

Governors State University
OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

@govst.edu

University Newsletters

12-2001

@govst.edu, 2001-12

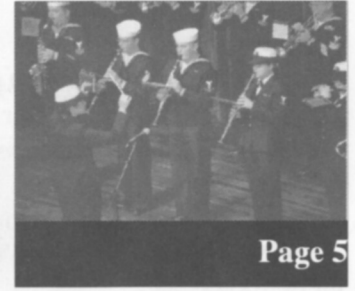
Office of Public Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/atgovstedu>

Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, @govst.edu (2001, December). <http://opus.govst.edu/atgovstedu/45>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in @govst.edu by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.



Governors State University Granted Candidacy for Master of Social Work Program

When the master of social work (MSW) program was designated a candidate for accreditation recently, it marked a significant victory for Governors State University and the administrators and faculty who worked hard throughout the year to bring about the successful status change.

Proud of the accomplishment, GSU officials quickly announced to the media, the public and other stakeholders that the Council on Social Work Education had approved the first step in the process leading to accreditation of the university's MSW program. The Council is the national

organization that accredits all undergraduate and graduate social work programs in the United States.

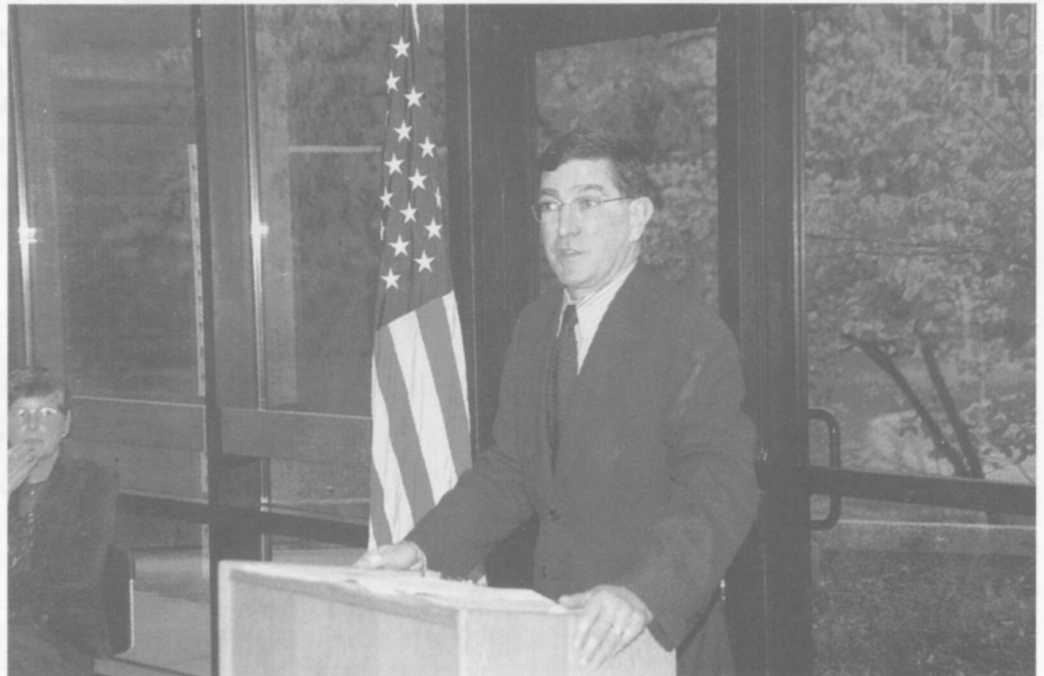
Stuart Fagan, president of Governors State, said, "The council granted us program candidacy status. In other words, they have given us the green light to proceed in the

(continued on page 2)

Governors
State
University

GSU ARCHIVES

December
2001
Volume IV
Issue 17



President Stuart Fagan talks at a recent gathering about his commitment to developing and maintaining academic programs that meet the highest standards of quality instruction and accountability. In approving the master of social work program for candidacy, the Council on Social Work Education congratulated the university on the quality of the program's faculty, curriculum, staff and administration.

