Focus on February
Feb. 5-9
101 Olscamp Hall
Meeting topics/dates: http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/pr/monitor/

The term “focus group” is often used in marketing, according to Stephanie Schwaegele, account executive with the Augustine Zeller Group of Bowling Green, a marketing research and analysis firm. “They’re wonderful groups for gathering information,” she said.

Don Ehholm, associate professor of interpersonal communication, whose specialty is focus groups, said use of focus groups has spread to many areas including politics, legal affairs and public relations. He described focus groups as “an excellent investigative instrument. I can’t think of a better way to find out what the University community thinks.”

The discussion topics for next week’s “Focus on February” groups were selected by community members in their comments to members of the Building Community Task force.

Topics that were suggested most often will have many discussion groups devoted to them. All groups and times they will meet were sent to faculty and staff in campus mail and are also available online at http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/pr/monitor/.

Giving people a forum for expressing and developing their concerns as well as their hopes and aspirations is in itself a good beginning toward addressing them formally, said Steven Cornelson, associate professor of musical arts and a member of the task force.

This echoes a sentiment expressed in one of the suggestions sent to the task force. “There are a lot of great folks who work at BGSU who want to foster and improve the work environment,” the classified staff person wrote. “We need to get those folks to feel comfortable to speak out. They need to realize that their ideas are useful and beneficial.”

After the week of discussion, the task force plans to compile a comprehensive report to present to President Sidney Ribeau, Classified Staff Council, Administrative Staff Council and Faculty Senate.

“Since this information will be used in determining what the next courses of action will be for the University, it’s very important that people attend. We are here to listen, and what people say will be in the report,” said Veronica Gold, special education.

The names of speakers will be kept anonymous in the records in order to encourage the free expression of views. Participants will be asked only to identify their constituent group.

Each of the University focus groups will include a volunteer facilitator from within the campus community to help move the discussion along and make sure all views are heard.

All of the BGSU facilitators are being trained by representatives of the TRINOVACorporation, an international component manufacturing firm based in Maumee. One of the trainers is a graduate of the University’s master of organization development program who is now manager of organization and management development at the company.

Facilitators need not be experts on the topic under discussion. “In fact, they’re usually not,” Schwaegele said. Their job is to expand the discussion by eliciting specific comments from participants and prevent strong personalities from dominating the conversation.

In the BGSU focus groups, supervisors and subordinates will be asked not to sit in on the same session. Each session will have at least one recorder, either mechanical or human, to keep track of what is said. It will later be transcribed and analyzed by the task force.

The resulting report is expected to be quite comprehensive, Gold said. The task force has not decided yet about prioritizing recommendations, but it does feel that if there is a strong sense of urgency expressed about a particular concern, the task force will certainly take it into account, she said. — Bonnie Blankinship

Focus groups will zoom in on University issues, concerns

All next week the University community will be gathering in 101 Olscamp Hall to take part in a series of conversations about the community itself.

These discussions are being called “focus groups”—a current buzz-phrase but an appropriate one. Focus groups are designed to focus closely on various areas of concern — in this case, specific areas of interest to University faculty, staff and students.

Feminists spanning the generations to participate in women’s conference

A recent episode of the television sitcom “Murphy Brown” depicted two generations of feminists coexisting yet finding themselves facing a generational and cultural gap.

While visiting her alma mater to accept an honorary degree, Murphy is shocked to find the campus coeds unappreciative of the battles fought and won by the women who came just a generation before them.

Murphy’s efforts to communicate with these students and they with her, while humorous, also revealed a truth. Today’s young women — and young men, too — are sometimes unaware of the evolution of feminism during the past 30 years and its roots in the suffrage movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

About 300 feminists of all ages will be encountering each other in real life at the University this week during a conference titled “Feminist Generations.”

Hosted by the women’s studies program, the event will feature more than 80 scholarly presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions, film presentations, performances and lectures.

Interdisciplinary in scope, the conference will examine the multiple meanings the term “feminism” has for different generations of women and men, the many ways feminist awareness has been expressed, and how women’s lives in the past have inspired those of today.

