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Bowling Green State University

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

New academic year begins with new vision, direction

Bowling Green State University is heading towards the 21st century with a defined vision, a new set of directions and some new leadership.

The course was set during last week's opening day convocation, which for the first time combined all staff in one setting — faculty, administrative and classified.

Calling it an "historic" gathering, President Sidney Ribeau revealed a new organizational structure which names Charles Middleton, newly hired vice president for academic affairs, provost and gives him responsibility for overseeing the majority of campus areas.

But the new organizational structure was only a minor point in last week's message, according to Ribeau. The new vision for Bowling Green — which defines the direction it will take beginning with this academic year — should

tion to strive further."

The University can accomplish this high goal through interdependence in an academic environment that is guided by rational discourse.

"We must find a way to talk about issues ... and we must come together for the greater good of the University," the president explained.

Using overhead slides, Ribeau explained that the new vision for the University will be supported by the following:

- an extensive portfolio of distinctive undergraduate programs, focused master's and specialist degrees and a select number of nationally recognized doctoral programs;
- scholarly and creative endeavors of the highest order;
- academically challenging teaching, fully connected with research and public



At the social gathering before the start of the opening day convocation, Charles Cranny, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chats with President Sidney Ribeau and Vice President for Academic Affairs Charles Middleton.

"Bowling Green State University aspires to be the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. Through the interdependence of teaching, learning, scholarship and service, we will create an academic environment grounded in intellectual discovery and guided by rational discourse and civility. Bowling Green State University serves the diverse and multicultural communities of Ohio, the United States and the world."

—BGSU vision statement

be the focus for faculty and staff.

The vision is this: "Bowling Green State University aspires to be the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. Through the interdependence of teaching, learning, scholarship and service, we will create an academic environment grounded in intellectual discovery and guided by rational discourse and civility. Bowling Green State University serves the diverse and multicultural communities of Ohio, the United States and the world."

This statement was developed from suggestions from individual faculty, staff and students and several groups over the course of the last five months. It evolved from a draft statement published last April.

Its message is clear. "We should be the best," Ribeau told those gathered for the convocation. "If we set our sights on being good or only the best in northwest Ohio, then it doesn't give us the motiva-

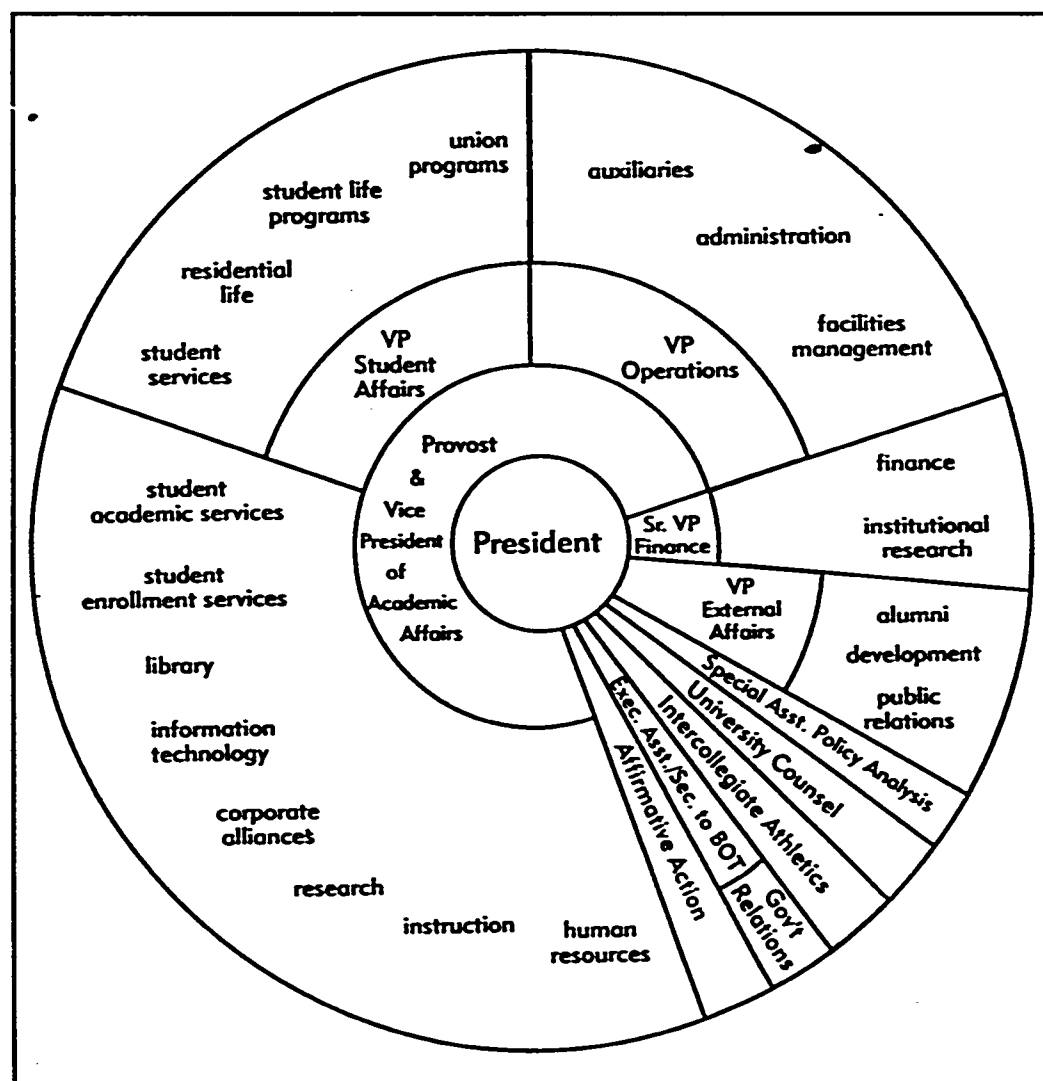
service;

