The Big Picture
News of note from around the nation
Tax incentives aid college students

America needs to make affordable post-secondary education a priority if the U.S. wants to continue being the most competitive and innovative country in the world, according to witnesses and members of Congress. The Senate Finance Committee in late July examined "The Role of Higher Education Financing in Strengthening U.S. Competitiveness in a Global Economy."

Tax incentives, including the Hope Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit, which help families pay for college, and 529 saving plans, which help families save for college were deemed critical.

Recommendations to modify the tax incentives to help more college students include: simplify incentives; focus on students who are in danger of not going to college, including low- and middle-income students; coordinate tax incentives and financial aid; and consolidate Hope and Lifetime Learning credits.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Top Universities

The annual rankings of U.S. colleges and universities by U.S. News & World Report were published on August 19th. Harvard and Princeton, both pricey private schools, tied for the number one spot. Among public institutions, the University of California at Berkeley was tops, followed by a tie between the Universities of Michigan and Virginia. The issue is filled with information for those interested in higher education. More...

Personal Credit Course Offered Online

Access Group, Inc., a nonprofit student loan provider, recently announced the launch of its new "WiseBorrower" Curriculum.

This is a free service to help students increase their financial literacy and knowledge of personal finance.

The online service, which will encompass a number of topics related to debt management and personal finance, debuts with the Credit Series.

The Credit Series contains seven tutorials, covering credit basics, credit reports, credit scoring, how to maximize your credit score, good credit, credit cards, and credit repair.

Each self-guiding tutorial takes less than 30 minutes to complete and ends with a short, interactive quiz.

No login is required to access and complete the tutorials. Users simply choose the tutorial they'd like to view, and the onscreen instructions guide them through it.

Access Group plans to introduce the next topic related to budgeting, later this fall. See: www.accessgroup.org/wiseborrower.

"Ripoff 101"
Congress investigates the cost of texts

"The soaring cost of textbooks is being viewed with a critical eye by House lawmakers in an effort to tame the price of higher education.

In late July, the House subcommittee on Education and the Workforce, chaired by Rep. Howard McKeon (R-CA), held a hearing on the issue of college textbook pricing.

The hearing was prompted in part by a study begun in July 2003 by the California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG). The report, issued earlier this year, was titled "Ripoff 101: How the Current Practices of the Textbook Industry Drive Up the Cost of College Textbooks."

Merriah Fairchild, CALPIRG's higher education director, said they began investigating the textbook cost dilemma after a state-wide tuition and fees hike.

"Publishers often produced new editions with few significant content changes, rendering older, used versions of the book obsolete and unavailable, according to the report.

"Publishers add bells and whistles such as CD ROMs that over 64 percent of the faculty surveyed said they use 'rarely' or 'never.'" she said.

"Extraneous instructional materials can double the cost of a textbook and some universities' curricula have the effect of bringing total college costs down to a more manageable level and this makes college more accessible, especially for poor students," testified Virgil Monroe, who manages the textbook service for the University of Wisconsin at River Falls.

At several universities in Wisconsin and Illinois, students can rent textbooks for $59 per semester. "The textbook rental system has the effect of bringing total college costs down to a more manageable level and this makes college more accessible, especially for poor students," testified Virgil Monroe, who manages the textbook service for the University of Wisconsin at River Falls.

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GSU police keep campus safe, offer tips to prevent crime

GSU is one of the most safe campuses in the nation. There is nearly zero student crime here. The only crimes reported for 2002 are thefts from offices (14 thefts during the year) and one case of aggravated assault. Nonetheless, the Campus Police suggest that you take regular precautions to safeguard your belongings.

Never leave your personal items like a purse or cellphone or a laptop on a cafeteria table or unattended in the library or anywhere on campus.

If you are concerned, you can request an escort to your car in the parking lot. If you locked your keys in your car, need a battery jump, you can call Campus Police and they will help you to fix the trouble. Call 534-4900 for assistance.

Library is at your service

The GSU Library is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday during Fall and Winter trimesters from 3 to 7 p.m. You can search the Library Catalog (ILLINET Online) to find books, videos, course reserves, and other material at the GSU library and other Illinois academic libraries. GSU students, faculty, and staff may borrow materials from other ILLINOIS libraries by using the catalog's "Request" feature. The catalog's "My Account" feature allows you to renew material, view items checked out, items requested from other libraries, and any fines or fees incurred. Both features require the use of your Library ID number.

