Farm worker organizer to give commencement address May 11

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Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, also will be presented an honorary doctor of social science degree in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Ohio farm workers and to the northwestern Ohio Latino community.

Nearly 2,000 students will graduate in the annual exercises which will be held in Doyt L. Perry Stadium and presided over by President Sidney A. Ribeau.

Prior to the formation of FLOC in 1967, Velasquez was beaten and jailed for attempting to distribute materials supporting a farm worker organization. Ten years after FLOC was created, more than 700 people had become members and Velasquez had developed a reform ideology based on social justice and worker labor rights. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to better working conditions and has initiated strikes when necessary to force corporations to become aware of workers' needs.

In 1984, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named Velasquez a MacArthur Fellow. He was the first labor organizer to receive the prestigious award, which included $265,000 to be used at his discretion.

Much of the money has been used to support his work and he has initiated an irrevocable trust to create scholarships for children of migrant farm workers.

He also has been the recipient of numerous other awards including Mexico's Aguila Azteca Award, the highest honor given to a non-citizen; the Midwest Academy Award for outstanding contributions to social change and the Hispanic Leadership Award.

"He is an honorable man with genuine goals that enhance human beings in need," said Rolando Andrade, an associate professor of ethnic studies. "There is a strong feeling of direction [about him] and a firm conviction that migrant farm workers must receive just and fair treatment."

— Emily Stoltz

Old furniture takes on new life in little-known campus shop

A kind of magic regularly takes place in the University furnishings shop. A succession of worn and tattered sofas, chairs, cabinets and desks are carried in looking ready for the trash heap. Instead, they emerge transformed into clean, stylish pieces of furniture. This sorcery is performed by a dedicated team of upholsterers, painters and refinishers. Under the direction of Bob Shamp, paint shop supervisor, the staff is responsible for keeping the furnishings in offices and other campus rooms in good shape.

Jackie Bruce is the team leader of the upholstery division. She, Betty Walton and Coni Shaw create everything from fancy valences for sorority house windows to new seats for the carts at Forrest Creason Golf Course. They did extensive work in the president's house before Sidney Ribeau moved in, including rebuilding a sofa bed. John Kiehl, who does the wood refinishing, works closely with them.

Recently they reupholstered several chairs from the University treasurer's office, winning rave reviews from the staff. For less than the cost of one new chair, seven were reconditioned in fabric selected by the staff, restuffed and the wood trim refinished.

"Many people don't realize they can save a lot of money by using us instead of an outside company. They get the same service, the same quality and the same materials," Shamp said.

Bruce said the team takes a lot of pride in its work. They can take a fifteen-era piece of furniture and re-style it or simply clean and re-stuff pieces that need only some minor work. But whatever the job, the upholsterers do not let a piece of furniture leave the shop until all of its problems are fixed. This also means bringing all stuffings and fabrics up to the latest fire codes.

The team also creates new draperies, valances and cornices for University rooms. They made the curtains for the renovation of Pratt Chapel last year and recently completed 200 pairs of draperies for Kohl Hall. They also order blinds and shades where needed.

Bruce provides the services of an interior designer, consulting with clients and showing fabric and paint samples. "We realize that the staff are the ones who will have to live with this furniture eight hours a day, so we try to make sure they have what they will be comfortable with," she said.

When a whole office is to be redone, Shamp gives the estimates for carpet and paint and Bruce provides the upholstery cost estimate. "The two shops work very well together," Shamp said.

Realizing that being without one’s office furniture presents an inconvenience, the furnishings shop staff completes jobs as quickly as possible. "We have a very short turn-around time," Shamp noted. But in cases where someone absolutely cannot be without a desk or other item while it is being worked on, Bruce will coordinate with Kathy Phillips in inventory management to provide a temporary replacement.

She advises people who need new office furniture to check the University warehouses first before buying. "If you can find a piece that’s basically sturdy, don’t worry about what it looks like now. We can put whatever covering you want on the cushions, restuff it and refinish it, and it will look like new."

The furnishings shop does not wait for jobs to come to them. Bruce regularly tours campus buildings checking the condition of furnishings and noting items that need refurbishing. She is especially vigilant about maintenance of the main floor lounges of residence halls and other public areas.

