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Bowling Green State University

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New team involving faculty in student success initiative

Roughly 3,500 freshmen are expected to be in University classrooms Wednesday for the start of fall semester. That would make this year’s freshman class more than 500 students larger than its 1997 counterpart.

Now the challenge is how to provide the environment that will keep those students at Bowling Green through graduation.

In an effort to actively involve faculty in enhancing incoming students’ academic success, the Leading and Learning Together Team (LTT) was convened with Lee Meserve, biological sciences, as its leader. Joining him on the team are Lisa Gueldenzoph, a doctoral fellow in higher education and student affairs; Dan Klein, finance; Robert Midden, photochemical sciences; Donna Nelson-Beene, English, and Carolyn Palmer, higher education and student affairs. Steven Richardson, vice provost for undergraduate affairs, is an ad hoc member.

Team members have done "considerable brainstorming about how the academic success of students can be enhanced, and how the number of students who decide to leave BGCU can be minimized," according to Meserve.

"From the outset, the team has discussed ways to help students succeed without sacrificing academic standards; indeed, the idea is to maintain or elevate academic standards, but simultaneously to provide students with the direction and the environment to succeed in meeting those standards," he said.

"To provide a manageable focus, the team concentrated on efforts directed to the first-year students, but the hope is that efforts will continue to spread to students through their entire degree program," he added.

Input was sought from staff in the residence life and First-Year Experience programs and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Their thoughts led the team to divide potential areas of difficulty which entering students might encounter into two categories: problems outside the classroom and problems inside the classroom. And the LTT has collected documentation showing how faculty can help students resolve problems that occur in either place, Meserve said.

"Outside the classroom frequently arise because of the absence of a sense of connection" with the University, he said. "Faculty can assist in resolution of such a problem through meeting with students individually or in small groups, through directing them to departmental or organizational student groups, or through interaction (by both faculty and students) with programs provided by residence life. "Faculty assistance with resolution of problems in the classroom can come through clear statements of expectations at the beginning of the term, through periodic progress evaluations to students in a form other than returning a graded exam," through incorporation of group learning and small group activities into large class settings, and through faculty enhancement as implemented by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology," he said.

Long-time faculty undoubtedly have specific methods or tasks that have enhanced the learning setting for their students, he added. They are invited to share those methods with the broader community by sending them to Meserve at lmeserv@bgnet.bgsu.edu, for inclusion in future LTT offerings in Monitor. ♦

Residence life efforts pay off with more on-campus students

The University’s residence halls will be full this year, and the Office of Residence Life is excited about it. "Our staff has been extremely creative and resourceful in our efforts to increase the number of students in the residences," said Bud Beatty, residence life director.

"Our group has done an extraordinary job of trying to meet parent and student needs, and they’ve put an extraordinary effort into getting the halls in shape for the students. And all that work has paid off," he said.

With two weeks to go before the start of classes, 6,702 students had signed up to live in the residence halls during the fall semester, he said. Last fall, 6,100 students lived on campus.

Beatty cautioned that this fall’s figures are unofficial until the school year actually begins. "It changes every day," he said, adding that a sizable number of the students who will be living on campus are juniors and seniors.

What has the University done to attract students to campus life? The list is long, he said.

"We’ve made the residence halls more attractive in a variety of ways," he said, citing renovations and improved maintenance.

"Founders has been totally renovated, with all the rooms repainted, and Harshman and Kreischer also have been renovated," he said. "Harshman was just reopened last year after a multimillion-dollar renovation, which included new carpeting, painting, furniture, and some work on areas that parents and students don’t see, like electrical and heating systems, wiring and all that.

Also at Harshman, both the Chapman Learning Community and Honors Sciences Residential Community (Continued on page 2)

Sharon Cook
Two new Trustees appointed

Gov. George Voinovich has appointed two new members to the Board of Trustees.