M.S.W. Accreditation

(continued from page 1)

detailed and time-consuming process of securing accreditation for our MSW degree. They have put us on a fast track for full accreditation for the program. We can now be confident to admit students to the MSW program in the Fall semester of 2002."

Earlier this year, representatives of the council visited the campus to evaluate academic and administrative policies and procedures and to interview faculty, administration, students, and former students.

Based on that investigation, the council issued a report citing the quality and expertise of the faculty and their ability

and commitment to teaching "non-traditional" students. Their report also cited the strong support the program receives from the University's administration, as well as the availability of part-time classes for students who cannot leave their jobs to pursue advanced professional credentials.

Dr. Wanda Bracy, chair of the Division of Social Work, Addictions Studies and Health Administration at Governors State, said, "We are very pleased with the council's decision. We have worked hard to meet their criteria. Over the past months we strengthened our faculty by recruiting some people who have incredible experience in social work and teaching. We have redesigned the curriculum to meet accreditation standards. And now we can admit students to our program next Fall, which is a pre-condition for full accreditation."

Dr. Fagan added, "We are moving quickly to resolve the problems of previous students who graduated before the university secured accreditation for the MSW program. By getting the MSW program on a fast track to accreditation, along with the legislation signed by the governor earlier this year, we are keeping our promise to help our earlier graduates achieve their goals of successful long-term careers."



Dr. Wanda Bracy (far left), chair of the Division of Social Work, Addictions Studies and Health Administration at Governors State, meets with faculty in the social work division. As a pre-condition for accreditation, the division will begin admitting students to the program in Fall 2002.

@govst.edu will always report accomplishments that help GSU meet its mission statement. Look for these icons which will indicate stories that directly relate to GSU's four goals



Teaching



Service



Technology



Diversity



Governors State University

@govst.edu

December 2001

Public Affairs
Department

.edu Photographers

Dick Burd

Larry Lewis

Charles Connolly, Interim Executive
Director, Marketing & Communications
Connie Zonka, Director
Carolyn Dennis
Virginia Eysenbach
Brenda Montgomery

A Success Story: GSU's Admissions Open House

Governors State University recently hosted its Fall Open House to showcase the outstanding academic programs that GSU has to offer.

The Office of Admissions embarked on an ambitious marketing strategy during the initial stages of the planning process to ensure the maximum attendance of prospective students from GSU's partnering institutions. Included in the plan were targeted mailings and e-mail reminders to more than 10,000 potential students. Everyone who came received a calculator. The door prize was a Palm Pilot personal desk assistant.

A total of 273 prospective students registered for the event. Well over 400 people from area colleges attended. And, the day's activities began with inspiring opening remarks by Eric Martin, assistant provost/ director of the Center for Quality.

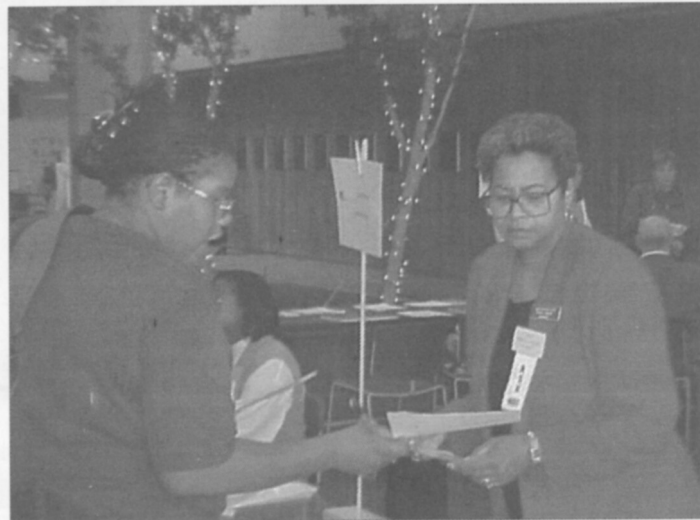
Steven O'Connor, the President of the GSU Student Senate, drew the winning name for the Palm Pilot. The winner was Sonia Swire, a business major at Prairie State College.

