12-8-1997

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 university population "make a large environment more personalized," King said.

They are not a new idea or a political solution, she added. "They are just plain, good pedagogy" and "good educational practice."

Describing the new Chapman Learning Community as a "very successful program" with a "wonderful faculty and staff," its director Tony Klein, English, said the number of freshmen participating will increase from 138 this year to 288 next fall.

Emphasizing that the "dominant model of education doesn't work for most students," Klein said development of a learning community requires redefining educational structures, including time, space and people. Students live, study and attend certain classes within the Chapman residence. The program's 20 faculty have office space there. The entire community attends Wednesday meetings as well as off-campus activities and cultural events.

Physically, the community includes large common rooms and computer facilities. A former dining area is being converted into a multimedia studio.

Next fall, the College of Health and Human Services will open a learning community in this building. Dunbar residence hall, adjoining Chapman. It will consist of 80 percent freshmen and 20 percent returning students.

In addition to or within the context of learning communities, "Maximizing First Year Student Learning and Involvement" panelists discussed ways to enhance the college experience for freshmen and increase their chances for success, including:

- Emphasize and encourage opportunities for student involvement.

- Involvement is a defining variable that makes the difference between simply getting a degree and gaining an education, 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, BGSU 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 influences 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's 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 and at the places conversations 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 weekend 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 relationships may also relate to core classes. King described a "Life of the Mind" course, which combined 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 Richardson, 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.

Biologist to address legislators

Paul Moore, biological sciences, has been invited by the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Science to participate in a roundtable discussion on the future of government funding for science and technology research.

Moore, director of the marine biology program, was one of 16 "young scientists" from around the country invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in today's discussion.

Vernon Ehlers (R., Mich.), vice-chairman of the committee, said he hoped the scientists could provide information that would lead to congressional development of a new, coherent, long-range science and technology policy, including a review of our nation's science and math education programs.

"The nation needs to enhance and make effective use of research partnerships; what is the most effective role for the states in supporting university research? And how can the federal government best help meet national needs for science and math education at all levels?"

On Oct. 23, the House committee held its first roundtable discussion with 30 scientists and senior policy makers. Today's discussion is designed to give, as Ehlers said, those "who will be most affected by changes in their professional careers" an opportunity to meet with legislators.

Moore, 29, earned his doctoral degree in marine biology in 1991 from Boston University. He joined the Bowling Green faculty in 1994 and, in October, was invited to present at the University's Outstanding Young Scholar Award.

Democrat James Traficant Jr. is the only Ohio representative on the committee.

Student paychecks can be mailed

Any student who would like a paycheck or paystub mailed during the holiday break should bring a stamp to the payroll office (322 Administration Building) and address an envelope (provided) from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (open during lunch hour).
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 entire region, 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 levies for paying concert goers, particularly during inclement weather.

D. C. Necker

Helping families cope

Advocacy program expands

The psychology department's Family Advocacy Program is now in its second year, and new co-coordinator Lisa Nachbar of the psychology department, said the program is expanding. The community-based program provides free support to families of people with mental illness by addressing a variety of needs.

This year, the staff plans to expand its reach to those in rural communities who may not be accustomed to dealing with the mental health system and who would prefer not to come into Bowling Green. Lewandowski said. As always, program staff will come to them if they desire.

Another new focus this year is helping families who are attending to cope with the age-related mental illness of an older family member. Lewandowski recently made a presentation at Bowling Green's senior center on dealing with Alzheimer's disease and the feelings that result when family members see their relative change. Anyone dealing with an aging relative who is experiencing health problems is also encouraged to contact the program for support and assistance.

Lewandowski is a licenced psychologist 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.

In working with families, Lewandowski sometimes offers guidance in dealing with the mental health system and has served as an advocate in communicating with mental health professionals on behalf of the families. Lewandowski typically provides family members with written materials, such as information on medication 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 out to the community by making weekly visits to all the major buildings and library if we can 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 should be held anywhere in the community the family feels comfortable. Families need not come to the program's office, located in the psychology building, or may get together 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 still need to be worked out, said Gaylyn Finn, treasurer and assistant vice president of finance. For example, the Internal Revenue Service and institutions of higher education are in the process of defining the 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 amount of credit is based on the BGSU instructional fee of $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 1998 tuition payments on Jan. 1 to qualify for the credit (i.e., make 1998 payment in calendar year 1999). Payments not made by Jan. 8, 1998 will be subject to notification 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 $50,000.
- The credit is effective Jan. 1, 1999 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/PAAD 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 a desire to 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. Stickle, Office of the Provost, by Dec. 12.

Nov. 18, 1997
To the Editor: Monitor.

The Festival Series of the College of Musical Arts is one of two premier concert series in northwest Ohio that attracts world-recognized musical groups to our area. The other is the former Pergilie Series run by the Toledo Symphony at the Toledo Museum of Art. On the occasion of two of the last three Festival Series events, there was no

Monitor accepts "Letters to the editor" for publication in a "view points" (previously "Commentaries") section.