- innovative academic planning that focuses on society's changing needs, student outcomes and the appropriate integration of technology;
- an educational environment that develops culturally literate, self assured technologically productive citizens who are prepared to lead, to inspire and to preserve the great traditions of our democracy.

Ribeau also spelled out five values to which all members of the University should adhere: "respect for one another, cooperation, intellectual and spiritual growth, creative imaginings and pride in a job well done."

"It is totally unrealistic to expect students to leave with values they aren't exposed to while they are here," he said.

In concluding his presentation, Ribeau challenged staff, "each and every one of



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Staff member is recognized for her dedication to students

When Joanne Bruning started working at the University in 1971 she thought she would only stay for a year or so. Twenty-five years later she admits she became "hooked on the students" and found it impossible to leave.

It seems that Bruning, secretary for student activities, has found a niche that is beneficial not only to her, but to the young adults who call Bowling Green their home for a few years.

Bruning's dedication to students, compassion, dependability and quiet assistance has earned her Classified Staff Council's prestigious Outstanding Service Award for 1996.

The award was announced Aug. 15 during a ceremony for classified staff held in Anderson Arena.

Fourteen classified staff were nominated for the award this year, but Bruning was the only one nominated by her daughter.

Lisa Meyer, account clerk for the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, said she nominated her mother for the award because she has "witnessed her many acts of commitment to her job, students, UAO and the University over the past 25 years."

Some of those acts include hosting an annual chicken barbecue for all staff and student members of UAO at the Bruning home each spring, preparing food for a party at the end of each semester and putting up visiting UAO guests and students when they needed a place to stay.

Bruning and her husband also make a point of visiting former students and co-workers when they are on vacation and have often accompanied students on UAO-sponsored trips, Meyer said.

While Meyer was the one who nominated her mother for the award, Bruning's co-workers wholeheartedly supported the selection and wrote letters of recommendation on her behalf.

"For the thousands of students who have been or are currently involved in

the organizations housed in Student Activities, Joanne has been their confidant, friend, adviser and surrogate mother," wrote Gregg DeCrane, assistant vice president and dean of students. "She constantly goes beyond what is expected of her ... I think the students expressed their feelings for Joanne this year when they introduced an award in her name, which recognizes outstanding contributions to their organization. Fittingly, the first recipient was Joanne."

Gale Swanka, Bruning's direct supervisor, said that students "have named Joanne 'the goddess' and tell new members that if there is anything they don't know, to ask her — she knows everything."

"She is always going out of her way to help the students and do things for them ... she runs errands for them when they have an emergency with an event, she lets them borrow her car to pick up posters, she listens to them when they are distraught over a boy/girlfriend and celebrates with them when something exciting happens, like getting the perfect job."

Beth Nielsen-Smith, instructor in the recreation and tourism division, said that Bruning is "highly motivated and sets high standards for herself. She is dedicated and loyal. At the same time, Joanne is a kind, compassionate human being who shows empathy for others. She is not judgmental."