Your Library ID Number contains 14 digits starting with 21614000 plus your 6-digit GSU student ID Number. Students can search more than 75 journal indexes, many of which offer checking out library assets. (Photo by Seamus Foy) full-text articles, and several full-text reference databases at www.govst.edu/library.ils. Check the GSU library catalog for journal titles owned by GSU in paper and microfiche formats.

Registered students can access all of the library's research databases via the proxy server. When prompted to login, User Name is your library ID Number. Your password is your telephone registration PIN. For faculty and staff the PIN is the last four digits of your SSN.

Distance learning students can find access to all of GSU's library resources at www.govst.edu/library/onlinelearning. These pages provide links to library resources and online request forms, as well as contact information for the library and subject specialist librarians.

You can call the library at (708) 534-4112.

GSU Senate Welcomes Students

The Governors State University Student Senate would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students. We hope that you had an enjoyable summer. Now that the time has come to get back to business, we would like to introduce ourselves.

The GSU Student Senate is just one of many organizations within the university. We are here to assist you the student with meeting your academic goals. There are two representatives from each of the four colleges and Board of Governors.

There are also two student-large representatives, one Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee representative, and one Board of Trustee Student representative. Because we have such a diverse student population, we collectively work together to ensure that every student within the university has a voice.

Our mission is to promote the general welfare of all students enrolled here at GSU. You the students are what make GSU a unique institution of higher learning. You are encouraged to actively assist us in upholding our mission statement in several ways.

You can contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about the university. You can participate in any of the sponsored events. You can attend our meetings held on the second and fourth Friday of each month, at 4 p.m. in the student Commons (2140), or you can inquire as to how you can become a member. In addition, students are needed to serve on university committees such as budget, registration, campus physical resources, policy monitoring, and retention.

Many times we are also asked to recommend students to serve on search committees. The Senate members are here to assist you; so go on and give us a call or stop by for a visit. We are located on the second floor of the A wing, room 2104 or call us at 708.534.7056. Better yet just ask a senator. They're the ones wearing the badges. They may be sitting next to you in class, the caffeine, the computer lab, or even the library. Just say hello.

Again, we welcome you and look forward to working with you throughout the year. Have a great trimester.

Linda Williams
Governors State University
Student Senate President

Career services can help you get your job

The Office of Career Services holds the following workshops in Room B1215:

How to conduct a job search at 5:50 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1.

How to use my skills at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2.

How to write resumes at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12.

How to construct a career toolbox from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday Nov. 20. Continental breakfast is served at 9 a.m.

How to interview at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, and 5 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

How to search for jobs in the U.S. (for international students) at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.

How to work the Career Fair at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct 18, and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

An all majors Career Fair occurs from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 20 in the Gymnasium.

GSU Writing Center can help you be a better writer

The Writing Center at Governors State provides assistance to undergraduates, Graduate student, transfer, student with one-on-one tutoring sessions, group tutorials, workshops, and through their online writing lab, the GROWL. The staff of the Writing Center, located in room B1215, can help you understand the writing process, compose and document research papers, prepare for essay exams, and provide revision suggestions for early drafts of papers. For an appointment with a tutor or information about workshops, call (708) 534-4508. You can visit the GROWL at www.govst.edu/owl to submit a copy of your paper for revision suggestions or to find a treasure trove of writing.
A round-up of leisurely activities around campus

Thursday Sept. 2
Fall trimester begins

Make the most of Student Life! Join a club, make a difference, be a part of what’s happening! Join us for Welcome Week activities from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Caricature artist Bruce Carluccio creates fun portraits from 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday Sept. 3
Welcome Week activities continue from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Hall of Governors

MONDAY SEPT. 6
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Tuesday Sept. 7
Welcome Week activities continue from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Enjoy jazz guitarist Charles Dubose and singer Rosa Harris from 4 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 7
 thru Thursday Sept. 16
The works of graduate sculptor Larry Moody will be on display in the University Art Gallery (E1565). A reception is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday Sept. 8
Welcome Week activities continue from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Enjoy guitar-vocalist Phyllis Marconi from 5 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday Sept. 15
Dimadoci Nikos, of Athens, Greece is featured at 4:30 p.m. in the E-Lounge to discuss “European Union and Agriculture: Local Practice and Regional Implications.” This is a presentation of the Distinguished Lecture Series of the College of Arts and Sciences. Celebrate Latino Heritage Month with Brazilian dance and martial arts. “Capoeira” appears from 4 to 6 p.m.

