BGSU seeks new ways to build connections with first-year students

The desire to feel a part of a group is a basic human emotion, as novelist E. M. Forster has so eloquently expressed. The vital importance of connecting emotionally and intellectually with other people was a major theme in his work. For many new students at a large university environment, the connectedness they are searching for is often missing and they feel as if they must cope with the challenging new situation alone.

Research shows that it is those students who do not form a connection anywhere within their first semester at college who are most likely to drop out or transfer. At Bowling Green, this represents not only a failure to fulfill its obligation to its students but a serious financial problem as well. The University’s fiscal health is tightly bound to the retention of students.

The “First Year Experience Program” began this year under the direction of Jodi Webb, student affairs, at the BGSU community was already reaching out to new students while adding some new initiatives. The umbrella organization will provide the necessary coordination and oversight for a comprehensive effort.

The goal of the First Year Experience effort is to see that every student is affiliated with some program, person or organization on campus to which they will continue on page 4

Operations area begins reorganization

In the first of a series of reorganizational changes in the Operations area, four offices are being assigned to new vice presidential units.

The changes, involving risk management, capital planning, architectural and environmental services, were announced last week by President Sidney Ribeau. He said that the changes were made following consultation with the directors of the areas involved so they could offer their recommendations. Meetings also were held with staff members so they could ask questions and give opinions.

The goal is to complete the total reorganization of Operations by June 30, Ribeau said. Consultations with the directors and staff are ongoing within the three largest areas of the division, including auxiliary services, public safety and the physical plant.

Ribeau said that the reorganization of the Operations area is being based on developing strategies that will improve customer service, especially as they relate to recruitment and retention issues. Risk management, headed by Sandy LaGro; capital planning, headed by Robert Waddle and the architect’s office, directed by Rollie Engler, will be transferred to financial affairs.

The changes were based on the functional relationship that already exists between the three offices and the finance area, as well as the intent to better integrate planning. Capital planning and the architect’s office are also closely involved with the finance area in the initiation of major and minor construction projects at the University. Monitoring the projects will be primarily the responsibility of the physical plant area.

The environmental health and safety office, directed by Dan Parratt, has been moved to the provost’s area. Because the office’s programs affect the entire campus, the EHS staff felt the provost’s office is the appropriate reporting area, since a primary goal is forming relationships with academic areas.

Green light given to two new degree programs in health and education

The Ohio Board of Regents has approved two new advanced degree programs at Bowling Green. They include a doctor of education and a joint masters degree in public health with the University of Toledo and Medical Colleges of Ohio.

More than a dozen new students are expected to enroll in the doctor of education degree program in leadership studies this fall. The restructured program is offered through the Department of Educational Administration and Supervision.

Although officially the Ed.D. is a restructured version of the former Ph.D. in EDAS, Eugene Sanders, EDAS chair, said that the faculty essentially created a new doctoral program.

The scope of the program has expanded to serve students beyond the field of public education. The Ed.D. in leadership studies will be appropriate for anyone seeking a terminal degree in leadership, Sanders explained.

Also, applications for enrollment in a newly created master’s degree program in public health are already being accepted.

The first of its kind in northwest Ohio, the program will be jointly administered by the three institutions and all three will attach their names to the resulting diploma. The College of Health and

Human Services will oversee the Bowling Green portion of the degree offering.

“Ts this precedent-setting,” Clyde Willis, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, said. “This is an excellent example of each institution contributing its unique talent and expertise to create a program of extremely high quality.”

Graduates will have both technical and administrative skills and will be prepared to work at all levels of government, at community agencies, private health care facilities and at academic institutions.

The program’s six core courses include biostatistics, epidemiology, public health administration, health behavior, environmental health and issues in public health. Each institution will offer two of the core courses.

After completing the core coursework, students will then focus their remaining studies in one of three specializations: environment and occupational health, health promotion and education, and public health administration. The latter specialization will be centered at Bowling Green. Currently, a search is underway to hire a faculty member to coordinate the specialization and to serve as associate director of the entire program.
BGSU taps potential of distance learning through links to other sites

Robert Vincent, geology, recalls with humor the fire alarm that sounded in the middle of his lesson. He left Olscamp Hall as did all others in the building, but many students in the class he was teaching stayed put.

That's because the students were in a classroom about 150 miles away, at Miami University. It's one of a growing number of instances involving Bowling Green and the developing method of instruction called distance learning.

"Distance learning is when the professor and students are at different sites, but linked by technology, be it e-mail, the World Wide Web or television," said Suzanne Crawford, dean of continuing education, international and summer programs. "There have been courses taught over television in the past, but technology today has made it easier to have two-way links of audio and video. We've had distance learning classes with our Firelands College for a few years."

