On Feb. 19, President Sidney Ribeau spoke to the entire campus community about becoming a University that "Changes Lives"... where faculty and students work closely together, where learning is collaborative rather than competitive and where there is discussion of values and a strong sense of community.

Realizing the "Learning Community Ideal"... by enhancing the quality of the undergraduate student environment, particularly for first-year students who are the most vulnerable in relation to student attrition. The president discussed improvements in recruitment, retention and academic advising as well as new initiatives for the fall of 1998 (e.g., the health and human services' residential college at Harshman/Dunbar and the new Leadership Academy).

Distinguishing Ourselves as "Premier"... in part by developing programs that enhance the quality of the learning environment for students. He noted that the rapid development and implementation of many student-centered programs during the past two years brings BGSU up to par with our closest competitors and ahead of others.

In addition, Ribeau said several areas require our concerted efforts: staff training, encouraging and rewarding scholarly activity among faculty and engaging the community outreach.

The president also distributed a report on progress priorities which may be viewed on the Web at: <www.bgsu.edu/welcome/feature.html> or obtained through the president's office. (Call 2-0467 to request a copy.)

A more detailed summary of the State of the University address will appear in the March 2 Monitor.

BGSU to host Chinese delegation

Delegates from 19 universities in The People's Republic of China will be visiting BGSU from Feb. 21-26. The delegates include 19 university presidents and vice presidents. One is President Tianyi Sun of the Xi'an Foreign Language University, an institution which has an active exchange program with BGSU. The delegates come from six provinces: Shaanxi, Hebei, Hunan, Yunnan, Guizhou, and Shanxi.

They will tour several U.S. campuses during their visit in order to learn more about the American higher education system, particularly in the areas of teacher education and preparation, technology, fund-raising and development and the overall management of the American university system.

The delegates will arrive in Chicago and then travel to Northern Illinois University. After leaving Bowling Green, they will visit New York City then travel to Washington, D.C. and visit American University. The delegates will also visit Brigham Young University in Utah, California State University at Northridge and a university in Hawaii prior to returning home.

For more information, contact the Office of the President, 2-0467.

If you build it, you will use it ...

If you build it, you will use it, and you will want more, said consultant Philip Beidelman, who is assisting the University with a major technology infrastructure upgrade project.

In its initial phase, the project will involve creating 40,000 wire and/or fiber-optic connections to 10,000 sites. This will result in a substantial increase in carrying capacity for information in all forms, including voice, digital and video. The first task will be to identify the architecture of the system: How much fiber? Where does it go? What kind of fiber?

In this initial stage, "it is non-denominational," said Beidelman. "It doesn't care about applications." Then the University must decide how to apply it.

Under the leadership of Ann-Marie Lancaster, vice provost for technology, the Technical Review Team will explore trade-offs in terms of "financial versus capability implications," Lancaster said.

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Left: High school students check the map during the Feb. 16 Presidents' Day event designed to provide a preview of all BGSU has to offer.

Above: Anita Serda, a student services counselor with the admissions office, braves the cold and rain to direct visitors onto buses that left from the Perry Field House. She was one of about 150 volunteer staff who directed, guided, informed and welcomed more than 5,000 visitors to campus.
Classified Staff Council meeting

Successful undergraduate niche is returning to BGSU, trustees say

Classified staff are "indispensable" to the University, said Board of Trustees President Del Latta. "You are what makes the University tick. If there was no classified staff, the University would have to shut down."

Latta and Board of Trustees Vice President Michael Marsh spoke to Classified Staff Council Feb. 17.

They told council members that the University is trying to turn the corner on increasing enrollment and returning to its former focus on undergraduate education.

Both said that Bowling Green has many positives that must be promoted, while the University also needs to address the negative focus that stalled its progress in recent years.

"I must say we are doing better on retention," said Latta. "A year ago we were losing 400-500 students between their freshman and sophomore years. We were getting them, but not keeping them. You, as the classified staff, can be very helpful in that endeavor, if you put a good word in for BGSU whenever you talk to people."

Bowling Green "has a lot of good things to talk about," Latta said. "This is a great institution, a great place for you to work."

