

4-15-2002

## News & Views, 2002-04-15

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### Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, News & Views (2002, April 15). [http://opus.govst.edu/news\\_views/10](http://opus.govst.edu/news_views/10)

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# News & Views

## Governors State University

“Whenever ideas are shared, the result is always greater than the sum of the parts,”  
(Rich Willis)

April 15 - 19, 2002

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

### Crisis Continues in Springfield

Legislators in Springfield have no clear idea as to what the budget shortfall will be in fiscal year 2002, let alone fiscal year 2003. When President Stuart Fagan testified before the Senate Appropriation Committee on April 8, the committee chairman, Steven Rauschenberger (R-33, Elgin), said he had been told there were not enough funds to support the original budget Governor Ryan had proposed a few weeks ago. The State's shortfall for fiscal year 2002 could be about \$1.4 billion. No one in Springfield has a good handle on the shortfall for fiscal year 2003.

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### GSU Gets Kudos from Hard-nosed Appropriations Committee

The Senate Appropriations Committee complimented Governors State at its recent meeting. The committee praised the university for its commitment to education for working adults; for its faculty commitment to teaching, and for the university's low tuition, which keeps education accessible to working adults. The Senate Appropriations Committee was extremely critical of practices at some other universities.

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### GSU Has Some Ideas

Surprisingly, Governors State was the only university to suggest some ideas to the Senate Appropriations Committee. President Fagan offered three proposals in his testimony. First, take the excess health care costs off the top of the State's budget, rather than allocating charges to public universities. In the case of Governors State, a charge of more than \$650,000 would be reduced to about \$75,000. Second, make no change in the procedures to allocate grant monies to early childhood programs. Dr. Fagan testified that changes that had been proposed would be devastating to the programs and the communities they serve. And third, establish a state-wide task force to identify and prioritize programs that can improve primary and secondary education.

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### Good News: We Have a New Name

The committee met last Thursday to pick a new name for *News And Views*. We'll unveil the winner and a new design next week.

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### The Splendors of Science

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Conference held at GSU recently attracted 180 student presenters from seven participating regional higher education institutions. Dr. Shelly Kumar, GSU university professor of chemistry, served as the conference's steering committee chairman and organizer. Kumar will hold another student

research conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2002, that will focus exclusively on the research efforts of GSU students.

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### **It's a Cyberspace Job Fair**

Governors State is one of several colleges organizing "Job Quest Virtual Job Fair," an entirely Internet-based job fair for South Suburban residents. An information session will be held on Tuesday, April 16, at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn to introduce the project to members of the media, public officials and other invited guests. Job Quest will run from May 1 to June 14. Both employers and job-seekers will be able to easily access the virtual job fair through the web site, [www.collegecentral.com/jobquest](http://www.collegecentral.com/jobquest).

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### **Your Link(s) to Some Fun, Frolic and Friendship**

The GSU golf league...yes, that's right! GSU does have a golf league which will begin its fourth season shortly. GSU faculty and staff with good handicaps and those who ARE their own handicap are encouraged to join. Play begins Tuesday, April 30, and will continue every Tuesday until the end of August. The season concludes with a banquet, prizes and surprises. The cost to play at Golf Vista in Monee, an executive 9-hole course, is about \$10 per week. If interested, contact Dave Drechsel (Ext.-5304), Mark Kundla (Ext. 3999), or Jill Stanley (Ext. 3985). Spaces are limited so hurry.

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### **See a Little B-Ball in Your Future**

Here's a chance to show off your moves on the basketball court. The Department of Public Safety is starting a "3-on-3" basketball tournament. It costs \$25 per player to sign-up and all proceeds will go to the Illinois Law Enforcement Special Olympics. For more information, call Sgt. James McGee or Colleen Buche at Extension 4900.

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### **Eyeball to Eyeball Talk**

Provost Paul Keys will be working from his desk in the Hall of Governors on Tuesday, April 16, 2002 from 11 am to noon. Be sure to visit with him, ask any questions, discuss any subject, and share your ideas about our university.

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### **High Achiever**

Sheryl Jones-Harper of the Small Business Development Center is April's Employee of the Month. Kudos.