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News & Views

Governors State University

"Questions unite people; answers
divide them"

...Eli Wiesel

(Suggested by Paul Keys)

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Stormy Weather Ahead

President Stuart Fagan led a group of trustees to visit legislators on April 3. He reports that there is major uncertainty in the legislature over the size of the budget deficit for fiscal year 2002. "Each month the deficit has been exceeding the projection," he said. "As for fiscal year 2003, no one has a handle on what the state's revenue stream will be." One proposal the university advanced seemed to generate some interest. Under the Governor's proposed budget, the state's public universities would be required to make up a \$45 million shortfall in health care costs. Under that formula, the university's funding would be reduced by \$656,000. Governors State suggested taking the \$45 million shortfall off the top of the state's budget. Under that formula, the reduction would be only \$76,000.

Tearing down the walls that divide us

Governors State University will be one of 50 host sites for the annual Diversity Dinner program on April 18, 2002 at 7 p.m. The program will bring together hundreds of south suburban residents from different races, backgrounds and economic classes for dinner and conversation about life issues. Dr. Ronald Bean, executive director of the South Metropolitan Leadership Center at Governors State, is one of the key organizers of the event. "There are many of us who won't let the 'isms' of life, such as racism or classism, keep us from embracing and accepting those who are different. These courageous and generous spirited individuals typically attend these diversity dinners," he said. For the record: more than 2,000 people have participated in the Diversity Dinner program since it was started in 1998. Other sites for the dinners include private homes and cultural institutions. Dr. Bean will talk about the Diversity Dinner program, and other Leadership Center activities as a guest on the "Let's Talk" radio program (WCFJ-1470-AM), which will air live on Wednesday, April 10, at 2:30 p.m. However, if you're interested in hosting a dinner at your home or would like to attend one, please call the Leadership Center on extension 4487 as soon as possible to confirm your participation.

When the buildings are finished

The final phase of Governors State's capital development plan will include renovation of science labs and facilities and space that will be vacated as faculty move to the new office space, a total of 50,000 square feet of space. A Comprehensive Master Planning Committee is working to provide ideas on the most economical and effective use of space. One of the committee's first acts was to identify an architectural firm. LCM Design, based in Chicago, has made it to the top of the short list of architectural firms that were under consideration. The firm will be recommended to the Capital Development Board this month for approval. The Master Planning Committee continues the process of evaluating suggestions received by faculty and staff on how the space should be used. The \$37.5 million plan, which includes, as well, construction of the Faculty Office Center and the Family Development Center, is funded by the Community Development Board.

Speaking of construction.

As of today, the Family Development Center is approximately 33% completed. The crew is making good progress in erecting the building's steel framework. The most visible aspect is the construction of the slanted walls of the gymnasium north of the prairie wall as well as the canopy structure. The roof deck installation is nearly completed and concrete slabs for the classrooms should begin to appear next week. The construction is generally on time. The Faculty Office Center is approximately 20% completed. The basement is nearly completed, and formwork and concrete pours for the east wing foundations have begun. Contractors have been busy coordinating and planning the layout of electrical, plumbing, fire protection and heating and cooling lines. The construction is generally on schedule.

Commencement changes: off-site and one day

It's official. Because of the construction on campus, commencement ceremonies will be held at the Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center in Tinley Park, on Sunday, June 2, 2002. Ceremonies for the colleges of Business and Public Administration and Education will begin at 9:30 a.m. Ceremonies for the colleges of Health Professions and Arts and Sciences and the Board of Governors degree program will begin at 3 p.m. The Holiday Inn is located at I-80 and Harlem Avenue, 18501 South Harlem Avenue, Tinley Park.

Name game

There are no hanging chads in the vote for a new name for *News and Views*, but the process is moving as quickly as the ballot count in Florida. The new name will be announced in the next issue.

The provost is in

Provost Paul Keys will be working out of the Hall of Governors between 11:00 a.m. and noon on April 16. He's there to talk with anyone with a question, complaint, or compliment.

Pathways to accreditation

Provost Keys will also moderate a colloquium dealing with issues of accreditation from 10 a.m. to noon on April 12. The program, sub-titled *A Model for Program Review and Validation*, will be held in the Hall of Governors. "Because of the various accreditation activities in each of the colleges, it's important that faculty participates. There will be additional presentations by several faculty members, followed by in-depth discussion of model accreditation practices," said Provost Keys.

A family that studies together...

The Kronika household will be celebrating extensively June 2, 2002, when GSU students Jim and Dianne will be participating in Commencement. Jim will be receiving his BA in Business Administration, while his wife, Dianne, will receive her MA in Political and Justice Studies. Their children (Jessica, Jacob, and David) plan to attend and cheer them on. Many of you already know Dianne as Assistant to the General Counsel here at GSU. Jim is a student worker in the Registrar's office. He is hoping to go on for his MA, possibly in Public Administration here at GSU. Dianne says, "We have been truly fortunate that GSU is here and has such excellent and dedicated professors. It made it much easier for us to return to finish our degrees."