Prospective students attending the event took advantage of the opportunity to speak with academic advisors and student service providers. Representatives from GSU's student clubs and organizations were also present to talk with prospective students about campus life. Additionally, students toured the campus and were provided lunch.

The Office of Admissions expresses its gratitude to everyone who participated in the Fall Open House. The presence of GSU faculty, staff and students greatly contributed to the success of the event, and every facet of the university was well represented. Because of the full cooperation of the university community, GSU was able to demonstrate its quality learning environment and its commitment to excellence.



Sonia Swire, (center) a business major, at Prairie State College, won the coveted palm pilot personal computer in a raffle. She is shown with Larry Polselli (left), GSU's executive director for enrollment management and Patricia Carter (right), dean of Student Affairs and Services. The event attracted 273 potential students -- making it one of the university's most successful open houses.



Dora Smith (right), GSU's registrar, talks to a potential student at the Open House. Representatives from each of the university's academic and administrative areas were available to respond to questions and comment.

Lincoln Laureate awarded to Board of Governors student at GSU

Timothy J. Bowler has received the Lincoln Laureate award for outstanding academic achievement and community service. Bowler is a student in the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts program at Governors State University. He lives with his family in the Chicago community of West Lawn.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois, located in Springfield, established the student laureate award in 1975 to honor the tradition of the state and the heritage of former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. Each year, 52 students attending state colleges and universities receive the award.

Bowler was nominated by GSU faculty and staff for the prestigious award.

He studies hard to maintain an excellent grade point average, holds a full-time, demanding job, and spends as much time as possible with his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Elise.

Bowler is a well-known figure in his community. He is a mortician at the Modell Funeral Home, and, for 17 years, he has volunteered at a support group for recovering alcoholics. Bowler is also a member of the West Lawn Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Columbus.

For Bowler, obtaining an advanced degree is primarily about fulfillment.

"When I finish my bachelor's degree, I am considering a master's degree, possibly in addictions studies. The degrees are largely for my fulfillment and

sense of achievement. However, if the opportunity arises, I might consider something relating to addictions studies," he said.

Bowler said juggling the demands of family and work with school, was not as difficult as it could have been.

"I would recommend the Board of Governors degree for adult learners. It's made for those people who have a job, who have a family. It allows you to progress at your own pace and in a manner that is convenient. I've had courses over the Internet, on videotape and correspondence. Because of that, it has been easy getting to this point," he said.

News/Happenings

Touchtone telephone registration will be available during the Christmas break from 9 a.m. til 10 p.m. on December 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 31. Students can register from home or work. Telephones will not be available on campus and the registrar's office will not be open during this period. Call 708-235-8887 to register by telephone.

State Senator Debbie Halvorson and Paul Green, noted political commentator, delivered remarks at the Illinois Political Science Association Annual Research Conference held recently at Governors State University. Joining them as speakers were GSU President Stuart Fagan and IPSA President James Schubert.

The event featured workshops on Illinois politics, comparative and international politics, U.S. national politics, political theory and jurisprudence. Faculty, students and the general public also had an opportunity to discuss public policy and administration, the Y2K elections, and preparing future faculty.



President Fagan (left) congratulates Timothy J. Bowler (right) who was recently selected by Governor Ryan for a Lincoln Laureate student award. Bowler enrolled at GSU in 1997.

GSU Partnership Receives Funds for Regional Ecosystems Projects

The Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership at Governors State University has received more than \$250,000 in state grants to fund a number of ecosystems conservation projects in the south suburban region.

