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Bowling Green State University

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The Ribeau era begins

New president offers a collaborative style

Building relationships, nurturing dialogue and encouraging a sense of community — these are the areas which Dr. Sidney Ribeau sees as "critically important" as he begins his tenure as Bowling Green's ninth president.

"We need to have a free, open exchange of ideas and information," Ribeau said during a morning meeting with media representatives on July 31, his first full day on campus.

"Probably the worst kind of environments that I've worked in are environments where people feel inhibited or information is suppressed. I'm a firm believer of something I learned in graduate school ... that through a dialectical exchange comes a higher quality idea."

Ribeau said he approaches his leadership roles and his daily life by trying to foster "a sense of community," which he defines as "cooperation, sharing, involvement and participation."

"Our University is a collective of ideas and experiences and aesthetic sensibilities. We have a rich resource here, we have intellectual capital here ... but that intellectual capital has to come together in a sense of community to be shared so that everyone can benefit from it."

The president said he will "work very hard to establish a high quality level of relationships in a variety of venues," including the on-campus constituencies of students, faculty, staff and administration. He also plans to build relationships with the state legislature, the city and the business community.

"I think one of the things that has characterized my administrative career and also my career as an academic is working collectively in good relationships with people," Ribeau said. He indicated that he will work closely with members of Administrative Staff Council, Classified Staff Council and Faculty Senate.

His immediate plans are to "get to know as many people as possible" and learn what is important to them in addition to giving everyone an opportunity to get to know him and his values.

While he said there are "no major problems" that need immediate attention, there are issues that the University will have to start looking into, such as "how do we incorporate technology in teaching and learning." He also plans to work with faculty and staff in assessing what kind of technology, including computers, is needed on campus.

Ribeau will be addressing administrative staff, faculty and classified staff during the annual convocations Aug. 28 and 29. He is also slated to appear at a Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce reception Aug. 23, a gathering of new faculty on Aug. 24 and the student convocation on Aug. 27.

Following the press conference, Ribeau gathered informally with the media in his office at McFall Center which was practically empty without his personal belongings which were in the process of being moved. He noted that he has had to learn how to use the Macintosh computer because the California State Polytechnic campus was DOS-based.

The president's schedule throughout the rest of his week included having his University ID. photo taken, meeting with employees and hosting one-on-one sessions with each of the vice presidents. He tried to learn a little in advance about the people he met for the first time so he could get to know them better, said Mary Grant, Ribeau's administrative assistant.

"He hit the ground running," Grant said.

"His schedule is crowded, but there is nothing that's too small for him to handle. He's a super human being. He's kind, thoughtful and caring."

"The days have been very fast-paced but they flow well because of Dr. Ribeau's personality," said Janice Wasserman, administrative secretary in the president's office. "He's very open and very flexible and when in doubt he defers to people around him who have been here for a long time."

Ribeau to speak at faculty, staff gatherings

President Ribeau will greet faculty and staff and welcome in the 1995-96 school year during convocations scheduled for Aug. 28 and 29.

The general meeting for faculty and administrative staff begins at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, with refreshments in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom.

Dr. Eloise E. Clark, vice president for academic affairs, will greet the assembly at 9:30 a.m., followed by remarks from Ribeau and Dr. Fiona Mackenzie-Stanley, chair of Faculty Senate.

Ribeau will also speak at the classified staff convocation scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., Aug. 29, in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom.

Following the serving of refreshments, Classified Staff Council Chair Nancy Lee will give opening comments and preside over the program. The agenda also includes the presentation of awards and comments by Robert Martin, vice president for operations.

Both meetings will be broadcast live to Firelands College.

Reporters ask questions during a first-day gathering with the media.
Poems explore how murder affects the survivors

Muder in a family. The idea is almost incomprehensible, yet became a reality for Dr. Richard Messer, English, when his wife was raped and killed in 1973.

Muder in the Family is the title of a book of poetry Messer has recently published about surviving the experience.

The book, published by Bottom Dog Press, is an attempt to reach out to others who have suffered traumatic events, to say "you can come through these things and feel joy again," Messer said. The book is divided into four parts called "The Violation," "The Being Together," "The Family" and "The Healing." It traces the progress from victim to survivor.

Messer noted that while it is necessary to come to terms with the event like murder in some way, one's first reaction is to try to recover by "pushing aside something that painful." But Messer chose writing as a way to "process, absorb (and) assimilate what happened in some way instead of just pushing it away." Messer said he was surprised to find while he was assembling the poems into book form the healing section was far by the furthest.

"There are many poems of despair even in that phase," he commented. The process of healing was "almost one step forward, two steps back." The poems are written in various voices, all aspects of the author.

There is the hopeful and sometimes despairing child, the older and wiser adult, the parent, the husband and the lover.

"The poems are dialogues between parts of myself," Messer said.