Sharon Cook of Upper Arlington, a 1961 Bowling Green graduate, was appointed to a nine-year term ending in May 2007. She succeeds John Laskey of Perryburg.

Cook is with King Thompson Realtors in Upper Arlington. She is a member of the Columbus Board of Realtors’ 525 Million Club and has received an Award of Excellence from the Ohio Association of Realtors’ Presidents’ Sales Club.

Before becoming a realtor in 1986, she held teaching jobs in Mayfield, Austintown, Tomogany and Grandview Heights.

Her husband, Don, holds two degrees from Bowling Green and is a former admissions office staff member.

Kevin Konecny, a doctoral candidate in the higher education and administration program, was appointed to a two-year term as a student trustee, succeeding Eileen Sullivan, who is now working in the president’s office.

Originally from Miami, Fla., Konecny is a graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington and holds a master’s degree from St. Bonaventure University. He has been a director of residence life at both King’s College in Wilkes Barre, Pa., and the University of Guam. He came to Bowling Green in 1996 and has been active in Graduate Student Senate. Last year he had an assistantship in the student life office at the Medical College of Ohio. ♦

All campus picnic set for Tuesday

Faculty, staff and students are invited to come together Tuesday to celebrate the start of the new school year.

The All Campus Picnic will be held on the lawn of University Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. During this time, all Student Union and residence hall dining operations will be shut down in an effort to encourage community participation in the festivities.

Shuttle service will be available to and from the picnic, where entertainment will include an appearance by the BGSU Marching Band and cheerleaders. Vocalist/guitarist Tom Gorman will also perform, from noon-2 p.m. on the stage in front of University Hall.

Volunteers were still needed as of last week for setting up, serving and tearing down at various times in the University Hall and McFall Center areas. Anyone interested in helping should contact Sheri Quiroga, dining services, at 2-2891.

Established two years ago, the picnic is a collaborative effort among the union, dining services, facilities services, inventory management, and the president and student life offices. ♦
Residence life
(Continued from page 1)

munity will be located in Chapman; two kitchens will be constructed, and Chapman and Dunbar have been rekeyed.

At Kreischer Quadrangle, additional furniture is being purchased for study and activity rooms, and door access system readers are being installed at outside entrances to Batchelder, Compton and Darrow halls.

Elsewhere, student room, lounge and lobby furniture in Rodgers Quadrangle and Kohl, Prout and Founders halls is being refurbished and recovered; the Rodgers stairwell is being replaced, and three hallways were repainted in Kohl.

On the west side of campus, room, lounge and lobby furniture in McDonald and Offenhauer is being refurbished and recovered; all bathrooms in McDonald East are being renovated; two kitchens were constructed at each end of McDonald North; apartments and offices for the Thurston Street area coordinator, McDonald North director and Greek Life area coordinator are being refurbished, and carpeting has been replaced on two floors in Offenhauer.

At the University's small-group living areas, units were painted and received new hall and bedroom carpeting, room furniture and shelving. New stoves were also installed in several units, as were security screens and exterior phones.

Campus-wide, fire alarm covers will be installed over predetermined alarm boxes; personal entry device (PED) door access hardware is being replaced, and the PED computer access system is being upgraded. In addition, mattresses are being replaced and cleaned.

The Office of Residence Life has implemented an improved maintenance program this year, Beatty said.

"The reason we didn't have it before was money," he said. "It costs money to keep the buildings running at an acceptable level. The University has been very helpful in securing funds for us to do that. The most important thing was the Board of Trustees approved a 6 percent increase in room rates last December. We've also been able to implement a 15-year capital maintenance schedule in which we identify, over the long term, the tasks that need to be done and schedule when that work will be done. Beatty conceded that it is difficult to compete with the ever-increasing number of student apartment buildings in Bowling Green, which offer more privacy and independence for older students.

"Of course, the freshmen and sophomores are required to live on campus, but the juniors and seniors often look elsewhere, so we've had to revamp a lot of what we offer to students to make campus living more attractive," he said.

