Monitor Newsletter January 10, 2000
Bowling Green State University
Getting ready

University bookstore employees Rita Sigler (left) and Pat Lorenzen stock the shelves with textbooks for the new semester.

University no exception to smooth Y2K transition

Today (Jan. 10) is another Y2K “critical date” for Information Technology Services, according to ITS Executive Director Toby Singer.

Actually, Singer said, he’ll be more excited if things go smoothly this week than he was last Monday, the first “full day of production” in 2000, and Jan. 1, which nearly 60 ITS staff welcomed while on duty.

With the return of faculty and students today, ITS will find out “if somebody’s running something (on the desktop) we didn’t know about,” he said. He added, however, that he expects any problems to be minimal.

Such was the case when the new year dawned and again when University staff came back to work Jan. 3. So minimal were the problems, in fact, that they weren’t even Y2K-related—some SecureID cards had expired Dec. 31 without the holders’ knowledge, and “ongoing challenges” with a network switch continued, Singer said.

“Af ter Thanksgiving, I was really comfortable it was going to be OK,” he said, referring to a Nov. 27 test of the University’s mainframe and mainframe-type computers that revealed only a few relatively minor errors when the calendar was moved to Jan. 3, 2000.

Still, 57 ITS staff were in Hayes Hall and 22 others were on call during the countdown to midnight New Year’s Eve. Watching it with staff were members of their families who brought the total number of people on hand to nearly 100.

Most of them came around 10 p.m. for a party planned by an ITS committee. Some brought food, pizzas were delivered, a lab was opened for computer games and two classrooms were equipped with big-screen TVs. One staff member provided a pinball machine for entertainment, while another and his wife taught ballroom dancing.

At about 12:15 a.m., after watching the countdown and drinking a punch toast, “everybody went to work” checking systems, Singer said. Users of some of those systems were also on campus to help, as were physical plant and police staff, he added.

ITS staff went home in the 1 a.m.-2 a.m. range, he said, and Jan. 1, which was expected to be more exciting if things go smoothly, was not. But it wasn’t needed. Still, 57 ITS staff were in the office and Jan. 1, which was last year’s Jan. 3, was not needed.

When everyone returned Monday, things again “went very well,” he said.

Singer attributed the smooth transition to one factor in particular. “We spent a lot of time testing, and that’s what did it,” he said, also thanking the staff who gave up their New Year’s Eve for what he called “a necessary operation.”

The lone “critical date” remaining after today is Feb. 29, but testing has already been done for that leap year date as well, he said.

With few Y2K-related problems reported anywhere, Singer said he fears some people will think the issue was unnecessary. But it brought “out of the woodwork” old computer systems that needed to be replaced, including a number at the University.

“Y2K or not, we would have had to do something,” he said.

Goals requested from units for comprehensive planning

The top University priority announced by President Sidney Ribeau last summer will be taking shape this spring.

Working toward a comprehensive University plan for all units and divisions—the first of six priorities for 1999-2000—the president has asked all units to submit goals for the next one to five years, timelines for meeting them and benchmarks which will show whether they have been met.

Departments and offices are to submit goals by April 10 to their deans, vice presidents and vice presidents. They, in turn, are to submit their division goals to the president by May 1.

In a Dec. 13 letter to University vice presidents, deans and vice provosts, Ribeau notes that over the last four and a half years, the University has established the vision of becoming the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. At the same time, members of the campus community have worked hard at addressing the annual priorities set to help the vision become reality, he continues.

“Over this period it has become apparent that our institutional planning process itself must become more comprehensive and systematic,” according to the president.

To that end, the broad-based University Planning Council (UPC) was established in the fall of 1998 and charged with development and annual review of “information-driven Strategic Future Directions” for BGSU. The council also analyzes internal strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and threats, and recommends priorities which, when finalized by the president each year, are designed to focus energy on a specific subset of the Strategic Future Directions.

For example, this year’s priority of a comprehensive University plan falls under the future direction of developing “an increasingly strategic approach to planning, decision making and communications” within the University.

