1975

Dedication of Governors State University: Sunday, April 20, 1975

Governors State University

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The Dedication of Γ Governors State University
Sunday, April 20, 1975
State of Illinois Board of Higher Education

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Rebecca Keller, Governors State University
David Mahoney, Western Illinois University
William Washington, Chicago State University
Paul Zeitler, Northeastern Illinois University
For more than a year this huge, general purpose building, first permanent structure at Governors State University, has been serving educational needs of students in the South Chicago metropolitan and suburban areas. The building's provision for flexible arrangements, the "openness" of its classrooms and offices, are as innovative and inspiring as its modules of instruction.

The interest in and success of the faculty's non-traditional approach to teaching is indicated by the student body, which has more than quadrupled since students were assembled in temporary housing in September 1971. We are further impressed to learn that the students' average age is thirty years, that eighty-five percent have jobs and that evening enrollments exceed those for daytime classes—all evidence of the students' sincerity.

We believe that this university, dedicated to new modes of instruction in business and public service, cultural studies, environmental and applied sciences, human learning and development, and community services, is not only filling a current need but also molding our future leaders.

Therefore I, Dan Walker, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim April 20–26, 1975, Education/Living/Learning Week. The week will begin with dedication of Governors State University, following which numerous events of community interest are planned for the university.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed. Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this twentieth day of March, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and fifty-seventh.
Invited Podium Guests

Dr. Benjamin Alexander, President, Chicago State University
Miss Felicitas Berlanga, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Dr. Daniel Bernd, Chairman, Governors State University Assembly
Mr. Dominick J. Buffalino, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. James J. Cicero, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. James Covington, Student Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. Curtis Crawford, President, Governors State University Alumni Association
Mr. Leon Davis, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Honorable Edward J. Derwinski, United States Congressman, District 4
Dr. James Furman, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Mr. William G. Karnes, Honorary Chairman, Governors State University Foundation
Honorable Otto Kerner, Former Governor, State of Illinois
Mr. Jeffrey R. Ladd, Chairman, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. Peter Lardner, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. David Mahoney, Student Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Dr. Leslie F. Malpass, President, Western Illinois University
Mr. Lewis Manilow, Contributor to the founding of Governors State University
Mr. Melvin Muchnick, Chairman, Governors State University Dedication Committee
Dr. James H. Mullen, President, Northeastern Illinois University
Miss Corliss Muse, Chairperson, Governors State University Student Services Advisory Committee
Honorable George M. O'Brien, United States Representative, State of Illinois, District 17
Honorable Cecil A. Partee, Senate Majority Leader, Illinois General Assembly
Mr. James Patterson, Chairman, Governors State University Citizens Committee
Honorable Charles H. Percy, United States Senator, State of Illinois
Mr. Howard V. Phalin, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Honorable William A. Redmond, Speaker of the House, Illinois General Assembly
Mrs. Warren Relph, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Honorable Martin A. Russo, United States Congressman, District 3
Dr. Jerome M. Sachs, Acting Executive Officer, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Dr. Martin Shaefer, Vice President, Development and Staffing, Eastern Illinois University,

Representing Dr. Gilbert Fite, President, Eastern Illinois University
Honorable Samuel H. Shapiro, Former Governor, State of Illinois
Mr. R. A. Stipes, Former Chairman, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson III, United States Senator, State of Illinois
Honorable William G. Stratton, Former Governor, State of Illinois
Honorable Dan Walker, Governor, State of Illinois
Mr. William Washington, Student Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. E. Leland Webber, Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Mr. Paul Zeitler, Student Member, Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities
Program
Dedication Day
Sunday, April 20, 1975

Processional
Governors State University Chorale
Directed by Daniel Youngdahl
Psalm no. 150 from *Symphony of Psalms* . . . Igor Stravinsky

Welcome
William E. Engbretson
President, Governors State University

GSU Music Experience
Directed by Warrick Carter
*Inn and Oot* . . . Henry Threadgill, Graduate Student, College of Cultural Studies
*The Way We Were* . . . Arranged by Paul Smith
*Convulsion* . . . Frank Gordon

Education/Living/Learning: A Multi-Media Presentation
Directed by Ralph A. Kruse and Richard Burd, Instructional Communications Center

Introduction of Governors of Illinois
William E. Engbretson

Dedication Address
Honorable Dan Walker
Governor, State of Illinois

Concluding Remarks
William E. Engbretson

Recessional
GSU Music Experience
Directed by Warrick Carter
Brass Quartet

Reception — Hall of Governors
A
Message from the President

An institution is the embodiment of an idea. In order to survive it must fulfill two conditions: It must be sufficiently stable to sustain the idea which gave it birth and sufficiently responsive to remain relevant to the society which supports it.