The partnership is composed of local conservationists and environmental groups, educators, state agency representatives, local government officials and concerned citizens. Over the past two years, the group has worked to develop a regional watershed plan to improve ecosystems in the south suburban region.

The projects that were recently funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) are outgrowths of the watershed plan.

Karen D'Arcy, coordinator of the partnership and a GSU professor of analytical chemistry said "We want to thank IDNR officials for their support. We are very excited to have received support for projects ranging from wetland restorations and land acquisitions to community outreach and education."

The Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership will meet on Monday, January 7 at 4:30 p.m. at Governors State University to discuss the next round of grant proposals to submit for funding consideration. The public is invited to attend.

The projects funded are:

--Thorn Grove Preserve Acquisition-Funds will be used to purchase a 10.5 acre parcel bordering the Thorn Creek Preserve.

--Central Park Wetland Restoration-Funds will be used to continue management and restoration of a 40-acre site and will allow for the movement toward interpretation, education and public enjoyment of the site.

--Survey of the Thorn Creek Watershed project will increase awareness and participation in the Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership.

--Thorn Creek Reserve: Fire, Restora-

tion, Education, and Recreation - Equipment will be purchased for long-term maintenance and restoration of the reserve.

--Small Site Water Stewardship Workshop project will promote the use of management techniques on small sites, both developed and redeveloping, in order to improve habitat and biodiversity,

retain storm water and encourage infiltration, and reduce the use of chemicals on landscapes.

--Visioning and Indicators - funds will be used to conduct workshops in the watershed in order to gain knowledge of the watersheds, the concerns for its residents, and the hidden assets of the communities.

A Grand Donation for a Worthy Cause



(Photo Credit: Jerome Lee, Illinois Times)

The "Aid to America" Concert sponsored by Governors State University and the Center for Performing Arts raised more than \$9,500 as a contribution to the Chicago Tribune Disaster Relief Fund. The show was beautiful and touched the more than 300 people who attended.

Singer Ron Hawking, whose Frank Sinatra revue has earned him national critical acclaim, and comic Allen Edge, who opens shows for soul music legends Aretha Franklin, Patti Labelle, and a list of artists volunteered their talent and time.

Edge, a resident of Steger, Ill., was the master of ceremonies while Hawking performed original songs inspired by the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The "Aid to America" benefit concert also featured performances by folk singer Anna Stange, the Great Lakes Naval Station Band, members of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, the Park Forest Singers, the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Band & Choir, and others.

December Employee of the Month



Pardon my stereotypes, but when I think about people who work with budgets, I conjure up images of accountants with long fallow faces, myopic vision and fingers permanently curved from using calculators.

Lynne Hostetter is the exact opposite. A cheerful woman, she is more likely to greet you with a joke or share with you the latest photos of her grandchildren.

In her official capacity as a budget analyst at GSU, Hostetter is talented and conscientious. Her efforts have been duly noted and rewarded. Being elected as employee of the month is an additional stamp of approval and appreciation.

One of the individuals who nominated Hostetter for the honor of employee of the month wrote in a nomination form that

“Lynne could be the poster child of how to be the best employee you can be. She is well-deserving of this honor.”

Charles Connolly Named Interim Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at Governors State University

Governors State University announced that it has named Charles Connolly interim executive director-Marketing and Communications. In this position, Connolly will be responsible for raising the profile of Governors State University, supporting enrollment programs, improving internal communications, and working with Brandon Senter, vice president for development, and the GSU Foundation to increase the level of university funding.