The capabilities of the staff are not limited to refurbishing existing pieces, however. A now-retired member of the carpentry shop once built a specially designed oak, rolltop computer desk for the Field House intramural office at the request of Janet Rowe, recreational sports secretary. "There’s a lot of talent here," Bruce commented.

— Bonnie Blankinship
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Bruce, who also is a member of the university's interior design staff, says she is especially vigilant about maintenance of the main floor lounges of residence halls and other public areas.

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Dive into health
A demonstration of scuba diving by Paul Chase, of the Student Recreation Center, will be one of the many activities to take place during the University's 1996 Health Fair. More than 80 exhibits and demonstrations of such activities as camping, mountain biking and rock climbing will be set up in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 10. Representatives from northwest Ohio hospitals and community agencies will be available to answer questions, distribute free health products and conduct free health screenings. Entry to the event is free. Pictured with Chase are planners of this year's event — Jeanne Wright (bottom), Cathy Swick and students Karen Jordan and Jennifer Ross.

One-day conference to offer teaching strategies
Teachers from all disciplines in higher education can learn about new techniques for their classrooms at a one-day conference sponsored by the Department of Economics.

"Teaching Economics as if Learning Mattered," to be held April 12 at Holley Lodge in Bowling Green, will provide presentations on various learning strategies that can be applied to all fields, including economics, according to Paul F. Haas, professor of economics and conference organizer.

Guest speakers include James R. Davis, special assistant to the provost for academic quality and assessment of student learning at the University of Denver, and Robin L. Bartlett, professor of economics at Denison University. Bowling Green faculty members Stuart M. Keeley, a professor of psychology, and Haas will also present conference sessions.

For registration information contact the Office of Continuing Education, International and Summer Programs at 2-8181.

Did You Know?
- The 7,027 graduate assistants and student employees working at the University during calendar year 1995 had earnings totaling $14,537,973. The 1,526 graduate students earned $9,717,865 while the 5,501 student employees earned $4,820,107.
- Graduates of Bowling Green State University are less likely to default on their student loans than any other state-supported school in Ohio. The student loan default rate for Bowling Green students in 1995 was 5.8 percent compared to 7.1 percent for the University of Toledo and 5.2 percent for Ohio State University.

New vice president receives awards for career at University of Colorado
Charles Middleton, the newly selected vice president for academic affairs, recently received two awards for exceptional achievement during his 27-year tenure at the University of Colorado.

The University of Colorado Board of Regents selected Middleton for the University Medal to be presented during the Boulder institution's commencement ceremony May 17.

The medal recognizes outstanding achievement in public service, the sciences, arts, letters and other fields as well as distinguished contributions to the welfare of the university, the state or the nation.

Middleton was also presented with the 1996 Robert L. Starns Award by the University of Colorado Alumni Association. An awards ceremony was held March 16.

The Starns award, named for the sixth president of the University of Colorado, recognizes members of the faculty and staff for achievement or service in teaching, service to the university, work with students, research or off-campus service.

Middleton was acknowledged for bringing the budget of the College of Arts and Sciences out of debt while raising millions in private funds to support the educational needs of 14,000 arts and sciences students.

He was further recognized for being "a warm, caring and approachable professor who won over students in the classroom, faculty colleagues on the numerous committees he served and alumni and friends around the state and nation."

Middleton has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Colorado since 1988 and has been on the faculty since 1969.

Committee completes its review of job compensation study appeals
The daunting work of a committee of seven administrative staff persons is nearly done.

Meeting weekly from January through March, the committee reviewed approximately 130 appeals in by their colleagues in response to the recent rankings of administrative staff positions.

The group reviewed individually each appeal and then made a joint recommendation on whether the appeal should be approved or denied. The recommendations will be submitted to the Office of Human Resources within the next few weeks, according to Tom Glick, spokesperson for the appeals committee.

"I feel very, very confident that all of our constituents were dealt with in a very fair manner," Glick said.

The position rankings, released in September, had been developed by another committee of administrative staff along with members of the human resources staff and William M. Mercer, Inc., an employee benefits consulting firm. The rankings were derived using information from position descriptions which each administrative staff person was asked to submit. Those who disagree with aspects of the rankings were given an opportunity to appeal the findings.

Members of the appeals committee were not on the original Mercer committee and had not submitted appeals of their own rankings.