An editorial advisory board which includes appointed representatives from the Faculty Senate, Administrative Staff Council, Classified Staff Council and the Affirmative Action Office, reviews all letters submitted. Letters can be faxed (to 2-8579), emailed (to "kashub@bgnet.bgsu.edu") or delivered to the Monitor office (516 Administration Building). Letters should not exceed 600 words and Monitor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

If a letter is submitted to Monitor, the author must affirm that it will not be published in any other campus publication until it has appeared in Monitor. Letters which are submitted simultaneously or have been previously published in the BG News will be refused because both publications reach the faculty/staff audience.

The deadline to submit letters is 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication in the following Monday's Monitor. All letters must be signed and typed, unless they are emailed.

--Monitor

Monitor, published for faculty and staff of Bowling Green State University

University Vision Statement:

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 national discourse and civility.

BGSU is an AASHE educator and employer.
An old-fashioned holiday

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 11 of the campus. Employees should sign up as soon as possible.

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 2-7649.

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.

Summer courses are on-line
Access the BGSU summer course listing online at www.bgsu.edu/college/conted/. 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 years 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 Kubasek has been named the department's acting chair for spring semester while Don Boren is on faculty improvement leave.

If the weather outside is frightful...

Wintry weather may cause employees to experience difficulties in getting to work on time. Extreme weather may also cause the University to close. Regardless of the weather, essential functions at BGSU must continue to operate. These include providing 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 radio stations WVRG-FM (88.1), WFAL AM (680), WBOF (1430), WCWA (1230), WSN (620), WSBN (105.5), KISS-FM (92.5), WQGN-FM (93.5), WFIN (1330) and WGTG-FM (1060). The Directors of the TV stations are: WTVG 27 and three Toledo television stations (Channels 11, 13 and 24) will be notified. Every effort will be made to notify these media by 7 a.m.

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 weather conditions warrant limiting 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 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.

prizes awarded
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 94th annual Masonry Honor Awards banquet Nov. 11 at the Sylvania Country Club. Earning awards were Paul J. Olschap Hall and East Hall. For Olschap Hall, the architectural firm was The Collaborative Inc., Toledo; and the mason/contractor was Rudolph/Libbe Inc., Walbridge.

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Open to all registered architectural firms in northwest Ohio, the annual awards program recognizes excellence in masonry. Design entries this year were judged by architects from the Philadelphia area. Judging was based on excellence in design, as well as appropriateness and innovative use of masonry construction.

Olschap Hall was honored as one of the most noted buildings in the region. It is a four-story building that will be used for a variety of purposes, including classroom, lecture halls, and a large multipurpose area. The design features a brick exterior that blends well with the brick used in surrounding buildings.

The building's unique shape accommodates a 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, croissants, beef Burgundy, veal with white sauce and much more. A special feature will be King Pie, a French tradition celebrating the gift of the magi. A small figure 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 Trimmali, 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 professors.)

Art (computer art). Tenure-track position. Call 2-2786.
Deadline: March 5, 1998.

Biological sciences. Two tenure-track positions:

Assistant/associate/full professor - Communications disorders. Call 2-6031.


Instructor - business communication. One-year, terminal position. Call 2-2376.


GREAT. Tenure-track position. Call 2-2268.
Deadline: Dec. 10.

Deadline: Dec. 12.


Assistant/associate/full professor - accounting/MS. Call 2-2767.
Deadline: Dec. 15.


Musical arts. Five tenure-track positions (two piano, one each choral conductor, voice and music theory). Call 2-2181.
Deadline: Dec. 15.

Music education (multicultural music education specialist and string education). Two tenure-track positions. Call 2-8578.
Deadline: Dec. 10.

Physics and astronomy. Tenure-track position. Call 2-2421.

Popular culture. Two tenure-track positions. Call 2-2981.

Director of teaching and learning technologies - Firelands College. Tenure-track position at the rank of assistant or associate professor. Call 2-2023.


Telecommunications. Tenure-track position. Call 2-2138.

Visual communication and technology education. Two tenure-track positions (architecture/environmental design studies and training and development). Call 2-2437.

Assistant or associate professor - visual communication and technology education (visual communication technology). Tenure-track position. Call 2-2437.

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

Classified
Posting expiration date for employees to apply to Xoon.
Friday, Dec. 12.

Administrative secretary 1 (12-12-1) - arts and sciences. Pay grade 8.

Clerical specialist 1 (12-12-2) - First-year Experience Program. 12-month, part-time (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Pay grade 5.

Administrative assistant (M-005) - Northwest Ohio Educational Foundation. Deadline: Dec. 12.


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.

For sale

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

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

Holiday Open House hosted by President Sidney Ribeau, 3-6 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

Coffee and hot chocolate, 8-45 a.m.-noon. Education Building. Free.


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

McFall Center.

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

Joyeux Noel authentic French Christmas dinner, 6:30-10 p.m., Commons dining center. Cost: $3 a 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, $517; students/Senior citizens, $47. Information: 2-2264.

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

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., 213 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. 1-3 p.m. Sundays. Closed University holidays. Free.

December 5-21

Planetsarium show. "Secret of the Star: A Show for Christmases," 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. 2-5 p.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, 112 Physical Science Building. 51 donation suggested.

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