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Monitor Newsletter December 08, 1997

Bowling Green State University

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The first-year experience: A course toward student success

A new freshman comes to Bowling Green, enrolls in classes and begins what he's been told will be four of the "best years of his life." His classes are large and impersonal, in different buildings, with different people. Although he is learning, he sees little or no connection among the fragmented subject matter, or his everyday life or to his career goals. He often doesn't understand what his professors expect. His friends and family are back home and he feels lonely and isolated.

Although this is often what happens in universities across the nation, these experiences constitute "a list of what doesn't work in undergraduate education," said Pat King, chair, higher education and student affairs.

One of four panelists participating in a Dec. 2 professional development event sponsored by the First Year Experience Program, King praised learning communities as a way to address many of these issues.

Learning communities involving small subgroups of the student population "make a large environment more manageable," King said.

They are not a new idea nor a political solution, the college experience "provides opportunities unlike any [students] will ever have and influences who they are and what they do," said Gregg De Crane, dean of students and assistant vice president for student affairs.

Learning is enhanced and augmented outside of the classroom through various experiences, he said. These include co-op and work experiences, service learning, co-curricular activities, participation in student organizations, residence hall/community living experiences and interaction with others from varying backgrounds.

Research shows that involvement leads to the development of leadership skills, a better understanding of self and others, the development of values, experiences in team-building and an increase in satisfaction.

Through a previous survey, RUSU seniors said involvement led to enhanced leadership skills, friendships, self-confidence and career clarification.

Although the college years may not be the best years of a student's life, the college experience "provides opportunities unlike any [students] will ever have and influence who they are and what they do," said De Crane.

He said "orientation has to be a key component" in providing initial exposure to "opportunities for involvement."

The UNK 100 University Success course could also be used as a vehicle to reach the majority of students.

What is missing, he said, is an intense program of faculty and staff development, in part to enhance awareness of services and programs available on campus in order to refer students to appropriate sources.

"Encourage active learning to foster multicultural awareness and cultural competency."

To help students connect with their own and other cultures, Bettina Shuford, multicultural affairs/student support services, suggests working with students to get them to become actively involved.

"Encourage students to go beyond the classroom to learn about other cultures," she said. They can search out information in the library or the newspaper, or a conversation may take place worldwide. Other suggested learning experiences include:

- field trips to an ethnic restaurant, a movie that addresses diversity or a religious service;
- direct interaction and conversation with diverse people in campus dining rooms and living environments, for example.
- participation in activities, programs, lectures and student groups on campus that expose students to different cultures. For example, Shuford's office is sponsoring a Kwanzaa celebration Dec. 12 and a French holiday dinner will be served Dec. 11 in Commons dining center.
- spending a week at home with a friend from another culture, perhaps celebrating a holiday.

Shuford, along with other panelists, encouraged faculty and staff to help students take intellectual risks in a safe environment.

She also emphasized the importance of discussion and sharing these experiences in and out of the classroom.

- Create integration and connections by linking coursework across disciplines with co-curricular activities and with the outside world.
- Chapman students, for example, may use an English paper about a topic they are studying in biology, history or art. Their field trips and visits may also relate to core classes.

King described a "Life of the Mind" course, which combines philosophy, biology and psychology simultaneously.

Building human connections is just as necessary, as King noted. "Learning has a very important social dimension."

Although small liberal arts colleges, which tend to focus on teaching and learning, may naturally function as successful learning communities, Ivy League and large research universities have long used the concept successfully, noted Steve Randerson, vice provost for undergraduate affairs.

"If teaching/learning and research are thought of as being part of a continuum, then the key to enhancing the learning experience may be "looking for a synthesis of the two,"" said Klein.

One example where these seemingly competing functions have been successfully integrated is the University of Michigan's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, through which students are paired with faculty as research assistants in a mentoring relationship.
parking available in lots in reasonable proximity to the Moore Musical Arts Building and on both occasions. Last Monday night (Nov. 10) being the latest, the weather was most inclement.

Customers attending such concerts pay as much as $32 a seat. Since the concerts attract audiences from the surrounding area, the University looks like a bunch of saps to the public if persons arriving from Toledo or Findlay can't find a parking place, and have to walk through snow, mud and gunk to get to the concert hall.

It is relatively widely recognized in the greater community in our region that the University is not user-friendly. User-friendliness starts with better parking. The author must attend the last concert, going unseasonably particularly during inclement weather.

