line to organize a club that everyone's waiting for.

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**THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE**

The *Phoenix* is now offering free classified advertising space to the university community.

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FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NATO and EU Induction Signs of Major Change in Lithuania

By Laura Vetrinaite, undergraduate, Criminal Justice Studies

As an exchange student in Denmark, and currently an international student here in Chicago, I've come to understand how important my homeland is to me. Lithuania is a small country about the size of Illinois. The population is comparable to the city of Chicago. Lithuania is very old in history, very conservative in beliefs and in values, and is very unique in language. Lithuanian language is one of the oldest Indo-European languages.

There is no one national religion established in the country's constitution, but Catholicism strongly prevails. An important historical fact that the nation is proud of is that Lithuania was the last European country to embrace Christianity. The belief in paganism had strong roots that survives until today from the folk songs, legends, tales and art. It just proves that Lithuania has preserved deep cultural values, which survived all the invasions, all the enemies from the crucial medieval times.

I am honored of my nation. I am proud to speak the language, to live through traditions my grandparents maintained with pride.

Even more, two major events just changed the historical stream of Lithuania. These two events - entrance into North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) - were the country's main goals since winning its independence in 1991 from the Soviet Union. This spring brought some of the brightest moments into the small nation.

First, U.S. President George W. Bush welcomed us into NATO and pleased us with his presence on the important day. Bush was the first American president to visit Lithuania. In mid-May, Lithuania was accredited into the EU.

Until very recently, Lithuania was a third world country. The fact is, the country is changing. We are having great constructions and big reforms in economical, political, and social spheres. We are improving our way towards democracy.

Excellent Research Papers are Within Reach, It Just Takes Time

Following Simple Steps and Avoiding Procrastination the Key to Thesis Success

By Valerie McGovern

The two-week interval in-between classes has dissipated into thin air and the beginning of the trimester has commenced. Birds are chirping, summer is about to be sprung, but your quest to frolic in the sunshine is slowly being destroyed because the new syllabus from your instructor reads, "A five page paper is due and an MLA or APA format should be utilized." Your palms begin to sweat, white stars are starting to float outside of your pupils, and the loud voices chiming in your head are screaming, 'What am I going to do?" The first thing that needs to be done is relax, the discombobulated thoughts and feelings racing through your body will soon disappear, take a deep breath, because it is the beginning of the trimester and you still have plenty of time to produce a stellar paper.

The number one rule when starting a paper is to read the directions. This may seem obvious, but a lot of times when one is too riled up about a paper, one might overlook the basics and indulge into a project based on the material discussed in class. It is extremely important that you are aware early on if any of the instructions are unclear. Ask the professor to explain any questions you might have. This is the only person that can grant you a precise answer.

The second rule should focus on the content of the paper, which will coincide with the directions on the syllabus. At this point, start creating a thesis statement and begin to gather research, once you start collecting data about your subject your main idea could fluctuate.

Next, organize! Your opening paragraph should introduce your thesis, the paragraphs that follow should support this thought, and your conclusion should confirm the main principle being discussed in your paper.

At this point you should start to incorporate the resources you are planning to include into your assignment. Calm down because it is not as bad as you think. This dilemma can be overcome. For example, I am going to thank Greg Dyer from the University of Sioux Falls for his witty suggestion about the title of this column. Also, credit needs to be given when credit is deserved. Whether your paper is focusing around scientific data, a certain philosophical concept, or an abstract theory that you did not create, the information needs to be cited or it is considered plagiarism (a topic that will be discussed soon).

"But, Val, how do I quote?" Relax, go to the GROWL website at www.govst.edu/owl. The site is stocked with excellent examples of how journal articles, databases, books, etc., should be documented. Four main thoughts to relieve anxiety when writing a paper:

1) Do not wait until the night before the paper is due to write it.

When you wait until the last moment, you are stressed, rushed, not able to complete a job well done because a well-organized paper takes time. So let's say you did wait until the last moment, it is 11:00 P.M., and you're going nuts because you still have to format a reference page. You need sleep, but instead you have to research how to cite your references on the web because you procrastinated. Just imagine how much easier it would of been if you had started your paper two weeks earlier, and if you had any questions, you could of made an appointment at the Writing Center. Any questions about your paper could have been answered.

2) Content, Content, Content!

When a professor requires you to write a paper encompassing a format, your paper should not be based around the format, but the format should be organized around your focus statement and concepts. Only include citations that are relevant to your subject, unless instructed to do so otherwise, only use 12 pt. font/Times New Roman, and 1 in. margins. Your professor knows when your font, format, or margins are being exaggerated or done incorrectly.