“We want to bring together different age groups and, we hope, to begin to understand different perspectives,” said Ellen Berry, director of women’s studies.

“We’re expecting college students, high school students, faculty members, performers and artists of all ages. We think it’s unique in that our goal is to bring together scholars and others outside the academic community.”

Keynoting the conference will be internationally known artist and author Faith Ringgold.

A professor of art at San Diego State University and a noted author, Ringgold will give an address Saturday (Feb. 3)
Faculty Senate will look at expanding staff tuition waiver into other schools

Could a good employee benefit be made even better?

Such is the impetus behind a resolution passed by Faculty Senate last Tuesday to look into negotiating reciprocal tuition waivers among other state-assisted institutions for children of full-time employees.

Currently, children of all full-time faculty, classified and administrative staff may attend Bowling Green or the University of Toledo tuition-free.

The Faculty Senate resolution seeks to expand the reciprocity to other state institutions that may be willing to enter such an agreement.

Although the resolution passed, the discussion preceding the vote showed there were some mixed feelings regarding the issue.

Several senators suggested that attention should be focused first on ensuring that classes are available for existing students before opening up for additional students with tuition waivers.

Some senators also wanted an idea of what such a benefit could cost the University as well as the state. They expressed concern that some schools may request some type of financial compensation from each institution in return for a reciprocal agreement.

However, one senator suggested that offering an expanded tuition waiver could help keep Ohio children from leaving the state to attend college.

Lester Barber, executive assistant to the president, cautioned senators that there is a possibility that attempts to expand the tuition waiver benefit may backfire and result in the complete loss of the benefit. The fact that children of faculty and staff at Bowling Green and other colleges receive tuition waivers at all once was a topic of debate in the political arena, he noted.

The final vote on the issue was 33 in favor, ten against and six abstentions.

The executive committee of Administrative Staff Council has endorsed the issue. But members of Classified Staff Council have expressed concern similar to Barbers — that pressing for fee waivers at other state schools could lose the benefit altogether.

Also at last week’s meeting, senate passed two resolutions regarding actions by the Ohio Board of Regents. One resolution expressed disapproval of the decision to eliminate funding for the doctoral program in history and requested that decision be changed.

Another resolution expressed support of other doctoral programs and urged the Board of Regents to “provide reasonable opportunities for universities to respond constructively to concerns raised by external panels of specialists” conducting the preliminary reviews.

Senate also endorsed a resolution of the Graduate Student Senate requesting that the faculty/staff/graduate computer lab be available at later hours and that the lab be closely monitored to ensure that it is accessed by only those who are permitted to use it. The resolution responds to computer availability problems reported by graduate students.

Conference

(Continued from page 1)

evening on her evolution as an artist, the role her mother played in that evolution and the legacies of the African-American women whose stories she tells in her work. She also is scheduled to give a reading and do a signing of her children’s books at the Wood County Library earlier in the day.

Among the other notable women speaking will be feminist critic Michele Wallace, film producer Lisa Aparian and Chicago author Paula Kamen.

Also, Cosby Totten and Linda Lester, two of the women whose lives are chronicled in the photography exhibition “Women of Coal,” which is being shown in the McFall Center Gallery on campus through Feb. 3, will speak. Totten and Lester are co-directors of the Women’s Coal Employment project which helps women get and keep their jobs in the mines of central Appalachia.

Registration is required to attend other conference events. The fee to attend the entire conference is $60 for non-students; $25 for BGSU students; and $35 per day for those who wish to attend only a portion of the conference.

Registration is free for all students attending the University and students enrolled at Bowling Green High School.

Complete conference and registration information is available on the World Wide Web at: http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/wsms/ncem.html

In addition to the Women’s Studies Program, campus organizations providing funding for the conference include the Ethnic Cultural Arts Program and the Cultural Events Committee.
Fair showcases methods used to assess student achievement

When members of the Student Achievement Assessment Committee first planned an event for University departments to show off their assessment activities they expected a handful of posters and quiet conversation.

What they got instead was an estimated crowd of 300 students, faculty and staff interacting and visiting 34 tables featuring posters, videos and interactive demonstrations in 101 O’Scamp Hall.