Marsh said the University is now returning to its former niche in undergraduate education. "It was deliberate on the part of the former administration to focus less on undergraduate education and more on research. I think the thinking was that we could generate more money for the school, but it failed, and worse, we lost our niche."

Ohio University was happy to take that niche away from us and they have," Marsh said. "We need to get back to selling undergraduate education because that's where the students are. The students are our lifeblood."

"If it wasn't for the Legislature increasing our subsidy this year, we'd be talking about cuts instead of pay raises," Marsh said. "The state saved us for one year and gave us a chance to get our act together."

Bowling Green "is starting to grow again," Marsh said, "but it's got to be a community effort. Everyone has to work toward it."

In previous years, Marsh said, "we neglected the residential students. Kids didn't want to live in them. He said that's why so many apartments are being built in town."

"We're trying to address that now," he added. The focus on improving technology has been a positive, Marsh said, and is helping to attract students to Bowling Green. "Kids in high school feel that's an important draw and I think we're even ahead of OU now in technology. We were behind for the students' dollar before and now we are."

Morale among the classified staff is a concern, according to Chair Faith Olson, education and human development. "In 1992, 30 classified staff members in facilities services lost their jobs. After three or four years, they got 15 back, but the message was received that in bad times, they can be the ones that cut."

Latta said that faculty appearance of the University should be a primary concern. "If BG doesn't look its best, that detracts from the University."

Nancy Lee, Jerome Library, asked how much support the Ohio Board of Regents could be counting upon to give Bowling Green in the future.

"They are bent on centralizing research into one facility (Ohio University State) and promoting two-year schools. There is a notion there that there is a lot of waste in four-year schools."

Olson suggested that as peak times departments could help each other by sharing staff and "you could build community that way. She also called for better training for supervisors. "Too many supervisors are managing by assignment, intimidation and retribution. For too many years, the classified staff has been disregarded. But the new philosophy on campus is now providing an avenue for a free exchange of ideas."

Both Latta and Marsh said they were unaware of many of the concerns brought forth by classified staff.

Latta said he made a commitment to "become better acquainted with the people on this campus. During the year I've been president, I've seen things I never saw before and I wish everyone could see everything this University has to offer. That's why it's so important to move people to the campus, like we did on Preview [President's] Day."

In other business:

- Olson said classified staff's efforts during President's Day (Feb. 16), "was wonderful experience and effort. Everyone did a great job and I think we're now in technology."

"Kids philosophy on campus is now is a positive," Olson concluded.

Board meeting was that would generate interest in the University. "We were putting a lot of energy into it," Olson said. "It wasn't for the buck."

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"These diverse vignettes create a refreshing and insightful collective portrait of our past, our present and our future. It is a remarkable film with universal appeal," said Rockwell Chin, director, New York City Human Rights Commission.

The cross-country journey ...

... takes viewers to big-city Chinatowns, New Orleans and Duluth, Minn.

The people... include "the Wong that went wrong," the films 70-year-old "road movie" actress Yumi Kochiyama, imprisoned in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II, Mr. Choi, a New York fortune-cookie mogul described as a "Horatio Alger on opiate"; poker-playing Filipino-Southern ladles and Seattle rappers known as the Soul Brothers.

Women Made Movies:

March 3 - "The Lost Garden: The Life and Cinema of Alice Guy-Blaché," plus discussion with James Pallister, romance languages, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 4 - "When 'Asian American' Becomes Japanese: The Shifting Context of Identity Politics," 2:30-4:30 p.m., 105 Osclall Hall.

March 16 - "Gonzon Maudit" ("French Twist"), 8:15 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 17 - "Eyes of the Rainbow," 7:30-9 p.m., Film Theater.

March 18 - "Harlan County U.S.A." plus discussion with Joyce Barry and Anne Lacassanne, women studies and American culture studies, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 20 - "Monday's Girls," "Les Femmes aux yeux ouverts," and "These Hands," plus discussion with Janis Pallister, romance languages, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 21 - "Women Directors of the Silent Film Era," featuring four short films, "Her Defiance," "DisConnected," "Mabel's Marmalade Life" and "Matrimoniy's Speed Limit," plus discussion with BGSU alum Ben Urich, visiting assistant professor in anthropology and American studies, Temple University, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 25 - "Clipped Wings: WASPs of WW II," video and book signing with BGSU alumna Molly Merrymen, Kent State University, 7:30 p.m., 117 Osclall Hall.

