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GSU nAverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

January 26 – 30, 2004

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

"Are you saying that I put an abnormal brain into a seven and a half foot long, 54 inch wide, gorilla? Is that what you're telling me?"

Gene Wilder, *Young Frankenstein*

Setting up Shop: Online Course Development Team

A new online course development team, funded through the strategic academic fee, has been formed at the behest of President Fagan and the Cabinet. Now situated under an administrative partnership between CELCS and the University Library, the team has located its new office in the University Library and should be ready to begin the critical work of online course development this week. Led by Gary Fisk, coordinator of instructional development, the new team includes Barbara Mandel and Jan Engle. Each has extensive experience in online course development and delivery.

Objectives: Online Course Development Team

According to Fisk, the team's objective is to help colleges and faculty create comprehensive and intuitive learning options online. "We have online courses and components now," said Fisk, who added that over 2,000 GSU students take part of their coursework online every term. "But the offerings tend to be a course here and a course there, while many students are looking for ways to complete a degree or a certificate online." The work of the team will be to facilitate GSU's digital evolution through partnership with faculty and the colleges, not only to create full program offerings that are online, but to make certain that GSU's foray into online learning begins with the highest standards and best practices in place.

First Year Projects: Online Course Development Team

The online course development team's first year priorities include the fine-tuning of current online content for the B.A. in Business and Applied Science and a four-course certificate program in addictions studies.

Strategic Academic Fee Funds ACS Computer Lab Upgrade Initiative

With funds generated through the strategic academic fee, ITS has upgraded the hardware and software in the ACS Computer Lab. The 142 PCs, which include two new iMacs, range from Pentium III 500MHZ to Pentium IV 2.5GHZ. All of the computers in the lab now run Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2003. SONY projectors are ceiling mounted in three classrooms; each one is connected to a PC in an instructor's podium. Additional projectors and podiums are on order for the remaining classrooms. Two classrooms have new 17" flat panel display monitors. CBPA computer lab equipment has been moved to D2434, and a CBPA computer hardware repair classroom has been established in D2436, formerly the Faculty Technology Lab. Servers and network switches were also upgraded to provide faster access to software applications. A current list of hardware and software in the ACS Lab is available online at www.govst.edu/its/support/acs/labs.html.

Strategic Academic Fee Funds HVAC in ACS Lab

Individual temperature control units have been installed in the main lab and computer classrooms. Ducts that will improve air circulation and provide year-round cooling have also been installed. This HVAC system renovation, funded by the strategic academic fee, provides continuous ventilation without increased energy usage for the lab complex. The friendlier environment has increased classroom usage significantly. Adalma Stevens, ITS director of support services, said, "Once the outdoor temperature begins to warm, the real benefit of this improvement will be realized."

Off to a Great Start: Transformations Film Series Up and Running

The first "Transformations" film series event was held January 22, in Engbretson. Dr. Todd Rohman presented the Spike Lee film *25th Hour*, and moderated a discussion afterward. Roughly 25 people from GSU and the community attended. Rohman, who also coordinates the series, said, "GSU is fortunate to be situated in a community with such an enthusiasm for the arts. There was a strong turn-out for the film and a lively discussion following. Students, staff, faculty and many members of the community shared their insights and perspectives on important contemporary issues raised by the film."

Real Scholars LOVE Subtitles...

The Transformations Film Series continues on Wednesday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Professor Beth Parin will present German filmmaker Tom Tykwer's *Run, Lola, Run*. "Beth has picked a great film," Rohman said. "It's visually arresting, and critically noted for its narrative style and editing. I really encourage everyone to come out and see it and participate in the discussion Beth will lead." [Parin's expertise in digital imaging and photography will tie into the post-film discussion.](#)

iMail Replaces WebMail for GSU Students and Alumni

ITS has switched more than 13,000 student and alumni e-mail accounts from WebMail to iMail. The move will increase security and defend against spamming and other abuses that originate outside the GSU community. iMail provides users with 10Mb of mailbox space, better anti-virus protection, and a new calendar function. Users can access iMail at mail.govst.edu. Login requires a CARS ID and PIN number. More information is available online at www.govst.edu/its/news/imap.html.

From the Archives (NOTE: Information that follows is accurate and current only in the event of willful or inadvertent time travel.)

From the January 22, 1973 issue of the *Faze1*, GSU's early newsletter: "BOG DEGREE APPROVED...by Illinois Board of Higher Education. This first for Ill. is a program designed primarily for mature adults making it possible to obtain a degree without long attendance at any one campus. Participating in the program are Chicago State, Eastern Illinois, Governors State, Northeastern Illinois and Western Illinois Universities. The program provides for the earning of credit for life and work experience, allowing graduation with only 15 of the total 120 semester credits required to have been taken at any one or combination of the five BOG universities...It is expected that many students accepted for this program will utilize non-traditional forms of learning...It will be necessary to have at least 40 semester credits at the jr.-sr. level, and at least 12 semester credits in each of the general areas of social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. The Board of Governors Degree Coordinator at GSU is DIXON BUSH."

“Quote of the Week: ‘Creativity is hindsight beforehand.’ BERT LAKEN, CHLD student”

■ **From the Archives** (*Note: poetic opinings and then-current facts expressed are 32 years old*)
From the January 17, 1972 issue of the *Faze1*, GSU's early newsletter: "GSU ECONOMIC IMPACT... The State of Illinois has spent over \$10 million in the south part of the Chicago area thanks to GSU. Bill Engbretson told the 200 gathered at a meeting of the South Suburban Industrial Conference in Olympia Fields Friday that some \$15 million a year will be spent in the area by the time the University moves into its permanent campus in the fall of 1973. More than money, the President pointed to the educational and social benefits GSU will provide to the area."

Also from the January 17, 1972 *Faze1*:

"GSU Litany and Fight Song
by Bill Katz

Let us psycho our linguistics
While we human our relations
And the services our public and our health.
Board of Higher Education lobby lovely legislation
And the Governor contribute to our wealth.

Chorus:

Innovation, liberation, interaction, rah!
Interpersonal ecology, communication blah!
Objectives humanistic, sing flexible, humane,
Interdisciplinary studies, inner city,
Who to blame.

Research and Innovation
Swing with Bus. Administration
All Cultural Studies rhetoric in your contexts.
Performance based criteria, fling open wide hysteria,
And MIS the LRC with ICC.

Hey, nonny, nonny!

Chorus:

Innovation, liberation, interaction, rah!
Interpersonal ecology, communication blah!
Objectives humanistic, sing flexible, humane,
Interdisciplinary studies, inner city,
All cry shame!"