The class involving Miami students became a reality because of Vincent's specialization in geological and environmental remote sensing. Distance learning makes its possible for students at other universities to learn from faculty who may have expertise not available on their home campuses. "I know how to find oil, gas and minerals using data from satellites," said Vincent. "That's a skill I can teach to others."

The Miami connection began last year when Vincent played host to a colleague, Richard Beck, whose specialization is the movements of the earth's plates. Beck was fascinated by the idea of remote sensing and Vincent was fascinated by the prospect of teaching via interactive television. The two arranged for the class to be taught through the University's distance learning facilities.

The class has 17 students, all masters students, at Olscamp Hall and 10, ranging from undergraduates to doctoral candidates, at Miami. Through the video and audio tie-ins Vincent and the Bowling Green students can see and talk with their counterparts at Miami.

"This is a pilot project," Vincent said, adding its future depends on evaluations after the semester is over. However, he believes that the potential of distance learning is only beginning to be tapped. "This course could be taught from here at other schools, private industry and to a tremendous market overseas." India, Peru, Chile and China are among the countries that are developing interest in remote sensing to identify gas and mineral deposits, he said.

The Miami project isn't the only distance learning effort at Bowling Green. One ongoing distance learning class is with Terra Community College in Fremont. Currently, there are about 15 Terra faculty and an equal number of employees of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant at Oak Harbor who are taking classes that are being originated from Olscamp Hall.

The people at Terra have associate degrees and are working toward their bachelor of science in technology. This arrangement is called 2 Plus 2, representing the two-year degree the students already have and the additional two years they need for a baccalaureate degree. The program is administered by Bowling Green's continuing education program and the College of Technology.

The 2 Plus 2 program will expand the value of distance learning, Crawford said. "The people at Terra wanted to earn their four-year degree, but they are time- and place-bound. That is, because of their jobs they find it difficult to attend a traditional residential college. Distance learning helps make it possible for them to work toward their degrees."

At the end of March, the total for the fall semester was $600,000, which surpasses the total for any other year. Frisch said the increase is due to "the doubling of the membership of the University's consulting service."

The 2 Plus 2 program has expanded the number of students from 17 to 48 and the number of classes has tripled.

CSC plans new awards ceremony

Classified Staff Council discussed plans at its April 15 meeting for a year-end ceremony to be held May 1. In past years, the event has been at the start of the fall semester but it was felt more staff members would be able to attend in May before the rush of preparing for the new school year began. Vice chair Faith Olson has been active in developing a new format for the event.

At the ceremony, the 1997 Outstanding Service Award will be announced. Also, four $225 scholarships will be awarded to four students.

In other action, council reviewed a brochure being developed for new classified staff members which outlines the classification of CSC, some services that are offered and highlights on behalf of classified staff and other related information. Several wording changes were suggested.

The council also discussed progress on the employee handbooks being composed to cover all constituent groups. Council chair Pat Kitchen reported the CSC Personnel Welfare Committee had decided to remain neutral on the issue of whether care for "domestic partners" should be included in the Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, as proposed by Faculty Senate. The CSC group felt the provision opened up other, more difficult issues, such as whether domestic partners should be covered by University health insurance policies.

Council also discussed the four candidates for Senior Vice Provost for Human Resources and agreed to support one candidate. Council will send a letter to the administration informing them of its preference.

Because of the ongoing reorganization and realignment of University vice presidential areas, there may be a need to redistribute the membership of council.

Olson also announced that the results of a survey on employee job satisfaction/ cynicism will be ready shortly and will be presented to the president's cabinet.

Plan ahead to order office supplies

Central Stores/Office Supplies will be closed for inventory on Friday, May 8 and will reopen Tuesday, May 13. During this time, departments will be unable to order or receive any office, copier or computer paper or other supplies. Orders for May 13 delivery must be placed no later than 3 p.m., Thursday, May 8.

CSC web page to open in early July

"Treasuries" to be on sale at surplus auction

An auction of surplus items will be held at the Record Street Warehouse beginning at 10:30 a.m., April 30.

Office and residence hall furniture, motor vehicles, computer equipment and various unclaimed items from the campus lost and found including rings, watches, backpacks, books, umbrellas and more than 100 bicycles will be up for bid.

Extra test-scanning hours offered

Computer Services will extend its test-scanning hours for final exams to include Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m.-noon. Faculty and instructors should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall. During finals week, the office window will also be open during the noon hour.

April brings showers of dollars

April has been a banner month for the BGSU Foundation, Inc., according to John Moore, interim vice president for University advancement. Several substantial gifts and pledges have boosted the University to a total of $4.1 million, surpassing the total amount of donations a year ago, Frisch said.