The Assessment Fair, held last Tuesday evening, was “successful beyond my wildest imagination,” said Milton Hakel, professor of psychology and chair of the assessment committee.

The fair was only a side project of the committee which was organized in September to assist in the development of a University-wide student outcomes assessment plan for the North Central Association. The event was also co-sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Hakel and others in the group felt that the fair would provide an opportunity for those who are already involved in setting up methods of grading achievement to share ideas with their associates. “The fair had no bearing on the report to NCA,” Hakel said. “The idea was to get people in all parts of the University and let them know that others are working on assessment as well.”

Students in attendance also gained insight into methods that could be used to improve their educational process. “I wanted to see how assessment is being used,” said Megan Coffman, a sophomore majoring in political science.

“I think it’s overwhelming. I didn’t realize there were so many ways to assess progress.” As a result she said she plans to become more involved in planning of assessment activities, possibly through her work as a member of Undergraduate Student Senate.

One booth at the fair showed a videotape example of a project conducted by students in a marketing course. A student, playing the part of a salesperson, tried to sell a product to another student, who played the part of a buyer. The interaction was filmed through a one-way glass partition to be evaluated by the student and the class.

At one station, Mary Nieman, a senior majoring in environmental science and biology, explained how she worked on a project to develop plans for a wildflower park that could be built in Bowling Green. She benefited by being involved in a project that had real-world implications and knew she was progressing in her studies when a well-known Ohio botanist suggested only a few changes in her work.

At another booth, students in a critical thinking course were on hand to demonstrate live some of the skills they have learned. Fair attendees were asked to give a student one of several pieces of reading material and assess it for them based on critical thinking concepts. Once the student completed the assessment, the attendee was then put on the hot seat and asked if he or she understood the concepts of critical thinking.

At 7:30 p.m. the crowd paused to hear a brief presentation by President Sidney Ribeau, who also remarked at the large turnout. “In the teaching and learning process for far too long, passivity has been the rule of the day,” Ribeau said. The movement in education is towards a more active teacher-student relationship, as evidenced by some of the projects on display, he noted.

The Student Achievement Assessment Committee is made up of representatives from the six main campus academic colleges, Firelands College, the Graduate College, continuing education and libraries and learning resources.

The committee developed a statement of student academic achievement for the University which was endorsed last week by Faculty Senate.

In November the committee sponsored a trip to Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wis., to view examples of its well-known, innovative system of student grading. A second trip is planned in April and is open to all interested in observing the Alverno project.

Black History Month events explore African American lifestyles, traditions

The diverse lifestyles of African Americans will be studied through discussions, performances and many other events taking place at the University during Black History Month.

The family life will be explored in this year’s Black Anthology, an annual theatre and musical performance. Through songs and drama, a cast of students will look at the kinds of crises faced by today’s African American families and present solutions.

“A Salute to the Black Family” will be staged during the annual Office of Multicultural Affairs dinner theatre at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the University Union. Tickets for the buffet and show are $15 and can be reserved by calling Kay Taulker at 2-8357.

The anthology will also be presented at 8 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre in University Hall. Tickets are $3 and can be purchased at the box office.

Three black women living with AIDS is the subject of another Black History Month event—a two-act play by James Chapman called “What About Black Women?” The performance will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Joe E. Brown Theatre in University Hall.

Admission is free but limited seating will be available. Counselors from the University will also be available after the show to provide education on AIDS and offer counseling services if necessary.

On Feb. 3, the fourth annual Gospel Harvest will celebrate the contributions African Americans have made to gospel music while conveying the sense of heritage and pride felt from that legacy.

The event begins at 3 p.m. in Kobsacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center. Admission is free for BGSU students with an I.D. and children under 10, and $3 for adults.

Other Black History Month activities include a lecture on race relations by Jawanza Kunjufu, a nationally known educator, at 7 p.m. Feb. 1 in Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the University Union: Black History Month Jeopardy at 8 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Ohio Suite of the University Union; a lecture by former Black Panther David Hilliard at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 in Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the University Union and a lecture by graduate fellow Lila Curry on the experiences of a graduate student in Ghana at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Amani Room of the Commons.