3) Do not wait until the last moment to construct a reference/works cited page.

In order for a reference/works cited page to be done correctly it can take hours if not a day. This process is very time consuming, so it would be wise to get into the habit of creating this page as you write your paper. Computers are wonderful! As you write your paper open up another blank document. That way, whenever you cite vital information within your paper you can go directly to the reference/works cited page and document it.

4) Proofread, Proofread, Proofread!

Your paper is not finished until you proofread it. Have a friend read it, read it aloud to yourself, ask your professor to glance at the paper, whatever it takes, proofread!

So, here's the flow:

READ—COMPREHEND—CONTENT—CONSTRUCT—CITE—PROOFREAD

The construction of a great paper does not happen overnight, it takes a lot of hard work. A great writer becomes a great writer by fusing all of the concepts mentioned above, and through practice and personal dedication. The outcome will be an exceptional paper.

Need help? Make an appointment at the Writing Center, 708-554-4508.
U.S. Not to Blame for Misfortune of Other Countries

Comment on April's Focus on International Students: Chad

Mr. Golinger raises a poignant question: "Why [are] some people to be " Freed" from dictatorial regimes no matter the cost, yet others enduring the same conditions for a century do not get the attention they beg for?"

The answer lies with the three great levers of American politics: media exposure, money, and interest groups; plus the question of raw military power. How many hours have CNN, NBC, and CBS broadcast from Chad? How many organizations in the United States lobby for Chad, and how many members do they have? What resources are being extracted from Chad by mammoth American corporations prepared to contribute (indirectly) millions to American parties and candidates? Are Chadians a powerful voting bloc in any American city?

On the question of military power, we have not yet entirely vanished time and distance. Only one of the very most two tanks can be put on an airplane, and a single division owns hundreds of tanks. We are able to invade Iraq only because tiny Kuwait, adjacent to it, has a weapon. From there to Iraq is only a few miles on a reasonably good road. Chad, on the other hand, is landlocked. The surrounding countries are large and have notoriously wretched roads—often no more than a pair of Jeep tire ruts.

And even assuming they could somehow rent every heavy cargo plane in the world and try to fly in our armour, we would need permission to overfly these countries. None of them is as dependent on, or as politically indebted to, the U.S.A. as Kuwait, nor allied to us, as is Turkey—which would not let us roll our tanks through its territory to Northern Iraq.

The U.S. is powerful, but it isn't omnipotent. 

-Carl Stover, university professor

Would School Spirit Benefit from Colors, Mascot?

Dear Editor,

I graduated from GSU in 1996 with a B.A. and in 1999 with a M.A. Some of the people in my class tried to come up with mascots for the university which were the following: Choo choo's... with a steam train as the symbol, Golden Grapes, Scholars, Graduates, or a symbol which represents a scholar.

The college does not even have official school colors. I suggest using Red, Black and White. Maybe even Blue or Gold.

You could possibility run an vote through the news paper for college colors and mascot symbol like you did when you changed the news paper from the Innovator to the Phoenix. The following are just some ideas for you to think about. It could be fun and help give the College more of an identity.

-Dan Orans, alumnus

The Phoenix Editorial Policy

The Phoenix encourages letters to the editor and other editorial comments. Please feel free to drop us a line at u/317, cshar2810@mail.gvsu.edu, or in Carole Schrock's mailbox in student life. If there is a concern you would like to voice about the university or the Phoenix, please feel free to voice it. While all comments are worthwhile, it is the policy of the Phoenix not to print any letters to the editor or any other editorial opinions anonymously. Beliefs are important, and the pride to stand up next to them is equally as important. Please help The Phoenix let your voice be heard.
Ah, Sweet Spring...

Though it has been a cold Spring this year, the campus has really blossomed. Students, staff and faculty enjoy the colors that Spring provides. And really, what would Spring be on the Governors State University campus without the geese?

Okay, Okay We Admit It

It is high time that the Phoenix catches up with the rest of the world and goes on the web. If you are interested in developing web design skills, you may be the person the Phoenix is looking for to work with. Or, just offer some comments about the way the Phoenix should look online.

Please complete the following form and e-mail it to phoenix@govst.edu, or drop off the form at the Phoenix office.

Phoenix Web Survey

I would read a web version of the Phoenix more often than a paper version.  YES  NO
I am skilled at making Web pages and want to help with this project.  YES  NO
I think a web version would be easier to read.  YES  NO

Here are the top three things I'd like to see in a web version of the Phoenix.

1
2
3

Additional Comments