The biggest week was April 4-10, when more than $405,000 was received. About half of that, $230,805, was the final disbursement from the Florence E. Frankl Estate.
July 7, 2000

Katz reaffirms the liberal arts tradition

President Sidney Ribeau introduced Stanley Katz, the third speaker in the Presidential Lecture Series, as “one of the moving forces in the revitalization and reconceptualization of liberal education today.” Katz is a professor at Princeton University and president of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Times have changed dramatically for liberal arts institutions, Katz said. Once respected as venerable repositories of knowledge charged with producing graduates well versed in all areas of the arts and sciences, today universities find themselves having to justify their existence in terms of dollars and cents and accused of being out of touch with reality.

Those in higher education must rethink and strengthen the universities’ position if the essence of liberal arts is to be preserved, he said.

“The distinctive character of an arts and science education is a liberal education,” he said. Arts and science universities such as Bowling Green are the expression of the liberal arts tradition in the United States. However, today the “keepers of the flame are also busy keeping departments afloat,” he said, and while public accountability is important for universities, too often the demand for utility means losing sight of the integrative nature of liberal arts education.

The basic functions of education are the education of the individual student and the creation of new knowledge, he said. For students, this means fostering choice and the right to take risks. Students with a deep knowledge and understanding of the world will ultimately be of greater service in “saving the larger society” than those who have mastered a single vocation, he said.

While the deepest understanding of a subject comes from the actual application of it, he said, “utilitarianism is very dangerous” when used as a measure of the worth of learning.

Other attacks have come from within the institutions themselves, he said. The “culture wars” of the late 1980s and early 1990s challenged the foundations of the liberal arts curriculum. Multiculturalists and movements such as deconstructionism and nihilism have eroded public confidence in liberal arts and have had “a profoundly destabilizing impact…. The question is how to explain our changing understanding of liberal education to the public, who criticise us as being too weak and too broad.”

Unfortunately, when those who manage higher education institutions have sought to explain the contribution of society to a liberal-arts education to a doubting public, they have too often made matters worse by speaking of such things as economic impact studies and estimates of future incomes of graduates—“voodoo economics, I call it.”

Rather, Katz quoted a colleague from Eastern Europe who, in expressing his hopes for the university of the future in his new nation, also expressed an ideal of a university that is “a polis for dialogue between the generations that does not turn into a conversation among the deaf or the Tower of Babel.”

April showers continued from page 2

Currier estate, Frisch said. The $730,000 bequest will benefit the journalism department.

“This demonstrates how bequests can have a significant impact on the University,” Frisch commented.

The success of the telefund has also been a factor, Moore added. “The telefund continues to be a valuable contributor to the campaign,” he noted. That each of the five colleges represented...
**Calendar**

**Monday, April 28**
Training Sessions, performance appraisal, for all administrative staff or faculty who supervise an administrative staff member, 1-5 p.m., Alumni Room, Student Union. Call Marcia Buckenmeyer at 2-2558 to schedule a session.

**Wednesday, April 29**
Training Sessions, see April 28, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Ohio Suite, Student Union. Affirmative Action Program, "Gender Biased Language," will encourage the use of alternative word choices and foster an awareness of problems associated with gender-biased language, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Palisser Conference Room.

Banquet, "Appraising Excellence Student Leadership Recognition," presentation of departmental and Student Life awards, 6 p.m., Lenthart Grand Ballroom, Student Union. Coordinated by the Office of Student Life. Contact Pam Boersig at 2-2543 for more information.

**Wednesday, April 30**
Training Sessions, see April 28, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Ohio Suite, Student Union. Student-Athlete Honors Luncheon, reception begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch and awards to follow, Lenthart Grand Ballroom, Student Union. For reservations call 2-7096, cost $8.

**Thursday, May 1**
Training Sessions, see April 28, 8 a.m.-noon, Founder's Meeting Room, Club 57 and 4-6 p.m., Palisser Conference Room, Jerome Library.

Dissertation Defense, "Ethos in the Reflective Voice of James Morris," by Rosalee Stitlwell, English, 8:30 a.m., 202 University Hall, English Department Library Lounge. Classified Staff Awards Ceremony, winners of the Classified Staff Outstanding Service and Classification Scholarship recipients will be announced, 10:00 a.m., Lenthart Grand Ballroom, Student Union. Administrative Staff Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Alumni Room, Student Union.

Café Conversation, conversation in French, free coffee and cookies, 3-5 p.m., La Maison Francaise, Free.

Dissertation Defense, "The Janus Paradigm: An Historical and Critical Study Toward Administrative and Curricular Reform in College and University Theatre Pedagogy and Practice," by Franklin Himes, theatre, 4 p.m., 213B South Hall.

**Television Program, "President Ribeau & Company," 8 p.m., WSGU-TV.**

**Sunday, May 4**
Chico de Mayo Festival, Mexican fiesta with folkloric dancers, Andanzas Mexicanas from Toledo, Mexican bingo, "conjunto" music of Los Cuatro Vientos de Jimmie Bepareno of Fremont, and Mexican food, 1-8 p.m., Bowling Green City Park. Sponsored by the University Human Relations Commission and the Latino Networking Committee.