BGSU in the news

- Richard Bowers, director of recreational sports, was quoted extensively in a Motor Scoop magazine article on the psychology of keeping fit.

- An op-ed article written by Les Stemberg, dean of the College of Education, titled “Public education has a proud record” was published in the Dec. 16 edition of the Blade.

- A 60-minute interview with Roger Dennerll, director of public safety, was broadcast on KDKA Radio in Pittsburgh on Dec. 31.

- History professor Don Rowney was a guest on WTOL-TV’s “First At Five” Nov. 27 where he offered a historical perspective on the conflict in Bosnia and took questions from television viewers.


- Graduate student Michael Fisch is a commentator for National Public Radio’s “Weekend Edition.” In November he participated in a discussion of ethnicity in a program segment.

- Jack Nachbar, professor of popular culture, was quoted in a Jan. 18 USA Today report about Phil Donahue ending his career as a talk show host. Nachbar told writer Ann Oldenburg it could be argued that Donahue “was the godfather of trash TV. He never stepped into the muck like a Ricki Lake, but he stirred it a little.”

- Journalism professor Dennis Hale was the author of “Tobacco firms grab for First Amendment” which appeared in The Blade Jan. 21.

Charles Shirey, associate professor of physics and astronomy, views the display represented by geology faculty Charles Onasch (left) and Joseph Frizado (center).
Exercises offered to computer users

A brown bag lunch is being offered for employees who find that computer work is a literal pain in the neck.

Stephen Horowitz, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation, will present a session on chair aerobics called "Preventing Terminal Illness."

Horowitz will demonstrate desk stretches, eye exercises and other ways to be comfortable when working at a computer.

To register contact Yolanda Patton at 2-8421.

Public safety hosts open house

Ride along in a campus police car, visit with the University’s mounted patrolman and his horse and learn self-defense movements — these are only a few of the activities the public can enjoy during a three-day open house at the Department of Public Safety, Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

The open house is designed to “raise awareness of what the office does and give people an opportunity to ask questions,” said Barbara Waddell, public information officer for the department.

The public is invited to visit the safety building and participate in free activities taking place there between 1-7 p.m. each day. Refreshments will be offered and door prizes will be awarded twice each day.

Activities scheduled for each day include a visit by mounted patrolman Bob Blackburn and his horse, Billy, from 3-5 p.m.; a rape prevention and awareness seminar from 3-6 p.m.; a mini course in Common Sense Self Defense from 6-7 p.m.; free fingerprinting and safety photography of children from 1:30-4:30 p.m.; a ride with an officer between 1-7 p.m. (children aged 4-17 must be accompanied by a parent); tours of the building from 1-3 p.m.; and children’s activities for parents taking part in other open house events during 5-7 p.m.

Many tax forms available at library

Free federal and Ohio tax forms are available in the lobby of Jerome Library.

Most forms are available, except forms for non-residents which are expected from the IRS within the next few weeks. For assistance identifying or locating the forms needed, ask at the Jerome Library reference desk, call 2-2261, or send e-mail to libhelp@listproc.bgsu.edu.

Librarians cannot give tax advice. However, they can provide the toll-free help line for the IRS.

Committee oversees computer changes

In the world of computers, the turn of the century will represent more than just a marking of time.

Most programs, software and hardware were originally designed to accommodate only a two-digit date format. When the date changes to Jan. 1, 2000, there could be major problems in calculation, recordkeeping, comparisons or sorting of data for systems that have a date based on 01/01/00.

A committee has been formed to look into the potential problems this may represent for BGSU. The group will be looking at the identification and updating of all software and related products in microcomputer labs and elsewhere within University Computer Services. The committee is also charged with helping to identify any other areas on campus where computers are affected by the date change and recommend steps to solve the problem.

Committee members are Bill Gerwin, Rich Popen, Dick Sanford, Bob Shonitz and Toby Singer.

Most communications and information of the committee will be sent through the e-mail list service 2000@listproc.bgsu.edu. Those interested in committee concerns are welcome to subscribe.