Although the bulk of their work is complete, the appeals committee will remain intact to look over any appeals that may be submitted on positions that were ranked after the original determinations were disseminated to administrative staff members. At that time there were approximately 31 positions that had not been graded. To date, 20 of these positions have been graded but not yet reviewed by the vice presidents, while questionnaires on the remaining 11 positions have not yet been completed. In addition, there are a few newly hired positions that also need to be evaluated and graded.

In cases where the committee has recommended changes in the job evaluation factors, human resources will determine what the new total points are for the position using the system established by Mercer, as well as changes in pay grade as appropriate. The results of the appeal review committee will be disseminated in writing to both the employee and each area vice president.

The final decision regarding the appeals rests with the vice presidents.

The results of the job analysis processes will eventually be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval as part of the overall job evaluation and compensation plan for administrative staff.
Faculty/Staff Grants

Robert Berns, business education, received $30,000 from the Ohio Department of Education for the identification and analysis of alternative delivery systems for vocational teacher education in Ohio.

Elliott L. Blinn and Douglas C. Neckers, chemistry, received $47,465 from the National Science Foundation for research experiences for undergraduates in chemistry.

Jacqueline Cuneen, HPER, received $1,000 from the Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, to research gender portrayals and consumers' feelings of involvement in sports product point-of-purchase advertising.

Yujie J. Ding, physics and astronomy, received $25,000 from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to help Wright Laboratory set up an apparatus for effectively characterizing micro-cavity lasers.

Ernest Ezell Jr., visual communication and technology education, received $1,876 from the Ohio Technology Education Association for the continued publication of In Touch, the newsletter of the Ohio Technology Education Association.

The Firelands Writing Center received a $2,000 grant from the Ohio Arts Council to publish The Heartlands Today and to conduct coffee-house poetry readings.

John Hoag and Paul F. Haas, both of economics, received $1,700 from the Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation for a fifth conference on teaching to address the relationship between critical reasoning and learning.

Andy Lopuszynski, business, received $5,000 from the Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation for the general fee support for a designated Miniger Scholar, a full-time graduate student in the MBA program.

Rex Lowe, biological sciences, received $6,750 from Procter & Gamble for a study of the impact of sewage effluent on benthic algae of the Little Miami River.

Frank McKenna and Daniel Sabolsky, both from the Center for Governmental Research and Public Service, received $11,000 from the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for the placement of a second student intern at the Government Procurement Center at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

Paul A. Moore, biological sciences, received $227,416 from the National Science Foundation for research designed to describe and quantify one aspect of the physics of chemoreception.

Douglas C. Neckers, chemistry, received $100,000 from the Department of the Navy for a continued study to develop and refine processes by which energy from a laser source can be converted.

Michael Ogawa, chemistry, received $60,000 from the National Science Foundation for the continued study of the contributions of secondary protein structures in mediating long-range electron-transfer reactions.

Barry Piersol, cooperative education, received $14,811 from Quality Connection for a graduate level intern placement. He also received $65,000 from the Medical College of Ohio for supervised job positions for College of Technology students and $5,000 from the Ohio Aerospace Institute for support for transmission, motor and controller development of the College of Technology's electric race car.

Mary Ann Robertson and Janet B. Parks, both of HPER, received $1,000 from the Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for the examination of attitudes of students, professors, administrators, managers and sport participants toward sexist language.

Winfred O. Stone, Graduate College, received $15,600 from Cleveland State University for the Student Achievement in Research and Scholarship (STARS) Program.

Jong S. Yoon, biological sciences, received $147,502 from the National Science Foundation for support of the Drosophila Species Resource Center.

Faculty/Staff Presentations

Delia Aguilar, ethnic studies, gave a panel presentation on "Women in the Global Economy" at the University of Michigan Nov. 30.

Thomas D. Anderson, geography emeritus, presented a paper titled The U.S. Swan Islands: From Guano to Fruit to Honduras at the Congress of Latin Americanist Geographers, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 3-10.

Walter Baker, music, performed a piano recital at Celina High School for area piano students and teachers Nov. 4.

Cynthia Beekley, educational administration and supervision, presented "Why Women Exit the Public School Superintendency" to the American Educational Research Association, Special Interest Group, Birmingham, Ala. Oct. 28.

Burton Beerman, music, had his multi-media dance-opera "Lives in Crisis: Jesus' Daughter" presented at the Franciscan Life Center at Lourdes College Nov. 4. Tina Bunce, music, was the mezzo soprano soloist.