Sir Eric Ashby

Welcome to Governors State University. Thank you for sharing the beginning realization of a dream on this joyous dedication occasion.

Governors State University was molded out of the crucible of societal and higher education strains and stresses of the 1960s. As a new model which the State of Illinois Board of Higher Education charged to be different and changing, the University has committed itself to four basic action objectives. The ways in which those objectives are approached vary for individuals, instructional programs, and all aspects of the GSU system. As is always true with universities aspiring to greatness our major continuing challenge is to quest, to search, to inquire. We try to work with our students and communities in such ways as to enable all of us to ask and seek the answers to increasingly intelligent questions. The University is then an arena for discussion and we pride ourselves on continuing and constant efforts to encourage reasoned dissent, to search for new facts and alternative solutions to the most pressing problems facing human beings and our environment.

We welcome you again to Governors State University. We think it is the brightest little gem in the crown of higher education in Illinois. We are grateful to you for sharing this day with us and hope that you will return frequently to partake of what we have to offer, to teach us how to improve, and to assist us in achieving our goals. We pledge to continue striving to make this developing university one that will ultimately be viewed not only as distinctive but as truly great. We recommit ourselves on this occasion to service to the people of the State of Illinois who planned and built this institution and who will profit from its existence for future decades and perhaps even centuries.

William E. Engstrom, President
Chrysalis

the flighting of a vision
come
in clean and spare-shaped dream
molded to these prairies
cupped beneath
a sprawling canopy of skies.
To hold tomorrow’s
now
to seed—great burst
the fruitfulness of hopes
engendering a myriad
of wings
a sea of singing fields
and the human spirit joyous-reaching,
reaching for the sun.

Joan Barchard Lewis
Governors State University is the realization of a dream conceived ten years ago by far-sighted educators and planners concerned with the future of higher education.

The burgeoning community college system of this state has produced growing numbers of students seeking higher education that is non-traditional, future-oriented, and relevant to career goals and individual life styles. Governors State University is the culmination of that search.

History

In 1966, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, in a report on New Senior Institutions, produced two Master Plans which suggested the creation of new educational institutions in Illinois. A 1967 appropriation from the 75th General Assembly provided $3 million for the BHE to plan and acquire sites. In 1968, a Committee for New Senior Institutions recommended locations in Springfield and south metropolitan Chicago.

The Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities was assigned the governance of the new university to be established in Park Forest South, Illinois. Within a few months, the Board of Governors hired site architects Johnson, Johnson and Roy, who moved immediately to select a site for the new university. Dr. William E. Engbretson, a progressive educator from Temple University, was appointed president; he assumed leadership and the new university began taking shape. The name “Governors State University” was chosen to honor the highest elected officials of the Prairie State—from Shadrach Bond, the first, through the present, Daniel Walker, and all future governors.

The Illinois legislature chartered Governors State University, and on July 17, 1969, Governor Richard B. Ogilvie signed the founding bills. And so, Governors State University—a dream whose time had come: a capstone upper-division university to answer the ever increasing needs of students and society at large.
From One Room

One room over a drugstore in the Park Forest Plaza served as temporary headquarters as planning and development were stepped up by President Engbretson and the Board of Governors. In addition to the site consultants, many other educational and planning consultants were engaged. Evans and Associates and Caudill, Rowlett and Scott, two architectural firms, worked as a team. An agreement was made with McKee, Berger, and Mansueto for program management and estimating. Concurrently, the Board of Governors officially requested the Illinois Building Authority to build and authorize leasing to Governors State University. Others who participated in planning and development were:

C. P. Boner, Associates, acoustical consultants
Brown, Davis, Mullins, Incorporated, Phase I site and structure engineering design
Davis, MacConnell, Ralston, educational planners
Norman DeHaan Associates, interior consultants
Robert B. Downs, library consulting team
A. Epstein and Sons, interim campus engineering design
Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, transportation
Instructional Dynamics, Incorporated, educational technological media
William Lam Associates, lighting designer
R. Morse, soils consultant
Park Forest South Developers
Park Forest South Utilities Company, sewer and water systems design
Joseph A. Schudt and Associates, aerial survey and contour maps
State of Illinois, Department of Transportation
Jeffrey Swoger, graphic design
M. Dean Worth, structural engineer

Education Testing Service, educational planners, conducted a national survey in which over 1,200 people of varied backgrounds ranked priorities for the new, senior division university.