Student feedback has told the Office of Residence Life several things about its program. "For one thing, students seem to view our residence halls as too traditional," Beatty said. "All are based on dormitory rooms, with dozens of people sharing common bathrooms, and students are telling us they want more facilities of their own, such as our own bathrooms (and) kitchens. Also, many of our residence halls have no air conditioning and that makes a big difference to students, too. They also want the convenience of parking near their own buildings.

For upper-class students, Founders and Anderson Hall are available. Founders has suites, plus air conditioning; single rooms and optional meal plans are available in Anderson. We really discourage the younger students from living in Founders," Beatty said.

"Students have a stronger sense of privacy with the suites, but it doesn't provide the lively community atmosphere like you have in other residences, and we do like for the younger students to experience that."

"We're exploring what types of services we can provide on campus to make residence life more attractive and convenient for students, but which wouldn't cost too much," he said, noting such possibilities as more ATM machines, laundry-dry cleaning service and video rentals.

The Office of Residence Life is also examining rules and regulations that have historically governed student life and conduct at the University, Beatty said. "Maybe we have been too restrictive in different ways and may have that has chased students off campus, so we're looking toward eliminating many of the unnecessary rules and regulations," he said.

"We want to empower students to have more control over their lives," Beatty said. "These are the most important four years of peoples' lives. If there is something you want to succeed in, it's your college experience and we do need to allow students the freedom to succeed or fail. We're here to assist them, but we shouldn't be their babysitters. Students are members of the community.

As far as student restrictions and available services go, Bowling Green "is about average for state universities, but that doesn't mean we can't be better," he said. "My goal is to be the best residence life system in the country and to do that, we need to constantly reexamine what we're doing to see if we can do better."*•

University gets $500,000 grant for rehab counseling program

An initiative to diversify the work force in the field of rehabilitation counseling is creating new opportunities for University students with disabilities and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The University has been awarded a five-year, $500,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education for "Project DARE" (Diversity And Rehabilitation Counseling Education), a program designed to increase the number of rehabilitation counselors from underrepresented groups, particularly from racially and ethnically diverse populations and those who are disabled.

The project is under the leadership of Jay Stewart, special education and director of the rehabilitation counseling program.

"There are far too few individuals from these groups serving as rehabilitation counselors," Stewart said. "The need for change is evident, as studies have shown that clients work better and feel more comfortable with a counselor who has a similar background."

To begin this fall, the program, which will lead to a master's degree, will train individuals in both rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation counseling management.

Interested students must have a bachelor's degree and, after receiving their graduate degree, be willing to work in a public rehabilitation agency or a private agency that serves public rehabilitation clients.

Stewart's goal is to admit five students to the program each year. They will be mentored by rehabilitation professionals.

## Williams to resign as Firelands dean

Darby Williams, Firelands College dean for the past five years, will resign his post at the end of this academic year.

Announcing his decision to Firelands faculty and staff Thursday (Aug. 20), Williams said he very much enjoyed his years of service as dean and I believe the college is well-positioned to meet educational challenges of the 21st century.

Williams added that he is making the announcement almost a year in advance so the University is able to make a smooth transition in leadership.

The $5 million project calls for construction of a building on the southwest corner of the Firelands Plaza.

The high-tech facility will house state-of-the-art instructional classrooms and serve as a center for community outreach and distance-learning programs.

Williams also said he will use the year to finalize his future plans, which could include remaining at Bowling Green as a professor or administrator.

Charles Middleton, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said "Dr. Williams has done an excellent job as dean of the Firelands College and has provided outstanding leadership during his tenure."

He added that Williams' accomplishments at Firelands, the groundwork he has laid for the future should guarantee that the University will attract top-level candidates to fill the position. A nationwide search will for a new dean will begin this semester.