Nielsen-Smith said she believes Bruning "bleeds orange and brown. She is always promoting the University to family, friends, students and the community. She attends many University events, decks out in orange and brown on school spirit days and talks positively of BGSU."

Bruning said that she enjoys working with students and seeing them mature from insecure freshmen to self-assured seniors. "Unlike a professor who may only have one semester with a student, I can often watch them through their entire



Joanne Bruning

educational experience."

She said she makes it a point to do her best to help students whether they have a question or a minor concern. "Sometimes it only takes an extra five minutes to help them avoid getting the run-around," she said "We need to realize they are the reason we are here and do our best to

help them."

Bruning said she was "numb" when she learned she was this year's Outstanding Service Award recipient. She was particularly pleased with the reserved parking space for one year that comes with the recognition. "Oh, and the \$1,000 award is nice too," she added.

Generous estate gift from Currier family will benefit journalism department

Collectively, Jesse and Florence Currier devoted almost 50 years of their lives to bettering the University. Now a \$500,000 gift from the Florence Currier estate will continue that work.

One of the largest estate gifts in the history of the University, the money will be used to establish the Florence and Jesse Currier Fund. Interest earned by the fund will benefit the Department of Journalism which was founded by Jesse Currier in 1941.

Under the terms of the gift, the accrued interest will be used in three ways:

- First, to enhance a scholarship program previously established by the Curriers. The scholarships will recognize outstanding graduate and undergraduate students in journalism;

- Second, to establish the Florence and Jesse Currier Visiting Lecture Series,

which will bring outstanding journalists and media professionals to the campus to speak and to meet with faculty and students, and;

- Third, to fund special projects as determined by the chair of the department of journalism. These projects may include purchases such as library materials and computer equipment, or funding for seminars and research projects.

"We are thrilled with the gift," was the not-too-surprising initial reaction from Nancy Brendlinger, an associate professor of journalism and chair of the department.

"We are certainly planning to use the money to enhance what we do currently in the department, but we also want to use the money to do something or some things which we could never do before," she added.

Because the gift is an endowment, it will be a full year before the interest on the principal is available for distribution, Brendlinger said, adding that faculty and students will be meeting throughout the coming year to determine exactly how best to take advantage of the donation.

The Curriers came to Bowling Green in 1940, when Jesse Currier was hired as an assistant professor of English. He was also asked to teach a couple of journalism courses.

By the spring of the following year, he submitted a plan to start a department of journalism. The plan was quickly approved and the program began by offering six courses taught by two faculty members. Jesse guided the program for the next 27 years. He retired in 1967 and died two years later.

Today, the Department of Journalism, housed within the School of Communi-

cation Studies, has 10 full-time faculty members and more than 300 undergraduate majors. In addition, more than 50 graduate students take journalism courses in pursuing a degree in mass communication.

Florence came to Bowling Green with her husband and began work in the residence life area. In 1949, she was named dean of women. During her tenure, the number of women students on the campus doubled and to keep pace, Florence completely redesigned and revamped the residence hall programs to better serve students. She also completely redesigned the counseling system in the residence halls and began programs to bring educational, social and entertainment activities into the halls.

She retired in 1963 and died in August of 1995 at the age of 86.

Two faculty members are awarded Fulbright scholarships

Two faculty members will be teaching and conducting research in China and the Czech Republic on Fulbright scholarships this year.

Fiona MacKinnon-Slaney, a professor of higher education administration and student affairs, will spend the fall semester at Beijing (China) Normal University, and Ellen Berry, an associate professor of English and director of the University's women studies program, will teach and conduct research at Charles University in Prague during the spring.

MacKinnon-Slaney will be only the second American to teach at this particular Chinese university in more than 40 years. She will be teaching two courses in higher education administration to about two dozen Chinese graduate students.

"I'll be teaching these courses as I would in Bowling Green," MacKinnon-Slaney said, adding that, "It should be quite a shock for the students." In explaining, she said the Chinese educational system is based on the Soviet system. "We will be discussing topics and examining issues in a way that they have never considered before," she added.

At Charles University, founded in the 14th century and one of the world's oldest universities, Berry will be teaching an undergraduate class in American literature and a graduate seminar on feminist theory.

In addition to teaching, Berry will also be conducting research on the growing women's movement in former East Bloc countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. She will also explore the possibility of establishing a faculty exchange program between Bowling Green and Prague.