D. C. Neckers

helping families cope

Advocacy program expands

The psychology department's Family Advocacy Program is now in its second year, and new coordinator Linda Lewandowski said the program is expanding. The community-based programs provide free support services to families of people working on her doctoral degree in clinical psychology, meets with family members who would like information and practical advice about loved ones who have any serious mental illness. She suggests strategies for dealing with feelings about a relative's mental illness and coping with everyday problems that arise. Working with families, Lewandowski sometimes offers guidance in dealing with the mental health system and serves as an advocate in communicating with mental health professionals on behalf of the family member. She typically provides family members with written materials, such as information on medication that their loved one may be taking or descriptions of local services which may be useful to their relatives.

Lewandowski is supervised by Catherine Stein, a clinical psychologist and faculty member in the psychology department.

"An essential component of the program is that we go over all the materials we give families with them to make sure they understand all the information and to answer questions," Lewandowski said. "Families have said this has been very helpful."

Another key component is that meetings be held anywhere in the community that the family feels comfortable. Families need not come to the program's office, located in the psychology building or may set up with program staff in their homes, a library, restaurant or another appropriate location.

For more information, call Lewandowski at 2-2450 or 2-2399.

Hope tax credit to benefit some

The hoped-for federal tax credit for educational expenses will soon be a reality for some BGSU students and their parents.

Many of the details of what has been named the Hope Tax Credit program will need to be worked out, said Gayllyn Finn, treasurer and assistant vice president of financial aid. For example, the Internal Revenue Service and institutions of higher education are in the process of determining what type of "proof" of payment will be needed (or the reporting mechanism to be used). Some of the known specifics include:

• A tax credit of up to $1,500 per year will be provided to parents/students who meet certain criteria. This is an actual recovery of allowable educational expenses through a tax credit, not a tax deduction.

• The credit applies to actual payments made (including loans) but not scholarships, grants or waivers.

• The credit applies to tuition and allowable fees, room and board, student activities, books, health insurance, transportation, personal or other related expenses. The current BGSU instructional fee is $5,832/semester for an Ohio resident.

• The credit applies to students in their first two years of post-secondary education and can be applied to payments made for two tax years (typically calendar years).

• The University will allow eligible students to mail in their spring 1998 tuition payments on Jan. 1 to qualify for the credit (i.e., make payment in calendar year 1998). Payments not made by Jan. 8, 1998 will be subject to non-refundable late fee and registration cancellation. Spring tuition payments would normally be due Dec. 17, 1997. All students who do not qualify for the credit are expected to adhere to the original deadline.

• Married couples filing joint returns will be eligible for the Hope credit if their income does not exceed $100,000/year; those earning $80,000-$100,000 will be eligible for a partial credit.

• For single filers, the credit begins to phase out at $40,000, and is eliminated at the $50,000 mark.

• The credit is effective Jan. 1, 1998 and applies to the 1998 tax year. This means eligible taxpayers will first report the credit in 1999.

Faculty opportunity announced

A part-time faculty associate position will be available in the Office of the Provost/PAA during spring semester 1998. Charles R. Middleton, provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced. This is a renewable, one-semester appointment. The associate will work with Steven Richardson, vice provost for undergraduate affairs and dean of undergraduate studies, on projects dealing with articulation at the faculty level with other higher education institutions in northwestern Ohio, and on policies and procedures that affect transfer students.

"View this as an excellent opportunity for faculty to become engaged administratively in the important current issues facing Bowling Green State University and higher education in general," Middleton said. Applicants should be tenured faculty who exhibit enthusiasm for working in a team atmosphere with faculty, staff and students and who have the current experience will be enhanced by this experience. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and a current curriculum vitae and should ask that three letters of reference be sent from BGSU faculty, staff or students to: Norma J. Stickler, Office of the Provost, by Dec. 12.
An old-fashioned holiday

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas inside and outside the Little Red Schoolhouse (Educational Memorabilia Center). Third-grade students from the area were taught the old-fashioned way in all-day sessions, Dec. 1-5. Five retired teachers from the Bowling Green area used the holiday theme for craft and music lessons, accompanied by the school's 1883 pump organ. The students made holiday decorations for the schoolhouse, including strings of popcorn and cranberries that were placed on bushes outside for the birds to eat. Students and teachers dressed in the style of the late 1800s, and the curriculum was taught from McGuffy Readers and on slates. Schools participating were Luckey Elementary, LeMoine Elementary, R.C. Waters Elementary in Oak Harbor and St. Paul's Elementary in Norwalk, which is where the schoolhouse originally was located. Pictured is Beverly France, former elementary teacher, who prepared the syllabus and coordinated the program, in cooperation with Dan Tustolo, director of the center, and Marilyn Braitz, education and human development. Other volunteer teachers were Roberta Laney, Ruby Speerl, Eileen Avery and Suzanne Avery.

in brief

Mini-blood drive planned
The human resources/benefits division and the American Red Cross are sponsoring a mini-blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, in classroom 1, College Park Office Building, Call Terri Schaller, 2-2121, as soon as possible to sign up.

