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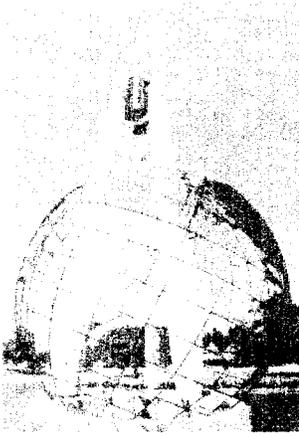
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GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

July 14 – 18, 2003

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

“When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not hereditary”

Thomas Paine

“When Will it Ever End...” I

Like the issues in the old Bob Dylan song, the fight over appropriations for higher education continues on. At a recent meeting, some on the Illinois Board of Higher Education called for the public universities to pledge to reduce administrative costs by 25 percent from FY02 levels, although there is no public indication that either the Governor or the Office of Management and Budget has requested such a reduction. Estimates are that the public universities have already reduced administrative costs by 12 to 15 percent. GSU has cut its administrative expenses by 18 percent. The universities have said that additional cuts beyond those mandated could negatively impact students, extend the time it takes to earn a degree, and increase risks to public safety and security. The public universities will submit a formal response to IBHE in August.

“When Will it Ever End...” II

“The issue for public higher education in the next legislative session will be who controls a public university’s income fund (tuition and fees) – the university or the state,” said President Stuart Fagan. “We’ve already begun an information program to tell legislators about this issue and why it’s in the best interests of students to continue to let the universities have discretion in how those funds are used.”

Instructional Software Needs for Fall Trimester 2003

The Fall Trimester is less than a month away, and ITS would like to begin installing instructional software in the ACS Lab. Please submit a software installation request form for products you will need in the lab during fall. The request form is available at www.govst.edu/its/technical/software-request.html. A list of software currently available in the lab is at www.govst.edu/its/support/acs/labs.html. Please call the GSU Help Line at Ext. 4357 if you have questions.

Film Series, History Project in Development

The Intellectual Life Subcommittee of the Graduate Council has currently undertaken two projects. Both are in development. The first, a film series, is being spearheaded by subcommittee member Dr. Todd Rohman. The series will feature not only provocative and interesting film selections, but will integrate scholarly and even multidisciplinary discussion into the viewing of the films. Think Hitchcock from a psychologist’s perspective or *A Clockwork Orange* from the postmodernist’s, and you get the idea. The second project is really the absorption of a project previously begun between the University Library and Public Affairs, loosely called the Library/Public Affairs History Project. Now named “The GSU Memory Project,” the project is being developed by Interim Library Director Diane Dates-Casey and Manager of Public Affairs Mike Hopkins. The GSU Memory Project will be about literally capturing the living memories of GSU – on video. Dates-Casey and Hopkins hope to

enlist the participation of GSU faculty, staff, and alumni to bring the project to life. “There’s a history and a philosophy behind this institution that is absolutely worth recording, hearing, and keeping,” Hopkins said.

Take a Gander: No Geese

The piles of poo, the beaked bullies, the hissing histrionics – they’re gone. Yes, GSU’s geese have flown the coop. Gone are the legions of belligerent fowl, leaving us with calm and shoe-friendly campus grounds. But why? What happened? “There are a number of possibilities,” said Jo Shaw, GSU’s landscape gardener. According to Shaw, an emerging hedge effect around the pond – the result of a continuing effort to restore native prairie plant life on campus – may be interfering with the birds’ sense of security. “They don’t like to be closed in. They want to be able to see predators.” Said predators are also seeing a rise in population. More coyotes, foxes, and raccoons are about this year and regularly raid whatever geese nests they can find. “We’ve had a very wet season, too” Shaw said. “Geese have more choices this year about where to go. In drier years, GSU is the only place available. Now there are wet and friendlier places for them to choose from.” Conversely, egret, great blue heron, and other bird populations have been significantly larger than usual.

ScholarShip Sails On: English

Professor of English and Rhetoric Deborah Holdstein has co-authored *Rhetorical Choices*, a new textbook for 1st and 2nd semester composition students, with Keith Gilyard of Pennsylvania State University and Charles I. Schuster of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. According to Holdstein, the new rhetoric is a modes-based approach to composition that requires critical thinking be a substantive part of its writing assignments. The book is published by Longman and will be available in November.

