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Bowling Green State University

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Construction begins for on-campus child care center

On-campus child care could be a reality as soon as January.

Ground has been broken and contracts recently signed for the construction of a family development center behind the College Park Office Building. The projected completion date is December.

The facility is a joint project of the University and WSOS Community Action Commission, a private, non-profit corporation that provides a variety of human and community development services for Wood, Seneca, Ottawa and Sandusky counties.

The University has leased the land for the center to WSOS for $1 per year and contributed $304,000 from an Ohio Board of Regents grant to assist with the cost of construction. This was added to a $600,000 grant WSOS received from the Ohio Department of Education’s early childhood division.

The facility and its programs will be operated by WSOS with an agreement to offer collaborative opportunities for University staff and students.

“We bring a lot of experience in the early childhood area — operating programs and working with parents, and the University brings a new level of expertise in a variety of areas such as psychology and speech,” said Freddie Larsen, child development director for WSOS.

“It may not happen immediately, but we can see the potential for a lot of different kinds of collaboration.”

The 14,637-square-foot facility will include 10 classroom spaces, a full-service kitchen, a multi-purpose room and an outside playground. One wing will be used to provide daycare services for 60 infants, toddlers and preschool-age children of Bowling Green students and staff.

Another wing will be used to serve approximately 71 children enrolled in public preschool and Head Start programs currently being administered by WSOS.

The facility helps resolve an issue which has been addressed by campus constituency groups for many years, said Bob Waddle, director of capital planning.

Several years ago the University had requested proposals from area child care agencies interested in providing on-site services for Bowling Green and received a response from only one agency that was willing to provide a framework for the University, but not willing to set up shop. Most agencies felt that the University site would not be profitable because of the existence of other child care arrangements, such as in-home situations, Waddle said.

“We can see the potential for a lot of different kinds of collaboration.”

—Freddie Larsen
child development director, WSOS

Even with WSOS support, getting to the final lease agreement for the on-campus center proved difficult because of the unique aspects of the University and agency partnership. “As a state agency we have certain requirements to meet and we’re restricted by a lot of things. WSOS, as a non-profit, really has to look at protecting themselves as well,” Waddle said.

“But it’s such a wonderful concept and we didn’t want to get bogged down and lose it in the nitty gritty of the lease.”

A committee comprising WSOS and University representatives is being formed to work on the details of the partnership opportunities and the daycare programs.

Preparing for move

Linda Dobb, new dean of Libraries and Learning Resources, sorts through stacks of books that she hopes will soon be moved to make room for additional study space on the 7th and 8th floors of Jerome Library. Many of the books are destined for the depository in Perrysburg, once it is completed. Other books will be incorporated into the main collection on the first floor. Looking at ways to reconfigure library space is only one of the projects undertaken by Dobb since beginning her duties July 1. She is also spending a great deal of time getting to know the staff in the library and around campus, she said.
Long-time University friends pledge support of arts

Music festival to host composer Gunther Schuller

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and conductor Gunther Schuller will be the special guest at the 10th Annual New Music & Art Festival.

The festival, to be held Oct. 12-14, is hosted by the College of Musical Arts and the School of Art.

During his three-day residency, Schuller will be involved in several discussions and host a composition seminar. His music will be featured in four different lectures, including performances by "Symphony for Brass and Percussion" by the Fall Wind Ensemble and Black Swamp Brass. Under the direction of Dr. Bruce Moes, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center.

The festival will close with the composer conducting the Bowling Green Philharmonia in a performance of his "Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra" and "Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, in Kobacker Hall. The concert will feature faculty member Dr. Jeffrey Lyman on bassoon.

Considered to be among the most significant American musicians of the four decades, Schuller has developed a musical career that ranges from composing and conducting to work as an educator, administrator, music publisher, record producer and author.

As a composer, he has completed commissions for major orchestras throughout the world and received numerous accolades, including Guggenheim fellowships; the Darius Milhaud, Rodgers and Hammerstein and MacArthur awards and the William Schuman Award for lifetime achievement in American composition.

As a conductor, Schuller travels throughout the world leading major ensembles.

He has taught at the Manhattan School of Music and Yale University; served as head of the composition department and artistic director of the Berkshire Center at Tanglewood; been president of the New England Conservatory of Music; and artistic director of the festival at Sandpoint, Idaho.

As an author, he has written numerous essays and books, ranging in subjects from jazz through musical aesthetics. Schuller was awarded an honorary degree from Bowling Green in 1984.

Guest composers from around the United States as well as College of Musical Arts faculty members Dr. Marilyn Shrode and Dr. Peter Terry will also attend festival performances of their works.

Other festival activities include panel discussions, lectures, art exhibitions and readings of scholarly papers on contemporary music.

All festival events are open to the public and free of charge. For a complete schedule of events, contact the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music office at 5-2565.