Holiday plants for sale
The grounds department's annual holiday sale features poinsettias and other plants at prices ranging from $2.75 to $20. The selection includes ivy wreaths, azaleas, African violets, holiday cactus, cyclamen and poinsettias in various sizes and colors. Departments may purchase plants by using a University account number. For more information, or to order, contact Sue at 2-7659.

Prize winners announced
Employees holding the following lucky red ticket numbers should bring their half of the red ticket stub to the benefits office to claim their gift certificates. All 735 employees who returned the benefits survey to the Health, Wellness and Insurance committee were eligible to participate in the prize drawing.

University Bookstore: $30 (#3137853); $25 (#3156079)
Child's restaurant: $15 (#3157877).

Summer courses are on-line
Access the BGSU summer '98 class schedule on-line at www.bgsu.edu/college/ContEcv. The schedule will be updated weekly by Continuing Education, International & Summer Programs. The site also includes class registration and deadline information. Phone-in registration for next year's classes via Star-90 begins Feb. 16.

New name announced
As of Nov. 13, the former Department of Legal Studies has a new name—the Department of Legal Studies and International Business. In addition, Nancy Knapick has been named the department's acting chair for spring semester while Don Boren is on faculty improvement leave.

1997 Season's Greetings

Dr. Sidney A. Ribbeau extends a cordial invitation to join him for a holiday open house.

Wednesday, Dec. 10
3-6 p.m.
Gallery, 2nd floor
McFall Center

Two newest buildings win awards

The two newest buildings on campus were honored by the Masonry Institute of Northwestern Ohio (MNO) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) at the 99th annual Masonry Honor Awards banquet Nov. 11 at the Sylvania Country Club. Earning awards were Paul J. Olscamp Hall and East Hall. For Olscamp Hall, the architectural firm was The Collaborative Inc., Toledo; and the mason/contractor was Rosdulp/Hihe Inc., Walbridge.

For East Hall, the architect was Munger Munger and Assoc., Toledo, and the mason/contractor was Mosser Construction, Fremont.

If the weather outside is frightful...

Wintry weather may cause employees to experience difficulties getting to work or on time. Extreme weather may also cause the University to close. Regardless of the weather, non-essential functions at BGSU must continue to operate. These include putting meals to students, providing light and heat to buildings and maintaining law enforcement, public safety and snow removal services.

Media notification
Any decision to close the University will be communicated through the Office of Public Relations, which will notify FAX (2-2449) and radio stations WBGU-FM (88.1), WFAL-AM (680), WFOB (1430), WCWA (1230), WCWA-FM (105.5), KISS-FM (92.5), WRQN-FM (93.5), WFIN (1330) and WGTE-FM (90.5). The following radio stations will be on the air: WBGU-TV 27 and three Toledo television stations (Channels 11, 13 and 24) will be notified. Employees should listen to more than one radio/TV station or call 372-SNOW to confirm whether the University is closed.

In case of emergency
The University closes only in times of emergency. If we receive any communications warning limited University activities, a decision will be made to either operate classes and offices or to close them both. If the University is closed, only designated emergency employees are expected to report or remain at work. These are employees who have been issued ID cards identifying them as such. Classified staff, specifically non-technical employment, and other employed individuals not essential to the University's continued operation, who are unable to work at home, may come to the Red Schoolhouse for emergency services. Faculty and staff are encouraged to come to the schoolhouse for assistance with the University's utilities, including water, gas and electricity.

For East Hall, the challenge for the designers was to use brick exterior that blended well with the brick used in surrounding buildings. The building's unique shape accommodates campus bus and pedestrian axes, as well as the campus utility tunnel system.

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A taste of France comes to BGSU

Candlelight and linen... an authentic French feast... French music and holiday traditions. From 4:30-6:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Commons dining center. A special dinner event will feature the atmosphere of France. Regional dishes made from recipes supplied by the parents of French students will be served, said Joann Digby, dining services. The menu includes smoked salmon, crepes, baked French onion soup, baguettes, quiche Lorraine, cornish hen with grape stuffing, crème brûlée, beef Bourgundy, and white sauce and much more. A special feature will be King Pie, a French tradition celebrating the gift of the magi. A small figurine of a king is hidden in an almond pie. The lucky guest who finds the king is fed with song and a crown.