To A Mini Campus

Two years ahead of schedule—September 13, 1971, Governors State opened its doors to 578 junior, senior, and masters level students. After having lived in the Plaza offices, three farmhouses, a paint store and the planning building on site, Governors State University's first home was a factory in the research-industrial park just off Governors Highway. The new university was fondly referred to as “the warehouse in the cornfields.”

To Phase I

Construction proceeded on the 753 acre permanent campus as operations at the interim campus mushroomed. Enrollment reached 1,200 in 1972. Unfinished Phase I of the permanent campus was occupied in January, 1974, accommodating an enrollment that had tripled in less than three years.

After a few months in the $17.1 million “educational street” with its connected nodes, there were 2,300 Governors State University students. Dedication Day finds Governors State University with an enrollment in excess of 3,000.

Mission and Objectives

As a commuter university, Governors State University draws from the south Chicago, Joliet, Kankakee metropolitan complex. Admission is open. All are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Our mission is to be academically excellent, economically efficient, service-minded, open, humane, and future-oriented. Special emphasis is placed on the educational needs of low and middle income and minority students.
Governors State is planned to serve 10,000 to 13,000 students, with no more than 1,500 in any of its colleges. There are now four colleges: Business and Public Service, Cultural Studies, Human Learning and Development, and Environmental and Applied Sciences. As the university grows, additional colleges may be created. It is hoped that plans for Phase II, a continuation of the structural design used in Phase I, will soon be authorized again.

Four action objectives guide the planning and development of the instructional, research, and community programs. They are job efficiency, functional citizenship, intra and interpersonal relationships, and cultural expansion. Students, staff and community share learning, teaching, and decision-making experiences in a unique environment that engenders self-direction and flexibility. Trying new approaches to learning encourages freedom and responsibility to explore ideas, human relationships and communities. Growth in intellect, personality, and awareness of the real world is stressed.

**Academic Programs**
Governors State awards the Bachelor of Arts degrees in all four colleges. They are:

**College of Business and Public Service** Business Administration, Business Education (Office Administration and Urban Business Teacher Education), and Public Service.

**College of Cultural Studies** Ethnic Studies, Invention and Creativity, Language and the Human Condition, Popular Culture, and Socio-Cultural Processes.

**College of Environmental and Applied Sciences** Health Science, Science, and Science Teaching.

**College of Human Learning and Development** Behavioral Studies, Human Services, Human Relations Services, Urban Teacher Education, and Communication Science.

All four colleges offer individualized study programs to fit each student’s needs. Programs may be interdisciplinary within the colleges, or intercollegial, crossing college lines.

Also offered is the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts Degree Program, enabling mature adults to study for an undergraduate degree. Admission and graduation requirements are flexible and individually applied, based on life and work experiences and career goals.

**A New Role for the Professional**
The faculty is a highly competent and strongly motivated group of educators, accessible to all students and firmly committed to the community. Over 60 percent hold doctorates, and all bring talent, scholarship and experience to Governors State University. Governors State University has defined a new role for professionals in higher education. Faculty members coordinate “learning modules” rather than teach courses. Media, discussion groups, community research projects, independent study, on-the-job experience, or a combination of these methods are used.

Self-instructional modules are also offered. These “SIMs” are sets of learning experiences carefully designed to attain clearly stated competencies. Thus, under the guidance of a coordinator, students may learn at their own pace. The faculty is also pledged to the success of competency-based education. There are no grades at Governors State University; instead, achievement of performance objectives is measured in specific competencies gained in learning modules.