Joyce Blinn and Ron Knoph, study skills lab-academic enhancement, presented "Linking Developmental Reading and Biology/Sociology" at the National Association for Developmental Education's annual meeting in Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 28-March 3.

M. Neil Browne, economics, and Stuart Keeley, psychology, presented a faculty development workshop at Central Missouri State University called "Teaching and Assessing Critical Thinking" on Jan. 9. Browne also presented "The Sustainability of Craft Ethics as a Moral Foundation for Business Ethics" and "Honesty, Individualism and the Need for Pragmatic Business Ethics" with David Reed and Kevin Quinn, both of economics, at the Second Annual International Conference on Business Ethics in New York City, Nov. 2. Browne also presented "The Role Dependency of the Ethics of Chairpersons" at the 13th annual Academic Chairpersons Conference in Orlando, Feb. 8. John H. Hoag and J. David Reed, both of economics, are the co-authors.

Emily Freeman Brown, music, conducted the 1996 District I Festival Orchestra in Fremont on Jan. 20.


Steven Carmelius, music, presented a clinic on the "Music and Dance of West Africa" at the 1996 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference, Feb. 1-3 in Dayton.

Rob Cunningham, affirmative action/disability resources, presented "ADA: Expectations for the Future" at the National University Continuing Education Association Conference in Cincinnati on Oct. 16.

Robert DeBard, humanities, Firelands, presented "Conducting User Friendly Testing for Academic Placement and Research" at the 15th annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, held in Nov. in Oxford, Ohio. He also presented "The Study of Money: Science, Technology or Philosophy" at the Association for the Study of Higher Learning meeting, held in Nov. in Orlando, Fla.

Timothy Fuerst, economics, presented "Agency Costs, Net Worth, and Business Fluctuations: A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis," at the University of Western Ontario, March 12 and at Loyola University on Feb. 16.

In the News

President Sidney Ribeau is "engineering a revolution that could be a model for some of the other big public universities in Ohio," according to a report March 25 in The Plain Dealer. The story about Ribeau's presidency thus far notes that about 5,000 of the Bowling Green's current students and about 20,000 alumni are from the Greater Cleveland area.

Recent graduate Russell Peterson as well as his mentor and saxophone professor John Sampen are the subject of a story which appears in the most recent issue of The Saxophone Symposium. Peterson won the top prize in the prestigious 21st International Geneva Competition held last fall in Switzerland. The story notes that Sampen was himself a prize-winner in the 1970 Geneva Concours. For instrumentalists, the competition is considered to be the equivalent of the Olympics for athletes.

Sound recordings archivist William Schurk talked about the blues with Fremont News Messenger reporter Paula Wethington for a Feb. 15 article about a Black History Month tribute at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He also was interviewed by Dick Berry of WTOL-TV in Toledo about the history of the Grammy Awards. That interview aired on Feb. 28 and 29 on Channel 11.
Calendar

Monday, April 1
Film, Dad Died. 9 p.m., Gish Film Theater. In German with subtitles. Free.

Tuesday, April 2
Softball hosts Ball State, 2 p.m., softball field.
Faculty Senate Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room, Metal Center.
Slapstick Comedy Films, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Five short films, part of the Silent Film series. Free.
Panel discussion, "A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — Points of Reflection: Has the Dream Died?", 7-9 p.m., 115 Oscamp Hall.
Performance, Guido's Band, 7:30 p.m., Manor House at Toledo's Wildwood MetroPark. Free.
Performance, Graduate String Quartet, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Wednesday, April 3
Films, El Super, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Part of the Latino Film series. Free. Faculty Artist Series concert featuring works by College of Musical Arts composition faculty members. 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Thursday, April 4
Conversations at the Institute, 9-11 a.m., health, physical education and recreation, "Experiences of Lesbian Collegiate Coaches," Vali Kranz, 114 College Park Office Building.
Administrative Staff Council meeting, 1:30 p.m., Alumni Room, University Union.
Performance, percussion ensemble, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

PERS representatives to conduct info sessions
Representatives from the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) will be on campus April 29 to present orientation sessions for all employees in the system.
In addition to the sessions, a representative from the Social Security Office will be on hand to provide information on items that impact PERS retirement plans and answer questions.
Three presentations have been scheduled throughout the day in the Alumni Room of the University Union. The first session begins at 10:30 a.m. with repeat sessions at noon and 3 p.m.
In addition to the orientation sessions, a PERS representative will be available April 29 and 30 to conduct personal interviews with individuals who wish to review their retirement accounts. All interviews will be held in the College Park Office Building.
Staff who plan to set up and interview or plan to attend one of the orientation sessions must contact Yolanda Patton in the Office of Human Resources (2-8421) by April 19.