Like MacKinnon-Slaney, Berry said she expects to "shake up" her students with both her teaching style and her subject material. Students in East Europe are more passive, she said, adding that their educational history calls for teachers to lecture and for students to sit and listen. "My style of teaching requires the students to be more involved."

Also, feminist ideas and women's studies programs are relatively new in East Europe, she said, adding that she is almost certain to present ideas which are new and, perhaps, controversial to her students.

Both MacKinnon-Slaney and Berry said they also expect to be significantly changed by the experience.

"I expect the experience will challenge me to examine my assumptions about life, about education—about everything. I hope it will make me a better teacher. When I return to Bowling Green, I'll certainly be able to offer a different perspective to my students," MacKinnon-Slaney said.

Berry echoed that thought. "I'll be able to see America through the eyes of foreigners. Just by teaching them about American literature, my biases and assumptions—those things about American life that I take for granted—will be exposed.

"That will change the way I think about my subject. It will probably change what I teach and the way I teach it when I return," she said.

Both professors emphasized that they expect the experience to make them better teachers.

The Fulbright Program, which

began in 1946, is celebrating its golden anniversary this year. It was developed by J. William Fulbright, then a 40-year-old freshman senator from Arkansas, to promote peace and democracy in the post-World-War-II world and to "acquaint Americans with the world as it is and acquaint students and scholars from many lands with America as it is..."

The first scholar exchange occurred in 1948. A total of 83 scholars from four countries—China, Burma, the Philippines and the U.S.—participated. Today, the Fulbright program has expanded into seven distinct programs, enabling more than 5,000 students, faculty and business leaders from almost 150 countries to participate annually.



Fiona MacKinnon-Slaney and Ellen Berry

Through the years, more than 60 Bowling Green students and faculty members have been awarded the prestigious scholarship.

Faculty and staff are honored by their colleagues

The following internal awards were among those given to faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants at the end of the last semester and early this semester. Various other awards were previously reported in Monitor.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:
Roudabeh Jamasbi, medical technology, received the Dean's Contingency Award.

Barb Keeley, director of program advisement and coordinator of the nursing program, received the Personnel Committee's Professional Development Institute Award.

Charles Keil, environmental health, received the Faculty Excellence Award from Undergraduate Student Government.

Jennifer Kinney, director of the gerontology program, received the graduate research assistant award from the Graduate College.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:
Simon Morgan-Russell, English, received the Undergraduate Student Government Faculty Excellence Award for Arts and Sciences.

The following faculty received cash incentive awards from the Dean's Discretionary Fund for special merit or outstanding initiatives: **Gary Hess**, history; **Rex Lowe**, biological sciences; **Scott Regan**, theatre; **Terry Rentner**, journalism; and **Marie Tisak**, psychology.

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY:
Ernest Ezell, visual communication and technology education, and **Lori Schultz**, secretary for visual communication and technology education, both received the Excel-

lence in Technology Education Award.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:
Shane Johnson, finance, received the Robert A. Patton Scholarly Achievement Award.

B. Madhu Rao, applied statistics and operations research, received the Graduate Business Student Association Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award.

Brent Nicholson, legal studies, received the Undergraduate Student Government Faculty Excellence Award.

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS:
Outstanding Service Awards were given to persons in three divisions. **Jill Carr**, associate dean of students, received the administrative staff award; **Brenda Good**, previously of student employment and now in human resources, received the classified staff award; and **Heather Lane**, student life, was presented the graduate staff award.

Derek Dickinson, field house manager, received the Vice President's Service Award.

FIRELANDS COLLEGE:
Todd Marshall, biology, received the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Karen Munsterman, administrative assistant to the dean, received the Links to Progress Award, the most prestigious service award at Firelands.

Dean's Recognition Awards went to **Frank Glann**, **Ronald Ruble** and **Jann Glann**, all speech and theatre; and **Rick Wamer**, visiting guest artist.

LIBRARIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES:
Robert McLaird, technical assistant in the Center for Career Resources, received the Friends Staff Award.

MONITOR

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Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 3

Short films by Alice-Guy Blache, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Silent French films with English intertitles. Free.

Thursday, Sept. 5

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

Film, *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*, 9 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Sponsored by University Activities Organization. Free.

Friday, Sept. 6

Film, *The Best Years of Our Lives* 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Film, *The Godfather*, 8 and 11 p.m., 111 Olscamp Hall. Sponsored by University Activities Organization. Admission \$2.