Hall of Governors.

Saturday Sept. 18
Stormy Day Productions brings legendary pop music star Tony Orlando to 8 p.m. at The Center for Performing Arts. Reminisce with his signature classics like “A一事 Yellow Ribbon” and “Knock Three Times.” Tickets are $46 - $65. Call (708) 235-2222.

Wednesday Sept. 22
The Coffeehouse returns as the home of open mic. Enjoy Hispanic Heritage month 5 to 9 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Drink in the rich culture while sipping a complimentary gourmet brew.

Thursday Sept. 27
The film “In the Time of the Butterflies” will be shown at noon and 3 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. The film tells the true story of the courageous Mirabal sisters who challenged the ruthless dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo who ruled the Dominican Republic from 1930 to 1961. The women were murdered in 1960, but their commitment to economic justice motivated thousands of citizens to overthrow Trujillo’s regime. Salma Hayek and Edward James O’Neal star. Free popcorn, too!

Wednesday Sept. 29
The film “City of God” will be shown at noon and 3 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. The critically acclaimed Brazilian pic, based on true events, eloquently and sometimes excruciatingly, depicts the harsh realities of life in the drug- and gang-infested slums of Rio de Janeiro. (Rated R) Free popcorn.

Friday & Saturday Oct. 1 & 2
CATS! The National Broadway touring production of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Cats” wows audiences on Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m. at The Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are $42 - $61. Tickets for a post-show opening night party are also available at $50. Call (708) 235-2222. [Note: The Center's box office reports this is an expected "sell-out" run, so get your tickets fast!]

Tuesday Oct. 5
 thru Thursday Oct. 21
Paintings and drawings by visiting Latino artists will be on display in the University Art Gallery (E1565). A reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Thursday Oct. 7
The film “Real Women Have Curves” will be shown at noon and 3 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. This highly-acclaimed comedy-drama is the coming-of-age story of a bright, first generation Mexican-American teen struggling to define her identity in the colorful and challenging world of East Los Angeles. Humorous, yet deeply insightful, “Real Women” is an authentic celebration of feminine empowerment. One critic says, “This film undoubtedly breaks many stereotypes of Hispanics,” start America Ferrera, Lupe Ontiveros, and George Lopez. And hey -- we have some free popcorn!

Monday Oct. 11
Indulge your lips as well as your hips at the Latino Heritage fiesta continues! Enjoy tamales, and salsa dance lessons from noon to 2 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. Proceeds from tamale sales benefit the youth educational program, “Project HOPE” (Hispanic Opportunity Program Enhancement).

Thursday Oct. 14
Lose yourself to Latino vibes as AfroCaribe ensemble performs their unique blend of music styles at 7 p.m. in Sherman Music Recital Hall.

Saturday Oct. 16
Legendary folk artist Joan Baez, with special guest folk singer David Mead, perform at The Center for Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Tickets are $43 - $52. Call (708) 235-2222.

Friday Oct. 22
Get the kids ready for bed, bundle ‘em up, load ‘em in the car, and head for the Family Development Center to enjoy P.J. Reading Night from 6 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday Oct. 26
 thru Thursday Nov. 4
Photographs and digital imagery by graduate student Yvonne Yowman will be on display in the University Art Gallery (E1565). An opening reception will be on Wednesday Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday Oct. 26
 thru Thursday Oct. 28
Visit the Hall of Governors and place your bid on great offerings in the Cancer Awareness Silent Auction. Proceeds go to the Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center in Homewood. For info or to make donations call Vanessa Newby at (708) 534-4351.

Thursday Oct. 28
Families can have a frightfully good time at the 3rd Annual Haunted Hayride and Harvest Fest, sponsored by the Student Senate. Come in costume, bob for apples, and enjoy the music.