Panel presentations to look at ESL programs
Next week will be set aside to recognize English as a second language, bilingual education and international programs.
Special events have been scheduled throughout campus and the Bowling Green community, including displays in Jerome Library and the Wood County Library.
The events also include two panel presentations — "Teaching English Overseas: A Practical Discussion" to be held at 8 p.m. April 8 in the Jerome Library conference room; and "Bilingualism and Multilingualism: Language Planning and Policies" to be held at 4 p.m. April 10 in the Taft Room of the University Union.

Memos

CSC seeks nominations
Twenty-seven hundred nomination packets have been mailed to all faculty and staff for the purpose of collecting nominations for the 1996-97 Classified Staff Outstanding Service Award.
Any current, permanent classified staff member, either full-time or part-time, who has been on the BGSU payroll for 12 continuous months is eligible.
Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on June 28.
Contact Don Schumacher or Susan Shannon at 2-2911 if you have not received a nomination packet and would like one mailed to you.

Exercise program available for staff
The Office of Recreational Sports will be starting a new exercise program this week called The Fitness Challenge. Participants in this program receive a packet of information on proper exercising; monthly workshops on fitness, nutrition and other related areas and points for working out on a weekly basis. Points can be traded for coffee mugs, fitness assessments, classified staff membership, and membership in some fitness challenge locker rooms.
To take part, sign up at the Student Recreation Center.

ODK Initiation to be held May 3
The Beta Tau Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa will hold its annual spring initiation on May 3.
A continental breakfast will be served from 7-8 a.m. in the Alumni Room, University Union for faculty, staff, students and alumni who are ODK members.
The initiation of new members will take place from 4-4:45 p.m. in Prout Chapel, followed by a reception in the Alumni Room of the University Union.
Those who wish to nominate a faculty/staff person for ODK membership should contact Ralph Wolfe, English, by April 10.

Employees should return fee waivers
All employees who will be attending classes or have dependents who will be attending classes this summer are reminded to complete and submit their fee waiver forms to the Office of Human Resources as soon as possible.

Course aids communication
A free course on "Communication and Negotiation Skills" will be offered to all faculty and staff from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday (April 3).

John Moore, assistant vice president for human resources, will facilitate this program designed to help employees deal with conflict and difficult people.
To register, call Yolanda Patton at 2-8421.

Deadline nears for day care
Faculty and staff have until 5 p.m. on Friday (April 5) to submit applications to the Office of Human Resources for the new day care center on campus.
The center, located north of the College Park Office Building, will provide day care for 72 children of University staff and students.
A lottery will be conducted on April 8 to select applicants to fill the spots. All entrants will be notified of their status that week.
Lottery applications are available by writing or visiting Donna Wittwer, benefits manager, 100 College Park Office Building, or calling 2-2113.

Supervisory issues addressed by course
John Moore, assistant vice president for human resources, will host a program directed towards issues faced by supervisors from 10 a.m.-noon April 11 in the Human Resources Training Room, College Park Office Building.
The program will look at problems, concerns, policies, procedures and review case studies. It will also address issues such as managing and motivating today's new work force, team building, stress and understanding.

Professor teaches desk stretches
Stephen M. Horowitz, assistant professor of health promotion, will give a free brown bag lunch on how to do desk stretches and eye exercises that will help make working at a computer more comfortable.
"Preventing (Terminal) Illness" will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. in the Ohio Suite of the University Union.
To register call Yolanda Patton at 2-8421.

University Union hosts Easter lunch
An all-you-can-eat Easter Sunday luncheon will be served from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 7 in the Lentz Grand Ballroom.
The meal costs $9.95 for adults, $8.95 for students and $4.95 for children aged 4-11. Children aged 3 and under eat free and senior citizens can use the Golden Buckeye card for discount. For reservations contact Tina at 2-2943.