The other nine Strategic Future Directions are:

- Promote, nurture and champion student success
- Promote and nurture faculty and staff success and satisfaction
- Promote greater cross-departmental, cross-divisional and inter-institutional cooperation and collaboration for students, faculty and staff
- Secure considerably greater funding from non-enrollment sources
- Achieve a greater presence in our community and region and become a more effective partner with external organizations
- Invite, promote and nurture the enrollment and success of more lifelong learners
- Promote diversity within the University and provide students with opportunities to increase their global awareness
- Create an environment where technology enhances and improves teaching, learning and University operations
- Continuously improve our research reputation, external sponsorship and relationships with constituents and partners

By requesting all units’ goals, “we are extending our planning efforts to all parts of the University and promoting communication internally and externally about BGSU’s long-term direction,” the president wrote in the Dec. 13 letter.

Existing goals may be submitted or revised and must be submitted by May 1.

Friendly feud

Kim Ellis (left), student life; Ute Lowery (center), residence life, and Sheila Brown, multicultural and academic initiatives, celebrate a correct answer in “Student Affairs Feud” Jan. 4 in Osbom Hall. Styled after TV’s “Family Feud,” the game wrapped up the Student Affairs Y2K-Konferenz, a daylong program organized by the division’s staff development committee.
Third year of study funded

Misperceptions surround nonresident fathers: Manning

For nonresident fathers who fall short or fail in supporting their children financially, the issue is far more complex than the label "Deadbeat Dads" implies.

After two years of a three-year study into the role of nonresident fathers and their involvement with their children, that's the conclusion of Wendy Manning, sociology.

Manning was recently awarded a $75,156 grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund the third year of the $220,000 research project.

In addition to being a complex issue, it is one surrounded by a number of misperceptions. One of them is that nonresident fathers are not involved with their children, Manning said, adding that a vast majority are involved in their children's lives and take their roles as fathers seriously.

Another false impression is that fathers who aren't meeting their financial obligations are spending their money on "living the good life." While quickly acknowledging that incidents of men allowing their children to live in poverty while they spend their money on the proverbial "wine, women and song," do occur and have been widely reported in the media, Manning said the reality is that most men do take their obligations seriously.

Wendy Manning

The complexity of the issue unfolds when these men remarry and begin a second family. Often the women they marry come into the marriage with children from their own previous marriage.

It is this situation of being responsible for children who are "his, hers and ours" that often results in men spending less time and resources with their first family.

"We assume that fathers don't want to be involved with their children. Our studies indicate that is not the case," Manning said, noting that this "web of obligation" often places a demand on a nonresident father that is too great to satisfy.

She added that about half of nonresident fathers who either remarry or cohabitate have these complex parenting obligations.

From her studies, Manning has concluded there needs to be a better understanding of the father's role in the children's lives.

"Most of the research available focuses only on the mothers. It's important to know what happens from the father's perspective. The more we understand about fathers' lives, the better policy we can create," she said.

By the end of her studies, Manning said she hopes her research will offer valuable information for policy debate among legislators, judges and other government policy makers.

The university actually has a policy on keeping records. When using electronic records to document the everyday business of the University, it is important to remember that they are public documents, Bowers said.

"Records are records, whether they're electronic or in paper format, and we must follow a retention schedule for them," she said.

Two articles based on her research have been published in the journals "Social Forces" and "The Journal of Marriage and Family." Two others are scheduled to be published in the coming year.

Working with Manning on the project is Pamela Smock of the University of Michigan.

Task force studies electronic records

It's a typical University scenario.

Using your word processor, you're working on a policy to cover some institutional issue, and you send out a draft electronically to fellow committee members for review. They send back their comments and suggestions, you consider them and perhaps make changes to the original, and the process is repeated until the policy is completed to everyone's satisfaction and accepted by the administration.

This is the situation of being responsible for children who are "his, hers and ours" that often results in appropriate balance and will generate worthwhile results for the BG SU community," he notes.

Ribeu directs questions about the goals to William Knight, director of planning and institutional research, and, with the president, co-chair of the UPC.

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(Continued from page 1)

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Goals

(Continued from page 1)
in brief

Email, anti-virus help available

Information Technology Services and the continuing education office are offering assistance this week with email and the anti-virus software now available for download from the University.