The recipes were translated from the metric system and tested by two French students, Estelle Gelin and Alan Trimmud, said Digby.

Dinner prices are a la carte, payable by cash or card.

job postings......

FACULTY
(Unless otherwise noted, all faculty positions are for assistant professor.)


Musical arts. Five tenure-track positions (two piano, one each choir conductor - voice and jazz studies). Call 2-2281. Deadline: Dec. 15.


Contact human resources, 2-8421, for information regarding the following CLASSIFIED:

Posting expiration date for employees to apply to: noon, Friday, Dec. 12.

Administrative secretary 1 (12-12-1) - arts and sciences. Pay grade 8. Clerical specialist (12-12-2) - first-year experience program. 12-month, part-time (9 a.m.-3 p.m.). Pay grade 5. ADMINISTRATIVE. Educational technology assistant (M-065) - North-West Ohio Educational Technology Foundation. Deadline: Dec. 12.


For sale

BGSU on parade

Freddy the Falcon makes his appearance at the Bowling Green Community Holiday Parade. He was one of several students and staff who lined Main Street Nov. 22 in the spirit of the season. While students carried flags representing their homes, classified staff "reindeer" and administrative staff distributed holiday treats to the kids.

Monday, December 8

International Film Series, "Women's Story," classic Chinese adventure, with English subtitles. 8:15 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Tuesday, December 9


Wednesday, December 10

Holidays Open House hosted by President Sidney Ribeau, 3:45 p.m., Gallery, Second Floor of McFall Center. BGSU Gospel Choir Concert, 5-10 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Student Union. Men's basketball hosts Wright State, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena. Public skating, 8-10 p.m., Ice Arena. Call 2-2264. Student Film Presentation, series of student-produced films, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Gish Film Theater. Sponsor: University Activities Organization.

Thursday, December 11


Board of Trustees meeting, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room. McFall Center.

Stress Free Zone, 4-8 p.m., Amani Room. Sponsor: University Activities Organization.

Joyeux Noel authentic French Christmas dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Commons dining center. Cost: a la carte (cash or card).

Student Film Presentation, series of student-produced films, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Gish Film Theater. Sponsor: University Activities Organization.

Friday, December 12

Last day of classes.

Kwanzaa celebration, African-American heritage appreciation, 5:30 p.m., Countryside Room, McDonald Hall. Sponsor: multicultural affairs and student support services. Free. Public skating, 8-10 p.m., Ice Arena. Call 2-2264.

Saturday, December 13

Yuletide dinner, 7 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom. Student Union. Adults, $17; Student/Staff, $15.75. Sponsor: Student Senate.

The United States Coast Guard Band, 8 p.m., Kokaback Hall. Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets: Band activities office, 2-2186. Sponsor: College of Musical Arts and the Sentinel-Tribune. Free.

For sale

Grafograph high-speed duplicator. Model 4000, $1,500 w/stand, red ink, drum, supplies. Contact: word processing center, business administration, 2-8823.

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Public skating, 8-10 p.m., Ice Arena. Call 2-2264.

Sunday, December 14

Public skating, 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Ice Arena. Call 2-2264.

Yuletide Dinner, 7 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom. Details above.

Monday, December 15

Financial Aid Winter Wonderland Open House, find out what's new in financial aid, see the results of the office holiday decorating contest and enjoy refreshments, 1:30-4:30 p.m., 231 and 305 Administration Building. (Donations for Ronald McDonald House accepted, but optional.)

Continuing Events

November 21-December 12

Faculty/Staff Art Exhibition, multi-media display, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 2-5 p.m. Sundays. Closed University holidays.

December 5-21


December 8-11

Jewelry sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., foyer, Student Union. Sponsor: University Activities Organization.

December 8-12

Book drive, deposit books and magazines for migrant camp workers and their families in a drop-off box in the foyer of the Student Union. Sponsor: Wood County Library.

December 8-9

Open auditions for "Ten November" by Steven Dietz, a docudrama which explores the tragic 1975 sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald through a montage of images and emotions. 7 p.m., 400 University Hall. Callbacks 7 p.m., Dec. 10. The play runs at 8 p.m. Feb. 25-28 and 2 p.m. March 1. Joe E. Brown Theatre. Information: 2-2222. Sponsor: theatre department.

December 15-19

Exam week.

December 9-February 7

Art exhibit, "The Body of a House," eight oils on canvas by Robert Beckmann portray images from motion-picture footage of the destruction of a house during a nuclear test. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturdays 2-5 p.m. Sundays; closed University holidays. Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Free.