Tuesday Nov. 9
 thru Thursday Nov. 18
View the photographs and digital imagery of graduate student Kandeia Mattheyassack on display in the University Art Gallery (E1565). A reception will be held Wednesday, Nov. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday Nov. 13
Barrage performs “Vagabond Tales” at 8 p.m. at The Center for Performing Arts. Seven high-energy violinists/vocalists explore the whimsical world of the vagabond with unique choreography, colorful staging, and stunning musical arrangements. Tickets $33 - $44 Call (708) 235-2222.

Saturday Nov. 20
Contemporary pianist Jim Brickman keys romantic rhapsodies at 8 p.m. at The Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $35 - $44. Call (708) 235-2222.

Tuesday Nov. 23
 thru Thursday Dec. 2
Paintings and drawings by seniors Jason Stenhouse and Anna Becker are on display in the University Art Gallery (E1565). A reception will be held on Wednesday Nov. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY NOV. 28 & FRIDAY NOV. 26
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Wednesday Dec. 1
 thru Thursday Dec. 2
A Salute to Graduates is happening from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex, Hall of Governors, and Engbretson Hall. January grads can arrange for graduation garb, photos, class rings, and the like, in one fell swoop.

Saturday Dec. 4
Kick off the joyous season with legendary pianist Roger Williams in this special holiday concert. You’ll also enjoy his signature classics like “Born Free,” “Lark’s Theme,” and “Autumn Leaves” at 7 p.m. at The Center for the Performing Arts. The Marmion High School Varsity Choir joins the bill. Tickets are $54 - $52. Call (708) 235-2222.

Saturday Dec. 11
Salt Creek Ballet returns with two performances of GU’s perennial favorite, The Nutcracker, at 5 p.m. at The Center for Performing Arts. Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky’s score live. Tickets are $20 - $34. And the little ones might also enjoy the Sugar Plum Party, where they can meet the dancers, take a picture with Santa, and taste luscious holiday sweets and treats (S9). Call (708) 235-2222.

Tuesday Dec. 7
 thru Thursday Dec. 16
An auction of graduate art will be held in the University Art Gallery (E1565). An opening reception will be held on Wednesday Dec. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Monday Dec. 20
Fall trimester ends

FRIDAY DEC. 21
 thru SUNDAY JAN. 2
UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Monday Jan. 10
Winter Trimester begins
John Payne, GSU noted artist in residence, dies at 74

John Payne, sculptor in residence at GSU beginning in 1972, and coordinator of the Visual Arts program, died Aug. 21 from complications of Alzheimer's disease and bone cancer. He was 74.

Payne was the curator and director of the initial exhibition which ultimately became the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

Payne, who taught at GSU until his retirement in 2002, was known as "a dedicated professor of sculpture who really promoted the arts," according to Dean Roger K. Oden, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"People need art, just like they need the sun. Without art, the world would be an ugly gray place," said Payne.

John Payne served as the director of the monumental sculpture exhibition on GSU's campus since it's inception in 1976. The original exhibit, entitled "The Sculptor, The Campus, and The Prairie," held in August that same year, featured sculptures by some of the nation's most exciting artists. Appropriate to the time, these sculptures were created from materials basic to the technological/industrial society and assembled with welding torch, shearing saw, and crane. Engbretson said they expressed a "thoroughly contemporary, exuberant, in-admitable, even defiant human spirit." The director of the exhibition was John Payne, GSU's sculptor-in-residence.

Prairie State College offers low cost dental services

Prairie State College's Dental Hygiene Department offers low-cost services to community clients. For a $35 fee, clients get a full set of X-rays and impressions taken of their mouths, a consultation with the periodontist on staff, as well as a thorough cleaning by dental hygienists. The program is intended to enhance students' clinical learning experience, while contributing to the community by providing low-cost services.

Clients again are being sought to participate in PSC's annual Periodontal Clinic. Those interested in finding out if they have gum disease or think they might have gum disease can call the clinic at (708) 709-3707 for a screening appointment.

Services are available every Monday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for six weeks beginning Sept. 22. Appointments are required, and will be at the PSC Dental Hygiene Clinic at 202 S. Halsted St., Chicago Heights.

GSU offers fitness

The recreation and fitness center maintains an indoor heated swimming pool, a cardiovascular and resistance training room, a gymnasium, and racquetball court.

These facilities are open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m. during the Fall and Winter trimesters.

Children of current members of the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center may be enrolled for the Family Time Program for a minimal fee. Family Time hours are Wednesday and Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m.