The university operates year-round in six eight-week sessions. Students may enroll in all six sessions, or drop out for a session or two if necessary, to resume their studies later without losing continuity.
Community Services
The Governors State University Community Services Program functions in a variety of ways to fulfill our commitment to community: development of a management and communications network, stimulation and coordination of service activities, the defining of needs and evaluation of services. The unit will serve as a major liaison between the university and its external constituencies. To date the university has engaged in over 600 separate community service projects.

Research and Innovation
An innovating and experimenting institution needs constant feedback and evaluation of its efforts to instruct. This task is the major responsibility of the Research and Innovation Wing of Governors State. On the one hand, it evaluates and monitors; on the other, it functions as a change agent, constantly suggesting new directions and refinements of current methods and concepts. Research and Innovation administers two major university support services: the Instructional Communications Center and the Learning Resources Center.

Instructional Communications Center coordinates instructional development with media-related production equipment and personnel. The most modern communications media available—film, television, audio, microforms, and computers—are an essential part of the learning design at Governors State University.

Learning Resources Center is a library facility of widely varying media which satisfies the informational needs of students, staff, and community.

University Assembly
The university has developed an elaborate unicameral governance system to ensure full participation of the entire university community in formulating policies. Students and faculty are equally represented on the thirty-three member University Assembly, which also includes representatives of support and civil service staffs and community representatives.

Accreditation
Governors State University applied for and achieved correspondent status with the North Central Accrediting Association in July, 1970. Candidate status was conferred in March, 1973. A self-study was submitted in May, 1974, and accepted, followed by the visit of an accreditation team of educators in December, 1974. Accreditation was their unanimous recommendation. The North Central Association granted full accreditation April 9, 1975.

The Challenge Accepted
Governors State University vibrates with the excitement of a challenge eagerly accepted. Charged by the state of Illinois to be a model and experimenting institution, both physical and organizational structures at the university have been deliberately created with a high degree of flexibility. The learning environment created at Governors State University strives to reflect a deep and abiding concern for unique human beings and their relationships in the most technologically complex society that man has yet evolved.
Patrons

Amoco Foundation
Mr. George Arquilla
Bank of Park Forest
Borg-Warner Corporation, Ingersall Division
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Heritage/Pullman Bank
Holiday Inn, Harvey
Illinois Central Gulf
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Mr. James Lund
Northern Illinois Gas
Skyline Movers
Mr. Richard Small
Student Services Advisory Committee
Tivoli I and II
In History class, as children, we struggled
To memorize the list of Presidents; and even then
We forgot, misplaced, unremembered five or ten —
Those vague, uncertain people before and after Lincoln.

Not so with Governors. Not even lists were made,
Nor children forced to rote. One served a term,
Held power for an era, then vanished, unrecorded,
Except for obscure tablets, self-erected, which
Proclaimed that this bridge or building was begun
In the reign of Governor A, and the stewardship
Of the Board of Supervisors or Regents or Commissioners B and C,
Designed by Architect D, built by Contractor E,
In the Year of Our Lord, FG.

No tests ever asked, or textbooks ever coached:
"Name five nineteenth-century Governors of Illinois,
Or Alabama, or Vermont, Kentuck, Virginia, Tennessee, and
Tell what they did for their people."

At one time, here on the prairie, the name of John P. Altgeld
Stirred the blood of millions. "John who?" the
Student says today. Soon, Adlai too will be unremembered.

Or compressed, in history books, to a cartoon, a phrase,
A pun, a picture of a worn shoe. After a while,
Silence conceals, equally, shame or glory,
Lives of dedication or corruption.

If, with awe, we marvel at the pyramids of Egypt,
Or the Great Wall of China, each built stone by stone,
By countless unknown hands, over centuries of time,
Then, too, should we marvel at this fragile
Butterfly-thing, Democracy: constructed by the
Rough hands of Selectmen, Mayors, and Governors,
Boards and Commissions, Committees —
Citizens all of this great ideal,
This first sustained cry of humanity to say:
We are free, we can rule ourselves.
Free to make our own errors;
Free to elect and reject;
Free to remember and free to forget.
No prince or dictator, no czar or king
Needed here: only countless committees,
Commissions, Boards and Councilmen,
Aldermen, Mayors, and Governors.

Duke Rank
## Dedication Committee

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Shirley Brussell  
John Canning  
Warrick L. Carter  
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## Original Citizens Committee

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