Theatre presentation, *Fiddler on the Roof*, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. For ticket information call 2-8171.

Saturday, Sept. 7

Film, *The Cat From Outer Space*, 7:30 pm, Gish Film Theater. Free.

Film, *The Godfather*, 8 and 11 p.m., 111 Olscamp Hall. Sponsored by University Activities Organization. Admission \$2.

Theatre presentation, *Fiddler on the Roof*, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. For ticket information call 2-8171.

Continuing events

Art exhibitions, "The Best of '96," featuring 116 juried pieces selected by the Ohio Designer-Craftsmen, in the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, through Sept. 18; "Perpetrators," an exhibition of prints by Ohio artist Sid Chafetz, in the Willard Wankelman Gallery, through Sept. 22. Both galleries are located in the Fine Arts Building and are open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free. •

At Firelands

Art exhibition, works by Zita Sodeika, through Oct. 2, Little Gallery.

Employment

Please contact the Office of Human Resources 2-8421 for information regarding the following listings:

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Assistant director (V-072) — Career services. Deadline: Sept. 9.

Director, Arts Unlimited (M-077) — Continuing Education, International and Summer Programs. Deadline: Oct. 15.

Manager of payables and restricted accounting (M-075) — Business Office. Deadline: Sept. 6.

Ceremony to usher in start of new year

Students in the Department of Higher Education and Student Affairs will mark the beginning of their graduate studies with a formal convocation and candle lighting ceremony in 101 Olscamp Hall on Friday (Sept. 6).

The ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a procession of faculty and distinguished guests in their academic regalia. John C. Moore, interim vice president for external affairs, will be the keynote speaker. He will discuss "Achieving Individual Excellence through Cooperation."

New students in both the master's and doctoral programs will sign a department register and take part in a candle lighting ceremony.

Did You Know?

■ This semester there is one computer for every 20 resident student at the University, compared to one for every 162 residents just two years ago. There are 13 computer labs in residence halls, 29 mini-labs in the small group residences and 40 percent of residence hall rooms are wired to the University's central computing network. The goal is to have all rooms wired by the beginning of the 1997 academic year.

■ Thirty-six National Merit Scholars are among the members of this year's freshman class. Seventeen of those students are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, seven in education, six in pre-major advising, two in music, one in health and human services and three in business administration.



Tradition!

Tickets are still available for two encore performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*, produced by the Bowling Green Summer Musical Theatre. The show will be staged at 8 p.m. Sept. 6-7 in Kobacker Hall. The musical features producer and director F. Eugene Dybdahl (pictured) as Tevye. Other faculty members in the performance include Roger Thibault and Richard Zeller. For ticket information call 2-8171.

WBGU-TV hosts Stratford theatre tour

WBGU-TV is sponsoring a tour to Stratford, Ontario, for the Stratford Festival Theatre Oct. 19-20.

The tour includes motorcoach transportation with pick-up in Lima and Findlay, dinner at the Olde English Parlour, tickets for *Music Man* and *Barrymore*, a world premier play starring Christopher Plummer, hotel

accommodations at the Festival Inn, a complete buffet breakfast, a tour of the Festival Theatre stage and production areas and more.

The cost is \$233 per person, for double occupancy rooms. Reservations and payment are due Sept. 9. To reserve a seat or for more information call Pat Koehler at 2-7049.

New vision, direction unveiled at convocation

Continued from page 1

you wherever you find yourselves," to "embrace and operationalize" the new vision and "make it part of the University ... All of this is much ado about nothing unless you internalize it."

The University community is capable of accomplishing great things, Ribeau said. He pointed out examples where staff went above and beyond their normal duties to accomplish a job, such as working overtime when the computer registration system crashed over the weekend before the start of school.

Vice President Middleton offered a similar message of encouragement and trust. "I applaud your accomplishments over the decades," Middleton said.

"They are significant. They make future successes possible, though not inevitable."

He also commented that "it is written that no person is an island. However true that may be in the world at large, at BGSU it is assuredly so. In this place everyone has an essential role to play."

Middleton challenged faculty and staff to "imagine our future together as I have personally learned to imagine it thanks to President Ribeau."

Ray Medlin, president of the Board of Trustees, opened the convocation by thanking faculty and staff for their contributions. He said that the University is well prepared to face the challenges of the coming year.