For other information contact Pat Kania by phone at 2-9832 or pkania@radar, or Toby Singer at 2-7759 or singer@bgnet.

Openings available for brown bag lunch

Spaces are still available for a brown bag lunch Tuesday (Jan. 30) on the subject of stress.

John C. Moore, assistant vice president for personnel, will offer ways to control stress from noon-1 p.m. in the personnel training/conference center in College Park Office Building.

Moore will share ways to recognize the different types of stress and speak about concepts of controlling it at work and at home.

Financial Aid workshop scheduled for adults

A financial aid and financial planning workshop, designed for adult students, will take place from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday (Feb. 3) in the Personnel/Conference/Training Room of the College Park Office Building.

Attendees will learn about various sources of financial aid, including nontraditional scholarships. The session will also offer information on how to start an investment program and how to manage credit.

The program is free but reservations are required at 2-8181.

Calendar

Monday, Jan. 29

Film, Johnny Stecchino (Italian film with English subtitles), 8 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Film, The Invaders and Hell’s Hinges (silent film), 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Lecture, ‘Theatre as a Transcultural Event’ by Hans-Uwe Haus, German director, 7:30 p.m., 219 Osgoode Hall.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Luncheon, BGSU Retirees Association, noon, Bowling Green Country Club. Reservations are required at 2-2708.

Women’s basketball hosts Miami University, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Thursday, Feb. 1

Administrative Staff Council meeting, 1:30 p.m., Alumni Room, University Union.

Black History Month lecture, "Race Relations in America" by Jawanza Kunjufu, 7 p.m., Lenthart Grand Ballroom, University Union. Free.

Film, Planet of the Apes, 9 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Friday, Feb. 2

Hockey hosts Lake Superior, 7 p.m., ice arena.

Film, Dangerous Minds, 8 and 11 p.m., 111 Osgoode Hall. $2 admission with I.D.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Workshop, financial aid and financial planning for adult students, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1 College Park Office Building. Free.

Women’s swimming and diving hosts Ball State, 1 p.m., Cooper Pool, Student Recreation Center.

Black History Month Concert, Gospel Harvest, 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Admission is $3 for non-BGSU students and adults. BGSU students and children under 10 are free. For more information call 2-2011.

Men’s swimming and diving hosts Ball State, 4 p.m., Cooper Pool, student recreation center.

Hockey hosts Lake Superior, 7 p.m., ice arena.

Film, Dangerous Minds, 8 and 11 p.m., 111 Osgoode Hall. For more information call 2-7164. $2 admission with I.D.

Monday, Feb. 5

Film, Woman Dawn Human, 8 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Continuing events

Art exhibits: "Faith Ringgold: A 30-Year Sampler of Feminist Images" through Feb. 9 in the Wulant Warkemal Gallery, Fine Arts Center; "3D X 10: Art Faculty of the Mid-American Conference" through Feb. 9 in the Dorothy Ubb Bryant Gallery, Fine Arts Center; and "Prisoners #10376: Violet Allen" (video installation by Carol S. Jacobson), through Feb. 9 in the Nakamoto Gallery, Fine Arts Center.

Planetarium presentation, "Dinosaur Light," 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday through March 22. $1 donation suggested.

At Firelands

Art exhibit, student cooper enameling, through Feb. 16, Little Gallery.

Employment

Classified positions:


Administrative positions:


Personnel services: Manager, training and development. Contact personnel services (2-8426). Deadline: Feb. 9.

Registration and records: Director of graduation and degree audit. Contact personnel services (2-2227). Deadline: Feb. 9.

Faculty positions:

Family and consumer sciences: two positions — assistant professor in food service management, assistant professor in nutrition and dietetics (both full-time, probationary track). Contact Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (2-7823). Deadline: Feb. 15 or until filled.

EDFI: Assistant professor of education (tenure-track, full-time). Contact Dr. Robert Yunker, EDFI (2-7322). Deadline: Feb. 15 or until filled.


Geology/environmental studies: Assistant professor (joint, tenure-track position in geology and environmental studies). Contact Joseph Manuso, Department of Geology. Deadline: March 15 or until filled.