**Monday, May 5**

**Tuesday, May 6**
Dissertation Defense, Lingqing Yang, philosophy department, will defend her dissertation "State Activism in China's Late Development," 2-4:30 p.m., 101 Shafter Hall.

Faculty Senate Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room, 3rd floor, Student Union.

Dissertation Defense, "On the Road: Exploring Travel and Travel Writing in Composition Studies," by Carolyn Keele, English, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 202 University Hall.

Café Conversation, conversation in French, free coffee and cookies, 3-5 p.m., La Maison Francaise, Free.

**Thursday, May 8**

Television Program, "President Ribeau & Company," 8 p.m., WSGU-TV.

**Friday, May 9**
Graduate College Commencement, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Saturday, May 10**
Undergraduate Commencement, Colleges of Business Administration, Health and Human Services and Technology at 9 a.m., Colleges of Musical Arts and Education and Allied Professions at 11 a.m. and College of Arts and Sciences at 1 p.m., Student Union.

**Monday, May 12**
Training Sessions, see April 28, 1-5 p.m., Alumni Room, Student Union.

**Continuing events**
Physics conference, Spring meeting of the American Physical Society-Ohio section, May 3-4, for faculty, students and industrial scientists. Call 2-2421 for more information.

For sale: Toshiba copier, document feeder, two-color option, 22 copies per minute. $400. Department of Accounting/MIS. Call 2-1276.

First year experience continued from page 1

exciting new venture that will have a "huge impact" upon the participants' first year at Bowling Green.

Between 150-250 students and eight faculty will be involved in the year-long program. The residential experience will help students adjust to college life by creating a partnership between academic and student personnel professionals while integrating students' moral, intellectual and social lives, Klein said.

The Task Force on Teaching and Learning has also initiated a mentoring program, called B.C. 200, developed by its Subcommittee on Strategies to Improve Student Retention. Hal Lunde, management, who chairs the subcommittee, said the name refers to building connections to the year 2001, the year that most of next fall's freshmen will graduate.

The program will include faculty, classified and administrative staff and retired faculty are being asked to participate.

Administrative staff has had a long-running program called "B.G. Effect," which provides mentoring to new students to help them through the first few weeks of school.

In an effort to increase students' all-around competence and self-assurance, other approaches are being initiated. Springboard is a one-credit-hour class offered through the Department of Psychology that pairs students with coaches in a series of personal development seminars. Participants go through activities that help identify their strengths and offer ways to improve abilities in problem solving, communication, judgment, leadership and self-assurance.

University Success classes are also helpful to first-year students. Headed by Amy O'Donnell, student affairs, the classes provide a variety of experiences to familiarize them with all aspects of the University ranging from learning how to study and using the library to attending musical performances and sports events.

Freshman Interest Groups also help students form bonds with one another and with faculty by combining 25 entering freshmen who have registered for the same two or three courses with an upper-class student leader. Under the direction of Beth Casey, Office of General Education, FIGs generally meet for the first half of the semester, during which students form study groups, explore the campus and the town and learn to use campus resources.

The First Year Experience is an ambitious undertaking, and Webb acknowledges it is only the beginning of what she hopes will eventually be an encompassing program that will insure no student "falls through the cracks."

**Employment**

FACULTY
Assistant professor - romance languages. One- or two-year position, Call 2-2467. Deadline: May 1.


Assistant professor - computer science. Tenure-track position, Call 2-6904. Deadline: May 1.

Assistant professor (preferred, all ranks considered) - international business. Tenure position. Call 2-2747. Deadline: May 1.

Assistant professor - recreational sports/ aquatics director (V-012) - recreational sports. Deadline: May 1.

CLASSIFIED

Posting expiration date for employees to apply: noon, May 2.

Laboratory Assistant (3-214) - biological sciences/drosophila species center. Pay grade 5, 12-month, part time, posted on and off campus simultaneously.

Carpenter 1 (5-2-1) - carpenter shop, physical plant. Pay grade 5, posted on and off campus simultaneously.

Breakfast repair worker 3 (5-2-1) - ice cream plant. Pay grade 9.

Secretary 2 (5-2-3) - institute for the Study of Culture and Society. Pay grade 7, 12-month, part time.

ADMINISTRATIVE
Assistant director of recreational sports/ aquatics director (V-012) - recreational sports. Deadline: May 9.

**Obituary**

IRVIN BRUNE
Irvin Brune, 92, died April 13 at Wood County Hospital. Brune joined the College of Education and Allied Professions faculty in 1963, specializing in mathematics education, and retired in 1978 as a professor emeritus of education.