Accomplishments during Williams' tenure include: *• technology advances at Firelands and the founding of a new degree program in communications *• a $100,000 fund-raising campaign for the purchase of multimedia computers for faculty *• development of an associate degree program in Communication Arts Technology, and of new Tech Prep programs and partnerships with career training centers, high schools and employers as part of the six-county Workforce Development Consortium for northcoast Ohio *• renovation of classrooms and laboratories, and *• founding of a new Teaching and Learning Center on the campus.

Before coming to Bowling Green in 1993, Williams was dean of academic affairs at Elizabethtown (Ky.) Community College for five years, and from 1986-88, he was assistant dean of instruction at Alpena (Mich.) Community College.

From 1972-86 he was a professor of humanities at Franklin University in Columbus. During that time he also served as chair of the humanities division and assistant to the president.

Williams was also a visiting lecturer in English at Denison University and the Great Lakes College Dissertation Fellow at Bodleian Library in Oxford, England.

He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University. He made headlines last summer when a walking tour of Puerto Rico's Caribbean National Forest went awry and he was lost in the rain forest for 12 days.

## Monitor resumes weekly schedule

Monitor resumes weekly publication with this issue. Any campus office whose name or location has changed, or which would like a different number of copies of Monitor than it now receives, is asked to notify the public relations office either by phone (2-2716) or email (kmillie@bgnet.bgsu.edu).
Heating plant project plus fall classes to equal parking at greater premium

With the first day of the new academic year only two days away, faculty and staff who use Parking Lot E by the new heating plant should start thinking of alternate places to park, if they haven't already.

Parking in Lot E will be limited until demolition of the smokestack plant and construction of the new central heating plant is completed during the summer of 1999.

The north half of Lot E has been closed since June, and almost it has been inconvenient, overflow vehicles have been able to park in a nearby commuter student lot (Lot 4) since summer sessions are less busy. With the first day of fall semester fast approaching, however, Lot 4 will not be as available since it likewise will be full.

Rearranging the original schedule, workers were able to create a new parking space out of what was a grassy area on the south end of Lot E, producing an additional 24 parking spots. Creation of that parking area was not set to occur until the end of the project, but according to James McArthur, architect's office, "they decided to do it now to give people enough additional parking during this time period."

That was good news for Neil McCabe, director of Student Parking, who described herself as "very glad." She "thought we might need additional parking to help people out while the construction is going on," she said.

The lot was striped two weeks ago. It will only last temporarily in the stone lot, "but that will be long enough for people to get in the habit of knowing how to park there," McCabe said. "We would ask people to exercise caution with the lot—because it is stone, they should be careful as they walk across," she added.

"The lot was a disaster," McCabe said. "We had every thought for additional parking to help people out while the construction is going on." She said.

The lot was striped two weeks ago. It will only last temporarily in the stone lot, "but that will be long enough for people to get in the habit of knowing how to park there," McCabe said. "We would ask people to exercise caution with the lot—because it is stone, they should be careful as they walk across," she added.

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New remote access system to replace outdated service

Much of the attention given recently to the issue of remote access to the campus computer network has focused on the monthly charge which off-campus users are scheduled to begin paying this fall.

But Ann-Marie Lancaster, vice provost for technology, looks at it another way.

"One thing we do know is we are flooded with complaints," she said, noting that "people can't get in" because there are too few modems for the demand to access.

It's also a service with "significant costs" but no funding base, she added.

When it started in the mid-80s, "nobody thought this was something a lot of people would want to use," she said, calling it "an understandable mistake" made by virtually every university.

"A service was offered without any funding source clearly identified," she said, and the Telecommunications Services budget has grown into a major cost for the University, however, still wants to make remote access possible for faculty, staff and students, she said, and that's why proposals for service were sought in April.

The goal, Lancaster said, was to design a service that would meet the needs of constituents. Their active accounts probably number about 22,000, she said.

