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## Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

September 29 – October 3, 2003

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*"Where has all the time gone to?/ Haven't done half the things we  
Want to –/Oh, well –We'll catch up/Some other time."*

Betty Comden and Adolph Green

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### **Convocation: October 9, Sherman Music Recital Hall, 2:30 p.m. The Past is Prologue. Take a Look Back to See What's Ahead**

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#### **Setting About to Right Some Wrongs**

The College of Health Professions has received a grant of \$1,044,000 from the National Institute of Health to research and determine how to correct the disparities in the quality of health care delivered to various groups, including minority populations such as African-Americans and Latinos. Research CHP faculty have been conducting on the issue over the past few years was an important consideration in winning the grant, believed to be the first NIH grant the university has received. The project has three goals. First, build the capacity and infrastructure at GSU to sustain a program of interdisciplinary research to increase awareness of variables that cause health disparities and develop strategies to reduce or eliminate those disparities. Second, improve the cultural competence of health professionals and health professional students. Third, translate the research findings into community intervention strategies. Regional partners in the project include Aunt Martha's Youth Services Center and St. James Hospital and Health System. GSU faculty members and special project managers who will be working under the direction of CHP Dean Linda Samson include Beth Cada, Constance Edwards, Janet Engle, Phyllis Johnson, Robbie O'Shea, and Jay Shen. Colleges and programs other than CHP have also investigated this issue. Recent research by a graduate student in the Psychology Program, for example, has demonstrated that practitioners are more likely to diagnose minority children as impaired. "The media is becoming increasingly interested in the disparity in the delivery of health care," said Chuck Connolly, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, "but reporters are having trouble proving it. They're relying on anecdotal evidence. We're going to give them solid, empirical evidence. And as we do, we'll not only raise GSU's profile – if the press reports what we're doing – we'll advance our mission of service to the community."

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#### **Ducks in a Row**

Kelly McCarthy has been named Director of Student Development. Her vision for the department which plays a critical role in retention? A laser focus on services to students who are unlike traditional aged students. They are older, more pressed (they balance the demand of GSU and family while attending school), often more anxious because they are the first in their families to attend college, and more nervous than traditional aged students because it may have been years since they were in a classroom. "We're looking to expand our counseling services," McCarthy said. "One option we're looking at is to offer counseling internships to graduate students from local universities." McCarthy said she was also exploring new cost effective ways to expand tutorial services. The services Student Development provides include the writing center, disabilities services, tutoring, undeclared advising, testing, counseling, and on-line orientation and are at the heart of the university's efforts to improve retention rates.

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## Remodeled Computer Classroom in the ACS Lab

 Classroom D2433 in the ACS Lab has been updated with new equipment and furniture. To meet growing classroom needs, ITS replaced 22 outdated computers with 26 new Compaq Pentium IV computers and flat screen monitors. An instructor's computer podium and a ceiling mounted projector have been installed. New durable computer table surfaces and ergonomic chairs help to complete the room's makeover. The heating and air conditioning will be replaced soon.

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## GSU History Rescued from Moldy Depths

Okay, they weren't depths so much as shelves, and nary were found the specks of mold. But, yes, a very dramatic kind of rescue has occurred in the University Library (though, admittedly, there was very little in the way of actual rappelling involved). Newly rediscovered and retrieved: A comprehensive history of the first 10 years of Governors State University, authored by former GSU dean Ted Andrews.

This is actually a second rescue. Dr. Ed Cehelnik, division of science chairperson, first rescued the history from the oblivion promised by 1990's era third floor clean up. "The manuscript Ted wrote is a treasure, but it was going to be thrown out." Cehelnik would have none of it. He squirreled the manuscript down to the library. When Cehelnik heard about the GSU Memory Project a few months ago, he told Public Affairs about the Andrews manuscript. Initial searches for it came up empty. However, archivists' persistence paid off last Thursday, and Public Affairs was the first in years to get a look at this ten-year history.

Under the Library/Public Affairs collaboration on the GSU Memory Project, conservation and dissemination of the manuscript will become a top priority. Presently in typewritten manuscript form (dating to an age when typewriters were all the rage), the first task will be to create an electronic copy. The second task will be to make the electronically reconstructed version available to everyone.

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## Rescheduled

"Military and Higher Education: Making Partnerships Work," a NUTN audio conference announced in the August 25 – 29 *GSUniverse*, has been rescheduled from October 2nd to October 30th due to Hurricane Isabel.

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## Bargains at Borders

October 10 –12, at any Borders store, GSU employees will receive a 25 percent discount on books, DVDs, and CDs. Just show your GSU pay stub when you check out.

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## Convocation Faculty Speaker

Faculty Excellence Award Winner, Dr. Sondra Estep, College of Education, will represent GSU faculty at Convocation Thursday, October 9. The program in Sherman Music Recital Hall begins at 2:30 p.m.

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