March 30 - "Antonia's Line," plus discussion with Vicki Rutledge Shield, telecommunications, 8-10 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

March 31 - "The Cinematic Jazz of Julie Dash" and "Daughters of the Dust," plus discussion with Jeannie Ludlow, popular culture and women's studies, and BGSU student Ebony Green, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.
Beyond retention: Critical thinking skills enhance learning

On March 27, through a professional development opportunity designed to enhance teaching and learning, faculty will learn why silence can be golden in the classroom.

The March 27 event, "Enhancing Learning through Emphasis on Critical Thinking Skills," is expected to draw about 75 faculty, primarily from a six-state region. In the past, participants have included "an eclectic group of faculty and instructors—from graduate students to retired faculty who are still teaching," said conference organizer Paul Haas, economics.

"There is a joint responsibility in the classroom," said Haas. The goal is "to get students to do more than just remember. The role of the teacher involves more than just conveying information."

The ultimate goal is to help students "think at a higher order," and be able to evaluate, synthesize and analyze information, said Haas.

That might mean, for example, helping students look at assumptions, understand the ambiguities of language, identify omitted information and explore the role of values in reaching a conclusion, as well as weighing and justifying their own conclusions.

The selected tapes will be drawn from volunteer missions that show classes in action in a variety of fields, including social work, education, psychology, chemistry, kinesiology and economics.

The videotapes approximate the classroom situation, said Haas, and past participants have found "watching someone else's class to be instructive."

"Working on these skills is not always pretty," he acknowledged.

"At this participatory classroom discussion may look great on video, but may not always be the best atmosphere for learning," he explained. "Effective learning requires a lot of silence."

A small group of BGSU students will also participate in the conference to give feedback on the teaching practices shown on the video.

"The small group will ask questions such as 'What do you see?' and 'What would you like to see happening?" Bembry said.

The TRIO faculty who are leading national scholars in critical thinking.

Haas said, "I will not be able to present an overview of a critical thinking course and leads a teaching group in his department which promotes "Thinking, learning, questioning, testing and core concepts."

Stuart M. Kekely, psychology, has published articles in the areas of clinical judgment and teaching critical thinking. He is also a regular contributor to the International Conference on Critical Thinking and Writing for Excellence at Sonoma, Calif.


"We also have a distinguished teaching professor who consults and writes extensively on the topic," Bembry said.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact continuing education, 2-8181.

Reaching higher:

High school students set sights on their futures

The University's Upward Bound program has definitely made a positive difference in the lives of Toledo's at-risk youngsters, according to Bonita Bembry, the program's interim director.

"Because of the program, students have stayed in school, earned good grades, and decreased the Toledo public school dropout rate. Beyond high school, most of the students involved in the program have moved on to college and productive careers."

"I've been involved with Upward Bound for 12 years," Bembry said. "And in that time, I'd say only 10 percent of our kids don't go on to college. Ten percent go into the military."

With a $280,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Upward Bound serves low-income teens in the Toledo area.

"There is nothing like Upward Bound for Toledo students," Bembry said. "No other program provides such intense assistance. There may be some programs that operate on a smaller scale, that have a one-time or once-a-year service, but no one does it like we do. And, I must say, we do it well and we've been doing it for a long time."

The University was awarded its first federal grant for Upward Bound more than 30 years ago, in 1966. Today, the program serves 65 students each year, most of whom are African-American.

To be eligible, the students' parents must meet federal low-income guidelines and the students must be in the first generation in their families with the potential to graduate from college.

Upward Bound is year-long, with its most intensive component offered in the summer. "The students usually start with us the summer before they enter ninth grade," Bembry said.

"Each summer, the students reside here on campus for six weeks for a simulated college experience."

The students attend classes during the day in English, math, science, social studies and foreign language.

Classes are taught by Bowling Green graduate students or Toledo public school teachers.

In the evenings—after they have done their homework—the whole University is open to them. They can enjoy the recreation center, the library, the skating rink, anything on campus.