Among those needs is the unique one, she said, of Bowling Green's small local calling area. About 41 percent of the 2,094 fall-time faculty and staff live outside the calling area, plus a number of computer science students come from the Toledo area and Firelands is 60 miles away, she said. Those people have never benefited from the current remote access system, she added.

The University also wanted cost effectiveness and good quality, she noted, saying she feels those goals have been met via the deal negotiated with Sprint Corp.

While the impact on individuals will vary, she said, the monthly charge of $12.95 per user will be a reduction for some faculty and staff who access the network now via an Internet service provider (ISP).

Of that $12.95 per month, $12.01 will go to Sprint, which will supply the access through modems maintained on campus. The remaining 94 cents will stay with the University, which will maintain authentication facilities and handle user registration and billing.

Sprint is also providing local call access with no additional usage charge from anywhere in the continental U.S. A local number will be available to users in the Bowling Green, Toledo and Huron calling areas; elsewhere, it will be a toll-free number.

The feature was a plus for Sprint, one of six vendors who responded to the request for proposals.

Lancaster acknowledged "tradeoffs" in other areas but added that "we really feel this was clearly the best alternative."

A new server will offer a high-quality connection, and a more sophisticated authentication system will be able to detect users who remain logged on for days, which she called a "big problem" now. A "responsible use agreement," including consequences of abuse, will be part of the sign-up procedure, she said.

More information on signing up, and paying, for the service should be out by month's end, she said, and the service will probably be available by late September.

The existing modem pool will be phased out, although roughly 100 modems will remain active for use during fall semester, she said.

If constituent groups are interested in having the new service as a benefit, they should take up the matter with the appropriate budget committees, Lancaster said. She said the Faculty Senate budget committee was told what was under consideration early in the spring.

The campus students currently pay a residential life technology fee—$68 per semester this year—for such costs as their network connections and upkeep and staffing of computer labs.

And for the last four years, a portion of tuition increases has been set aside for technology infrastructure improvements, she said. Dollars from that source have reached about $3.1 million annually, but "the need (still) far exceed what we currently have," she said.

"There is no money that has been allocated for access," the provost reiterated.

"Charging users for remote access is definitely the trend. If you look at universities nationwide, they are all moving in this direction," Lancaster said.

She pointed out that Ohio State University is going to do so—under separate deals with IBM and Time-Warner Communications—and the University of Toledo is preparing to do likewise.

"The bottom line is, we have no choice," Lancaster said. "We can't provide a service for which we have no funding base. It would be irresponsible for us to continue doing what we're doing."

Fall continuing education classes

A listing of continuing education classes for fall semester begins below. The remainder of the schedule will be printed in chronological order in subsequent issues of Monitor.

Sept. 2-Nov. 4
Survey of Wine. Meets Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., College Park Room 1, $130.
Real Estate Principles and Practices. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., College Park Room 2, $125, three CEUs.
Sept. 8-Oct. 22 or Jan. 12-Feb. 25
Basic Upholstering. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Facilities Services, upholstery shop, $90.
Sept. 9-Oct. 21 or Oct. 26-Dec. 9
Beginning Karate. Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Parish, $45 (not including uniforms).
Sept. 9-Oct. 19 or Oct. 26-Dec. 7
Intermediate Karate. Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Parish, $40.
Advanced Karate. Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Parish, $40.
Sept. 12-Oct. 31
GRE, GMAT, LSAT Preparation. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., location to be announced, $315.

All classes are offered through Continuing Education, International and Summer Programs. For catalogs, registration, questions, call 2-8181. Several free Career Education Assistance workshops are available and described in the catalog.

Changes in affirmative action office

Reorganization has brought changes to the affirmative action office.

Disability Services for Students, which had been in the affirmative action office, is now under the student affairs area and has moved to the ninth floor of the Administration Building. Its phone (2-8495) and fax (2-8496) numbers are unchanged.

Affirmative action is still on the building's seventh floor but has a new phone number (2-8472) and new fax number (2-9533).