BGSU email consultants will be in 127 Hayes Hall today through Thursday (Jan. 10-13) to answer questions from campus community members. Hours are 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday.

No appointment is necessary, but if possible, visitors should know their BGSU user name and password, the name and version number of the program (Eudora or Netscape, for example) used to send and receive email, and the operating system (Windows, etc.) used most often when computing.

Assistance will also be available for anyone wishing to sign up for a BGSU account, and Technology Support Center consultants will help answer questions as always.

Questions about the email and anti-virus assistance project may be directed to Carl Detterm, continuing education, at 2-7872.

ECAP hosting workshop

The Ethnic Cultural Arts Program will offer a workshop Jan. 19 for anyone interested in submitting a grant application for spring 2000. ECAP Director Angela Nelson, popular culture, and members of the program's executive committee will be at the workshop, set for 4-6 p.m. in 2 College Park Office Building. They will describe the grant cycle for spring, explain application and evaluation procedures and answer questions.

Preregistration is welcome but not required. To register, contact Nelson at 2-0284 or ecap@bgsu.edu.

Library to extend hours

The midnight oil will be burning in Jerome Library beginning in March, according to Chris Miko, interim dean of Libraries and Learning Resources.

The library recently received additional funding through the provost's office to extend its closing time from midnight to 2 a.m. Sunday-Thursday starting March 13, the first day of classes following spring break.

The initiative originally came from Undergraduate Student Government and its president, Clint Gault, Miko said. "We certainly want to add hours if they're needed, and in fact the library's hours are fluid in response to student need."

Library staff have observed a fair number of students still at work in the building when it closes at midnight, Miko added, confirming the usefulness of extended hours of operation.

Two dozen staff retire in fall, Jan. 1

A number of longtime employees have retired from the University this fall and winter. The 1999 retirees were recognized at a December tea in Milner Alumni Center.

Full-time classified staff who recently retired their BGSU passbooks and the career they joined the University are: Susannah Ehmke (88), Carol Hummel (86), Richard Michel (76), John Beck (79), Barbara Boevers (78), Barbara Swopes (70), Robert Yoast (79), Beverly Coppler (86) and Nellie Fausnaugh (78), all facilities services; Charles Flick (78), post office; James Davis (88), telecommunications; Susan Rahl-Huster (78), public safety; the late Louise White (68), bookstore, and Carol Canterbury (66), dining services.

Administrative staff retirees are Kathleen Sanford (93), admissions, and George Howick (82), management center.

Those whose retirements became official Jan. 1 include: Kathleen Cookson (58), Bobbi Cookson (56), Carol Schroeder (74) and George Woessner (69), all dining services; Thelma Burrow (66) and Cyril Houser (69), both facilities services; Shirley Agen (75), alumni and development, and Ana Maria Garibay (76), bursar's office.

The University will launch its celebration of Black History Month before the beginning of February, with an all-campus observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and related events the following two days. An extensive series of activities is then planned well into March.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Black Student Union will sponsor a 9:30 a.m. breakfast in 101 Olscamp Hall.

"The Meeting," a play about an imaginary encounter between King and Malcolm X, will be presented at 8 p.m. Jan. 18 in Beyer Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. The performance is sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives.

On Jan. 19, a King tribute program will be held on 10 a.m.-noon in the Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library. The program, part of a series sponsored by the Libraries and Learning Resources Multicultural Affairs Committee, focuses on exploring ethnic and cultural identity through music.

Musical arts faculty panelists Burton Beerman, Steven Cassius, David Harnish, Jeffrey Mumford, and Hubert Tone Jr. will present and discuss samples of music from African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans. Angela Nelson, popular culture, will moderate.

Two events are planned for Jan. 28. The Women's Center will host "Shattering the Silence: Minority Women Faculty and Administrators in Higher Education," from 3-5 p.m. A 7:30 p.m. Freedom Songs with Carney Strange, higher education administration programs, will be presented in the Commons Room of Chapman Learning Community.

Officially kicking off Black History Month will be a celebration from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Jan. 31 in Anderson Arena.