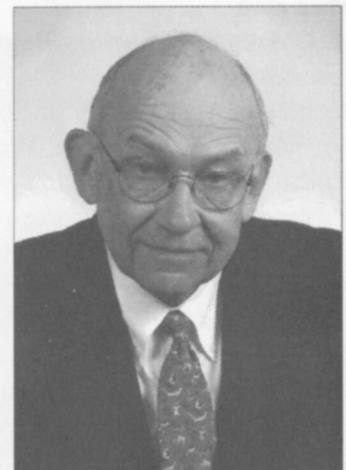
Connolly retired last year from Whitman Corporation (now PepsiAmericas), where he was senior vice president-Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations. Prior to that, he was with Chrysler Corporation, where he served as director of public affairs planning and research, and speechwriter to Lee Iacocca. He is also the author of *Air Pollution and Public Health*.

Stuart Fagan, president of Governors State University, said, “We are fortunate to have someone with Chuck’s credentials and experience join our team. Our

university is moving forward to meet some aggressive objectives for enrollment, fundraising for scholarships and the quality of our programs. A strong communications program is essential for our success.”

Connolly is a former trustee of South Suburban Hospital and St. Xavier University and the GSU Foundation. He currently serves on the boards of Roosevelt University and The Chicago Council of Urban Affairs.

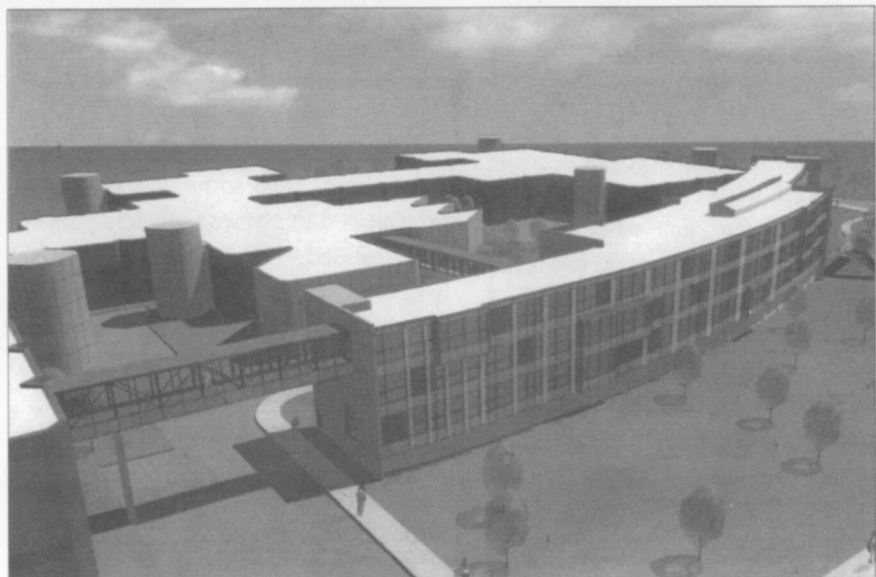
He resides in Homewood. One of his sons is a graduate of Governors State University.



SAVE THE DATE

**Investing in the Economy,
Investing in Education,
Investing in the Future
of the South Suburbs**

On Friday, December 14, 2001, the Governors State University community will break ground for its new Faculty Office Center. The event will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Sherman Music Recital Hall at GSU.



GSU Gets New Director of Student Life

It took three days for Lorraine Sibbet, accompanied by her dog, Mr. Bronson, to drive from Sweetwater, Texas, to Park Forest, Ill. At the end of the journey, Dr. Sibbet stepped into her new position as director of student life at Governors State University.

"The moment we got here, Mr. Bronson immediately noticed the climatic changes. He became more energetic," Dr. Sibbet said.

Dr. Sibbet, who now resides in Park Forest, started at GSU on September 4th. She was chosen by GSU officials from a crowded field of competitors who also responded to the national search. Her broad experience administering student programs in higher education placed her far ahead of her competitors.

Since coming to GSU's campus, Sibbet has earned high marks from GSU administrators, staff and students for her

ability to hit the ground running.

In just three months, she has restructured the student life division, created a new Student Media Communications Board, held student elections, and moderated two provost forums.