Some of the voices in the poems are amalgams of other family members and they trace the reactions of the victims to the tragedy within the larger family.

The concept of family is important to Messer. "There is so much violence, particularly against women and children. I wanted to promote a feeling of solidarity within families and with victims of violence, who are often stigmatized. Murder definitely doesn't fit with the Great American Dream."

An enhanced feeling of family between individuals might also prevent some violence from occurring, he said, by promoting a sense of responsibility toward others.

Messer would like to see some sort of national monument in memory of victims of violence as well as a center where victims and families of victims could share experiences and offer support.

"This would be a focal point that would give some dignity to those who have died and their family, their center," he said. "It also would serve to remind us that this violence is happening and it's happening a lot but we don't notice it now."

But the last poem in Messer's book, "Look Around You," expresses the author's even more emotion. It says: "We mourn for those who die, and we move on through the knowledge that what has happened to them, no matter how brutal or tragic, does not define them or us, our spirits and our souls tell us who we are and give our lives their meaning. Look around you."

Messer has taught in the creative writing program since 1975, and has done postgraduate work in depth psychology at the C.G. Jung Institute in Zurich. His poems have appeared in The Nation, The Christian Science Monitor and Denver Quarterly, among others. — Bonnie Blankenship

Sports psychologist is distinguished alumn

Clinical psychologist Dr. Jerry May of Reno, Nev., will be presented the 1995 Distinguished Alumnus Award at commencement exercises on Aug. 12.

May will become the 36th recipient of the award, the highest honor given by the University Alumni Association.

May earned his master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from Bowling Green in 1966 and 1974. He obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western Washington University in 1966.

A faculty member of the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno, since 1974, he currently is a professor in the psychiatry and behavioral sciences department and associate dean for admissions and student affairs in the School of Medicine.

May is a former team psychologist for the U.S. Alpine ski team. He currently is the team psychologist for the U.S. sailing team. He also is in demand as a consultant in such areas as leadership and management skills, wellness, stress management, team building and fun in the workplace.

Although May doesn't routinely divulge the names of individual clients, the press has reported one of them is world-class tennis player Monica Seles. May testified regarding her emotional condition in Hamburg, Germany, during the trial of the man who stabbed Seles during a 1993 tennis match. Seles, who had not competed in a tennis match for two years, is now attempting to make a comeback.

The ordeal of Seles' recovery and her treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder are recounted in a recent issue of Sports Illustrated.

As a student at Bowling Green, May received a special citation for superior performance from the graduate faculty in 1968. In 1986 he won the psychology department's Distinguished Alumni Award and in 1994 he was named one of 25 Accomplished Graduates of the University's Graduate College.

May has published extensively in professional journals and has been interviewed frequently by reporters for major news media throughout the country.

Recreation center to reopen Aug. 26

The Student Recreation Center will reopen following repairs on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Hours of operation will be noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 26 through 28 and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 29-29.

Regular hours, which resume Aug. 30, are: 7 a.m. -11 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. -9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday; and noon-9 p.m. Sunday.

CLASSIFIED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

8-11-1
Secretary 1
pay grade 6
Office of Student Life

8-11-2
Student Services Counselor
pay grade 7
Financial Aid and Student Employment

Falcon's Nest to close

During the week of August 14 the Falcon's Nest in the Union will be closed for general maintenance. During that week, a la carte food service will be available in the Bowl-n-Greeneries from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Summer hours end

Summer hours for the main campus and Firelands College will end Friday, Aug. 11. Beginning Monday, Aug. 14 and throughout the academic year, offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Several offices close from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

FACULTY/ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Administrative positions:
Biological Sciences: Laboratory aids (temporary, part-time, grant-funded). Contact Personnel Services (2-8426). Deadline: Aug. 11.


Firelands College: Coordinator, career services. Contact Office of the Dean, Firelands College, 901 Rye Beach Rd., Huron, Ohio 44839. Applications accepted until position is filled.


Opening Day meetings slated for students on Opening Day, Aug. 28:

11 a.m.
• Arts and Sciences — Lenhart Grand Ballroom
• Business Administration — 1007 Business Administration Bldg.
• Education and Allied Professions — Jenson Auditorium, Education Bldg.
• Musical Arts — Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center
• Health and Human Services — Town Room, University Union
• Technology — 127 A and B, Technology Bldg.

1:30 p.m.
• Libraries and Learning Resources faculty/staff — 150 A Jerome Library
• Musical Arts department meetings
• Arts and Sciences advisers — 115 Oscamp Hall
• Education and Allied Professions advisers — Jenson Auditorium, Education Bldg.
• Technology advisers — 220 Technology Bldg.

2:30-3:15 p.m.
• Graduate faculty — 115 Oscamp Hall

3:30 p.m.
• School and department faculty meetings (except Musical Arts)