Events scheduled for the month include:

• "Women in African American Sororities," a Brown Bag Luncheon discussion from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 4 in the Women's Center, 108A Hanna Hall.

• "An African Studies Student Research Colloquium on March 17. The colloquium will be held in the Pallister Conference Room of Jerome Library at a time to be announced.

• "Eboni Embers," a CORE assembly presentation at 8 p.m. Mar. 20 in Kocbeker Hall.

• Furldale College will also sponsor events to commemorate Black History Month. They are:

• "A Tale of Two," a parable about what happens to any new or different person and how to manage that situation, will be presented by Marshall Rose, director of affirmative action, and Barbara Waddell, affirmative action officer, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The stars come out this semester at the BGSU Planetarium—the stars of its shows over the past 16 years, that is. The planetarium is hosting "starfest 2000," featuring favorites from years past, many for one-night runs.

Also, a series of special children's shows will be presented on Saturdays at 2 p.m., beginning Feb. 19 with "The Little Cat in Space." Later shows will be "The Little Star," March 23; "Secret of the Carbonado Jewel," April 1 and "Bear Tales," April 15. This month's showings are "Is This the End of the World?" a show for the change of the millennium, every Wednesday at 8 p.m., January 11 and 14; "I Paint the Sky," about rainbows, sunsets and more, Jan. 16, 18 and 21; and "Planet Quest," a celebration of the planets, Jan. 23, 25 and 28.


April presentations include "Sky Stones," about Stonehenge, the pyramids and more, Apr. 9, 11 and 14; "New Worlds" looking at Columbus and the great explorers, on April 16, 18 and 21; and "Dinosaur Lights," billed as "an adventure trip in time and space," showing April 23, 25 and 28.


Show times are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A small donation is suggested.
The following is the January schedule of free computer classes for BGSU faculty and staff. For more information or to register, call the continuing education office, 2-8181.

New Classes
• After Work Series {to learn computer basics, including basic functions of Microsoft Word}, Mondays, Jan. 24-Feb. 21, 5-6 p.m., Macintosh. Thursdays, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 5-6 p.m., Windows.
• Using Listproc, Jan. 19, 8:45-9:45 a.m., Macintosh, Jan. 20, 8:45-9:45 a.m., Windows.
• Creating and Managing a Listproc, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-noon, Windows.
• Using Adobe Acrobat, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows. Basics:
• Getting Started, Jan. 18, 1-3 p.m., Macintosh, Jan. 19, 1-3 p.m., Windows.
• File Management, Jan. 18, 3:15-4:45 p.m., Macintosh, Jan. 19, 3:15-4:45 p.m., Windows.
• Word Processing:
• Word | Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows, and 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• Word II, Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows, and 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• Spreadsheets:
• Excel I, Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows, and 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• Databases:
• Access | Jan. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows.
• Filemaker Pro I, Jan. 24, 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• Filemaker Pro II, Jan. 31, 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• Internet:
• Exchange Email, Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-noon, Windows.
• Presentation Publishing:
• PowerPoint I, Jan. 26, 9 a.m.-noon, Windows, and 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.
• PageMaker I, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh.
• PageMaker II, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh.

January computer classes

Contact human resources at 373-4221 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED
Deadline for employees to apply is noon Friday (Jan. 14).

Carpenter 1 (C-7-Va) - Facilities Services. Pay grade 9.

Clerical Specialist (C-9-Va) - Parking and Traffic. Pay grade 5.

Custodial Work (C-1 and 6-Va) - Facilities Services. Two positions. Pay grade 2.

Custodial Work (C-8-Va) - Ice Arena. Pay grade 2.

Housekeeping Manager 2 (C-2, 3, 4-Va) - Facilities Services. Three positions. Pay grade 7.

Police Officer 2 (C-10 and 11-Va) - Public Safety. Two positions; internal promotion only.


Assistant Football Coach (M-125) - Intercollegiate Athletics. Deadline: Jan. 21.

Director (M-121) - Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives. Administrative grade level 18. Deadline: Feb. 7.


Museum curators. publish...