Of Revolutions and Anniversaries

This week begins and ends with anniversaries, each of which commemorates a revolution: July 14, 214 years ago, crowds roaming the streets of Paris turned their attention and ire to the medieval prison fortress Bastille, stormed it, and declared a new age of liberty, equality, and fraternity, thus inaugurating the French Revolution. Shortly thereafter, heads began filling up baskets beneath guillotines throughout France, and even revolutionary wordsmith Tom Paine barely escaped his date with “the national razor.” One hundred eighty years and three days later, another revolution, also inspired by thoughts of liberty, equality, and fraternity, took place. But this time instead of heads being fatally loosened from the neck, they were more securely fastened upon the shoulders, adhered there with new knowledge and education. That second revolution has been far more successful than the French one, and it continues as we celebrate, this week, the July 17 anniversary of the creation of Governors State, a university built upon the philosophy that accessibility to a college education should be, could be, and would be accessible to all men and women. The revolution continues – No Napoleons in sight. Governors State University July 17, 1969 – July 17, 2003: 34 years, 29,000 alumni, and growing.

Celebrating 20 Years – 14 Years Ago

July 17, 1989, Governors State University marked its 20th anniversary and waxed nostalgic. We share the following archived press release – provided courtesy of Professor Mel Muchnik – from June of 1989:

Date: 21 June 1989

For release: IMMEDIATE

UNIVERSITY PARK – On July 17, 1969, mankind was holding its collective breath anxiously waiting for Neil Armstrong to land on the moon.

“Funny Girl” and “Midnight Cowboy” were box-office successes.

The newly elected Nixon Administration said it was deferring work on housing and urban problems until it ended the Vietnam War and inflation.

The 1969 Volkswagen Beetle was a beauty at \$1,799.

And Illinois Gov. Richard Ogilvie came to a party in the south suburbs to sign legislation that created Governors State University.

The new university was the outgrowth of long-range planning by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) which recognized a need for commuter campuses.

Once the IBHE had organized a statewide junior college system in 1964, it began work on organizing a university network that would allow students to complete their college degrees without having to go away to school.

These commuter campuses would be senior-level institutions offering junior and senior level classes for a bachelor's degree as well as master's degree curriculums.

By 1967 the Illinois Board of Higher Education's planning wheels for these universities were set in motion, and a group of south suburban citizens began their lobbying efforts to have a new university located in their area.

Organized as the South Cook-North Will Counties Committee on Higher Education, the citizens lobby used statistics and demographics to present its case for the site in Monee Township near Governors Highway at Stuenkel Road.

But the lobbying group was up against strong competition from other areas in Chicagoland who also wanted a university.

"We were among the people the experts said didn't have a chance of getting (the university) where it is," recalled James Patterson, one of the organizers of the South Cook-North Will Counties Committee. "We presented persuasive facts of the number of junior colleges around there.

"There was no college within many miles. The nearest four-year degree-granting institution was the University of Chicago," he said. "And we could say we had no opposition to a new university. Even the clergy from Tolentine (Catholic Center in Olympia Fields) were our supporters."

By 1968, the Illinois Legislature had selected the name of Governors State University, plans were underway for purchase of the land and feasibility studies for the university's development were under way.

The university officially came into being July 17, 1969, at a dinner the South Cook-North Will Counties Committee on Higher Education organized at Olympia Fields Country Club. Before more than 300 guests Gov. Richard Ogilvie signed the bill creating GSU into law.

Just how does one create a university? You take the best minds, you get excellent faculty with new ideas and you develop a curriculum that allows for experimentation, flexibility and innovation.

Governors State University responded to all those needs. Opening just two years after the legislation was signed, GSU offered its students the opportunity to develop their own curriculum, set their own goals and objectives, and work at the best of their abilities without meeting grade requirements.

While much has changed since then, the university still prides itself on its innovative ideas, excellent faculty and diverse student population. GSU's more than 14,000 alumni have worked to improve not only the south suburban area, but communities across the U.S. and the world.

Today GSU offers its more than 5,000 students courses for 23 bachelor's degrees and 22 master's degrees on its commuter campus in University Park, at its satellite office in Orland Park Place and at a host of sites throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.