Currently, Dr. Sibbet is planning the university's Black History month celebration with the assistance of students and staff. She is also laying the groundwork for a student health fair.

"I want to improve student involvement in a wider, more diverse array of clubs, activities, and programs," she said.

Dr. Sibbet is the former dean of students at Texas State Technical College. She has also been vice president for student development at Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio, and vice president for student affairs and dean of students at D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y.



Sibbet's professional credentials also include her service as the associate dean of students at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., and associate director of university housing at the University of Pittsburgh.

She has a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from Allegheny College. From the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Sibbet earned a master's in counselor education and a Ph.D. in higher education and student personnel.

GSU Nursing Students Inducted Into Honor Society

The Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing at Governors State University recently inducted thirty-six undergraduate and graduate nursing students into its ranks. The induction ceremony took place at GSU in the Sherman Music Recital Hall.

The nationwide program recognizes students who demonstrate leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research to enhance the health of all people. The society boasts an active membership of 120,000 nurses from 90 different countries. The organization annually contributes more than \$650,000 to nursing research through grants, publication scholarships, and monetary awards.

The GSU chapter was chartered in 1989 and its first members were in-

ducted in 1990. Its membership is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and nursing community leaders. Qualifications for membership include a 3.0 grade point average for undergraduates or 3.5 grade point average for graduate students.

The recently inducted members of the honor society at GSU are:

Chicago -Samantha Clark, Yirgulem Rhetta, Mildred Barber, Ingar James, Diana Price, Michelle Ray, Pamela Peavy-Lewis, and Maria Preston
Burnham - Joan Ollie
Bourbonnais -Marcia Matters
Country Club Hills - Rhonda Sledge and Celestine Corrigan
Crete - Paula Franson
Dolton - Lorena Gilbert
Flossmoor - Catherine Tymkow, and Gina Minga

Frankfort - Donna Ellis
Harvey - Jacqueline Whitten
Hazel Crest - Arenia Walker, Lorcener Nelson, and Nicole Kent
Homewood - Qlu-yemisi Folaju
Lansing - Cynthia Panozzo, and Lori Whitney
Martinton - Charlotte Douglas
Maywood - Letitia Barnett,
Orland Park - Barbara Ehlers, Lynn Cahill, and Mary McKeivitt
Park Forest - Jennifer Dominow
Plainfield - Cheryl Block
Richton Park -Geneva Barnes, and Bertha Paul
South Holland - Nellie Smith
Steger - Joseph Newsome
Tinley Park - Mary Ann Kelley, and Annie Davies

Meet...Lorine S. Samuels

In 1985, Lorine Skulark Samuels, launched Strategic Business Services, a one-stop business consulting firm designed to address the start-up and expansion needs of government agencies, commercial and non-profit companies. Today, with a roster of 500 clients, that she has assisted through the years, Samuels has carved out an enviable niche for her Flossmoor based company.

Last October, Samuels was appointed by Governor Ryan to serve on the GSU Board of Trustees. Since that time, she has contributed her years of valuable experience and professional insight to help the university address one of its most daunting challenges to date - steering the master of social work program through the difficult accreditation process. She has also joined with other board members to oversee capital expansion plans at GSU. In October, the university broke ground for a multi-million dollar Family Development Center. This month, uni-



versity officials will hold another ground-breaking for a new Faculty Office Center. Additionally, other construction and rehab projects are in the pipeline for completion in the near future. In total the university has set aside more than \$38 million for capital projects.

Samuels is a great supporter of higher education.

"Education has paved the way for the type of enlightened thinking that has led to man's most significant accomplishments. I believe that by serving on the Board of Trustees, I can have an impact on the decisions made in the academic arena at GSU. Governors State is an excellent institution with great academic programs, and I want to be in a position to communicate that to a wider audience," Samuels said.



**Governors
State
University**

University Park, IL
60466-0975

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Park Forest, IL 60466
Permit No. 178