"On weekends, the students participate in social, cultural or educational field trips. Among their field trips, the students travel to other college campuses in Ohio. We try to visit other private, two-year or state colleges in Ohio. Our job is not to recruit these students specifically for Bowling Green; our job is to motivate them to go to college," Bembry said.

"One of our goals is to motivate and encourage," Bembry said. "We want to get them to the educational opportunities open to them. Most of our kids have never left Toledo before they get involved with our program."

During the school year, Upward Bound students meet once a week after school for a tutorial session, where they receive assistance with homework assignments.

"We hope to expand the tutoring on more than once a week in the future," she said.

The students also hear motivational speakers and career counselors during the school year, and participate in social and cultural activities, Bembry said.

Upward Bound is one component of the TRIO umbrella of college access programs at Bowling Green, including the Educational Talent Search program and Student Support Services.

The main focus of Support Services is to help students remain at the University once they are here, through a variety of services such as tutoring, counseling and financial aid advice. (See the Aug. 25 Monitor for an article on Student Support Services.)

The focus of the Talent Search component is early intervention, Bembry said. The program works with students from sixth to 12th grades, with visits to college campuses as well as academic, career and financial aid counseling.

Talent Search also provides a summer program, called Club Odyssey, which runs half days for two weeks of motivational and educational programs at a neighborhood center.

"Talent Search and Upward Bound are connected," Bembry said. "The students go from one program to the other, so Talent Search is an opportunity to get the younger ones thinking about college and their futures."

"One of the things I tell the kids is you can either work at McDonald's or you can own your business," Bembry said. "And one of our kids has taken what I said to heart because he now owns two McDonald's franchises."

The award comes with a student honorarium of $1,500, and a $500 award to support the mentor's scholarly activities.

Department chairs are invited to solicit nominations from faculty for this award. Only one nomination from each department may be submitted and student nominees must be enrolled at the time of the submission.

Each nominee must submit the following to the SPAR office, 106 University Hall, by 5 p.m. March 20:

* six copies of an abstract for traditional research (e.g., publication) or a narrative for creative scholarship (e.g., art exhibit) of up to 500 words (double spaced)
* a letter of nomination and support co-signed by the department chair and the research adviser;
* a one-page resume.

In addition, nominees may include examples of accomplishments (e.g., publications, presentations, awards, exhibits).

The research project should represent superior work in the nominee's principal academic discipline or interdisciplinary concentration. Projects will be judged on substantive and methodological quality, originality of thought and clarity. Interviews with applicants may be conducted by the Award Adjudication Committee prior to selection.

For more information or guidelines, contact the SPAR office, 2-2481.

Power outage planned

During spring break March 9-11, electrical service will be temporarily interrupted to 34 buildings on campus in order to connect them to the new, 12,470-volt distribution circuits.

Can Cogar, facilities services, suggests planning activities to accommodate the electrical work. Questions, concerns or suggestions for contact are directed to Cogar, 2-6821 or Chuck Coddington, 2-9985.

The schedule is as follows:

** Monday, March 9, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: East Hall.
** Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Biology greenhouse, Life Sciences Building, Math Sciences Building, Engineering Towers, Overman Hall, Physical Science Lab Building, Prout Hall, Psychology Building, Technology Building and W Dorms 2-6.

** Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Administration Building, Child Development Center, Cottages 1-4, Family and Consumer Sciences Building, Founders Quadrangle, Hannah Hall, Johnston Hall, McDonald Quadrangle, Medbowl, Mt. Prospect Chapel, Shazel Hall, South Hall, University Hall, Student Union, West Hall and W Dorm 1.
Team highlights service

In November, consultant Tom Connellan shared success stories from some of the world's most customer-friendly organizations and encouraged the BGSU community to put "students first."

As a follow up to his presentation, a customer service committee has been formed by Ed Whipple, vice president for student affairs, at the request of President Sidney Ribeau. The campus-wide committee will explore customer service practices at the University and foster new ones.

Team members are: Duane Whitmire, computer services; team leader; Patti Askew, chemistry; administrative staff; Cindy Kozoski, bursar, classified staff; Lee Mervare, biological sciences, faculty; Lynn Holland, graduate students; Suzanne Mckinley, a former Disney intern, undergraduate students, and Suzanne Kashuba, monitor, ex officio.

The committee's first meeting is set for Feb. 27.